

ADVISOR



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Severe weather considerations for Municipalities Checklist 2

The 5th Annual Emergency Management Directors' Hurricane Preparedness Workshop 3

FOCUS On: New Britain 4

State Hurricane Preparedness 5

Calendar 7

Strategic Planning and Grants Administration 8

Media Campaign 9

COMMUNITY HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

This issue of the advisor will mainly focus on hurricanes and hurricane preparedness. As you are aware, we are well into the 2010 Hurricane season. Part of preparing for a hurricane in Connecticut involves not only preparing for high wind damage, but also the impact of flooding and storm surges that will hit our towns along the shoreline. One of the tools locals can use to prepare, are their Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) maps. SLOSH is a computerized model run by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) to estimate storm surge heights and winds resulting from histori-

(Continued on page 4)

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

This Hurricane season is forecast to be worse than normal, with up to twice the average number of named storms and major hurricanes predicted for this year. Although hurricane season runs from June through November, our highest threat for hurricanes in Connecticut is from mid-August through mid-October.

Even without hurricanes, the threat of severe weather anywhere in the state – for both coastal and inland communities - is very real as demonstrated by the storms June and July that were confirmed by the National Weather Service to have been EF1 tornados, and hurricane force winds and major flooding in March.

I recently asked some of the CEOs, Service Chiefs and EMDs who experienced these recent severe storms for their advice on preparations for severe weather emergencies at the local level. Common themes emerged, including communication and partnership, that were critical to withstanding and recovering from these emergencies.

Perhaps most important among these insights was for your community's public safety and emergency management leadership team – such as police, fire, EMD, EMS, public health, public works and school district leaders – to meet and

review preparations for a major weather emergency. This could be especially useful for newer members of the leadership team.

With the hurricane forecast in mind, DEMHS has summarized these recommendations into a 'top 10' list of municipal preparations based on examples of steps taken by communities that helped them withstand and recover more quickly from actual events. The 'top 10' list is included in this newsletter.

We are also doing our part for emergency preparations at the state level. Agencies have been exercising and training on plans and topics that include debris removal, Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) and activation of the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This includes weekly training exercises at the state EOC in preparation for major storms. In July, DEMHS also sponsored a state-wide hurricane preparedness conference with the National Hurricane Center for municipal Emergency Management Directors. Other examples of preparations are also included in this newsletter.

Be Ready.

Peter Boynton



Peter J. Boynton
Commissioner

SEVERE WEATHER AND HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CONSIDERATIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

1. Meet with your Unified Command (Police, Fire, EMS, EMD, Public Works, Transportation, etc) to review your local emergency operations plan. Review procedures for opening, staffing, supplying and equipping your local EOC, and review response procedures, communications and coordination. Test back-up communications systems for local responders, with regional partners and with state authorities.
2. Communicate with residents about basic preparations, and review procedures for communicating warnings to residents before an event and back-up methods for communicating with residents after a severe storm if communication systems are disrupted. Some towns used town council members or aldermen to assist with this.
3. Update your critical points of contact, including local Red Cross and other volunteer organizations, electric utility liaisons, key vendors, businesses, transportation and community partners.
4. Review procedures for mutual aid, including communications with mutual aid resources if they are operating in your community.
5. Review procedures/authority for declaring local states of emergency, disaster assessments and other possible municipal emergency powers. Consider how departments report damage and costs as well as methods to collect damage information from residents.
6. Review evacuation protocols for residential areas and critical infrastructure in low lying areas susceptible to flooding; coastal towns should review updated storm surge maps.
7. Review prioritization of power restoration and road clearing in the event roads are rendered impassable by fallen trees and debris.
8. Review location, staffing, supplies and communication with local community shelters.
9. Review emergency supplies, commodities and distribution points and consider how your community will sustain the logistics for recovery following a major event.
10. Reinforce the message to local residents to:
 - 1) **Make a Plan** for their families or businesses;
 - 2) **Get a Kit** with basic supplies such as food, water and medications sufficient to be on their own for at least 3 days; and
 - 3) **Stay Informed** so they are aware of warnings and possible evacuation notices.

Reinforce residents getting involved, for example being trained in advance as volunteers (such as CERT) rather than acting as spontaneous volunteers.

These steps are described in the [Citizen's Guide to Preparedness](#), along with other preparedness information on the new CT hurricane web page at www.ct.gov/hurricane

This list was developed through discussions with Local Elected Officials and Emergency Managers in Connecticut

HURRICANE CONFERENCE

The 5th Annual Emergency Management Directors' Hurricane Preparedness Workshop was hosted by DEMHS and held on Thursday, July 15 in Wallingford.

The agenda included presentations on Hurricanes and Hurricane preparedness from every level of emergency management organizations. **FEDERAL:** FEMA, NOAA National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. **STATE/Regional:** CT DEMHS, the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC). **LOCAL:** Connecticut Emergency Management Association (CEMA). **VOLUNTEER:** the Red Cross and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). **PRIVATE SECTOR:** Millstone Station in Waterford, CT.



Tim Baldwin, Chief, Southbury Training School Fire Department



Jamie Rhome, from the National Hurricane Center, being interviewed by the media



COMMUNITY HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

(Continued from page 1)

cal, hypothetical, or predicted hurricanes by taking into account: Barometric Air Pressure, Size, Forward speed, Track, and size of the Hurricane Wind Fields.

Maps depicting the results from these models are referred to as SLOSH maps, and every one of the 24 shoreline towns (Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Norwalk, Westport, Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, West Haven, New Haven, East Haven, Branford, Guilford, Madison, Clinton, Westbrook, Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, East Lyme, Waterford, New London, Groton City, Groton Town, and Stonington) in Connecticut has them. They depict model runs for Category 1 through 4 hurricanes for each town. These maps were updated recently in 2009. In addition, there are evacuation studies for these areas that have companion maps of the associated evacuation zones for these shoreline towns. The Hurrevac program, which is another modeling tool at our disposal, can provide evacuation estimates based on different hurricane scenarios. For example, the estimated shoreline evacuation times for a Category 3 hurricane in Connecticut on Hurrevac are:

County	Hours
Fairfield	8.5
Middlesex	8.5
New Haven	10.0
New London	8.5

These estimates provide decision makers the information they need to plan evacuations well ahead of time when considered with weather forecasts and other factors.

Will you be able to evacuate? Do you have your own transportation? Have you planned for what you will do with your pets? Are you dependent on machines for life support at home? Do you have a supply of medications ready to bring with you? Emergency management directors (EMDs) in each community are the contact point for their residents to ask questions, gain information and inform the town of special needs they may have that would affect their survival in the event of a hurricane.

For any questions on the SLOSH Mapping Program, please contact your [DEMHS Regional Coordinator](#).

...the NBCERT provided the extra services not usually available and allowed critical services to be restored quicker

Focus On: New Britain Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Within the first hour after storms went through the city July 21, 2010, we had over 58 calls for service for trees down, wires down, and trees into wires. There were 10 houses hit by trees with damage, numerous reports of flooding and manhole covers blown off their mounts.

The NBCERT was activated and deployed with three vehicles to relieve fire companies at scenes where personnel needed to stand by. One of the crews, standing by at a scene on Wilson St., called in a working fire at a nearby building when smoke was seen coming from the chimney and eaves. The NBCERT deployed the fire department rehab bus and assisted medical personnel caring for firefighters as they came out of the building.

As night fell, the team was coordinated to respond with the city foresters and provide them the lighting they needed to have a safe working area while clearing roads, yards and houses of fallen trees. The team was out until 0430 the next morning providing lighting.

Once again, the NBCERT provided the extra personnel and services, not usually available, that allowed critical services to be restored quickly. They proved to be an asset to the City of New Britain.

Thank You.

Michael B. Berry
Lieutenant of Hazardous Materials and Safety
New Britain Fire Department

STATE HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS: A KEY MISSION

Since last September, DEMHS has been working steadily with our partners on Hurricane Preparedness.

We have been incorporating existing operations and plans into a State Response Framework, which will provide the foundation for all state response, as well as the State Emergency Operations Center's (SEOC) Standard Operating Procedures. Weekly meetings have focused on a wide variety of issues, including: identifying the State EOC's function as a Multi Agency Coordination System based on ICS

In May, the annual Emergency Management conference was held, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Department of Public Health, and DEMHS. The Keynote Speaker's theme was "The Case for Resiliency", a critical component of hurricane response and recovery. Other presentations included evacuation issues and the logistics of declaring a local emergency. Also in May, 67 State Agencies exercised the State's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

In March, severe storms resulted in a Presidential



400 under the National Incident Management System (NIMS); the role of Emergency Support Functions; information flow for resources to the SEOC and; the importance of memorializing current practices.

In November, a multi-disciplined working group of state and local representatives was established to produce protocols and procedures for the new Emergency Notification System, available state-wide. These procedures include a Hurricane Warning capability.

Over the winter months, staff has trained on Hurricane tracking, storm surge and forecasting products. Hurrevac 2010 software was installed on all of the SEOC computers.

declaration of a major disaster, and DEMHS held a series of after-action meetings in three locations, Region 1, Region 4, and the State EOC, to identify gaps and arrive at solutions to issues relevant to hurricane response.

In June, the State held a Debris Management Tabletop exercise, based on a hurricane scenario which involved eight state agencies.

On July 15th, DEMHS held a Hurricane Preparedness Workshop for Local Emergency Directors (EMDs). The National Weather Service provided this year's hurricane forecast, a representative from the National Hurricane Center ran a hurricane scenario that involved hurricane tracking and storm

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

surge, and the Executive Director of the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) presented a HAZUS scenario of hurricane force wind effects in Connecticut. A panel of civil preparedness force members (USAR, Medical Reserve Corps, Incident Management Teams, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, State Animal Response Teams, CERT) provided information on their roles during an emergency. Non-governmental organizations, represented by CT VOAD and Red Cross, discussed their roles. Millstone Nuclear Power Station staff described the facility's hurricane preparedness efforts.

On July 16th, a Hurricane Preparedness Workshop was held at the State EOC with state agencies, who trained on hurricane tracking and response with the National Hurricane Center.

Beginning in July and ongoing, DEMHS has been holding weekly two hour training sessions at the State EOC, particularly to exercise the flow of information to and from the SEOC, and to cross-train agency personnel in the event of a long-term activation. These sessions have included state agency liaisons, and private sector representatives including Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating. Future training at the State EOC will include pre-landfall evacuation and clearance timelines, as well as hurricane inundation mapping review and messaging.

On July 28th, the Governor held a Unified Command Hurricane training, which allowed state agency Commissioners to review the latest hurricane forecast and their agencies' capabilities, and to receive a Hurrevac demonstration to facilitate pre-landfall decision-making.

In August, DEMHS participated in a United Illuminating storm response meeting with municipalities to discuss response coordination during power outages and restoration. DEMHS also met with Northeast Utilities executive officials to review and discuss capabilities of the public utility.

President Obama has pre-designated a Federal Coordinating Officer for Connecticut in the event of a hurricane, and DEMHS staff, together with representatives from the state Department of Administrative Services, met with him to review Connecticut's readiness on such key issues as

commodities and FEMA-State coordination.

DEMHS and the Department of Public Health are coordinating a hurricane preparedness media campaign, including television and radio messages. A new Hurricane Preparedness website, www.ct.gov/hurricane, provides citizen preparedness information as well as other hurricane-related information and links.

MAKE A PLAN

GET A KIT

STAY INFORMED

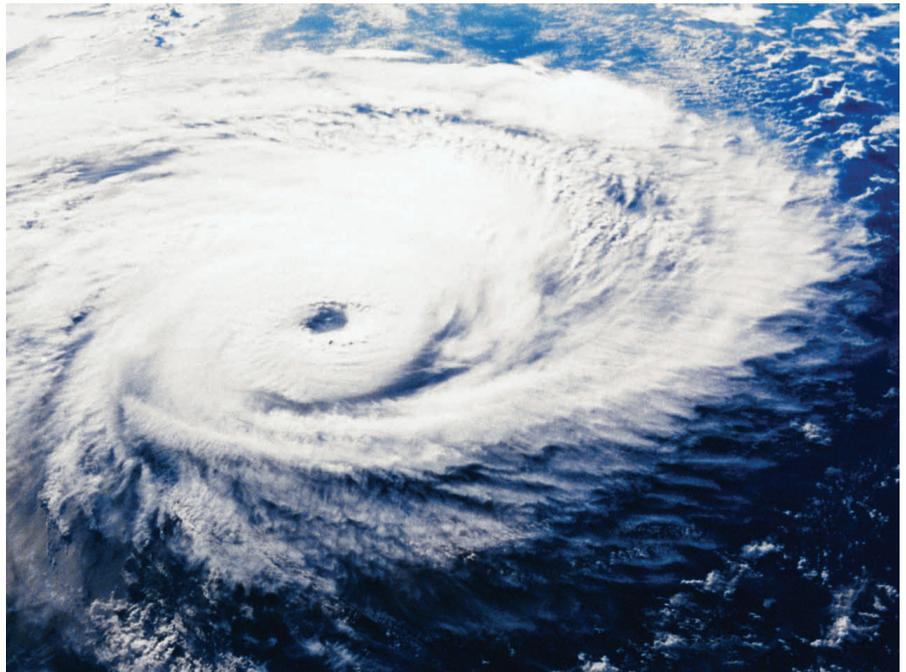
-William J. Hackett

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Federal and National Resources

Find additional information on how to plan and prepare for a hurricane by visiting the following resources:

- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [National Weather Service Hurricane Center](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [US Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [US DHHS. Centers for Disease Control](#)



September 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

EVENTS AND TRAINING

SEPTEMBER

14-15—Millstone Full Scale Exercise Rehearsal

22, 29 and OCT 6—[Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program \(HSEEP\), Newtown, CT](#)

OCTOBER

27, 11/3 and 11/10—[Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program \(HSEEP\), Colchester, CT](#)

19-20—Millstone Full Scale Exercise Evaluated by FEMA

October 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION

DEMHS continues to support the needs of the first responder community through its strategic planning, program development and administration of over \$118 million in federal and private grant programs.

Monitoring Visits

This summer, the Strategic Planning and Grant Administration Unit hosted four federal monitoring visits and one fact finding mission conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Inspector General. The programs that were examined include Homeland Security Grant Program, Emergency Management Performance Grant, and the Severe Repetitive Loss program, among others. Each visit provided an opportunity for DEMHS to share with the federal officials the concerted efforts that the state is investing in collaborating planning, response capacity improvement and recovery initiatives. In addition, DEMHS' grant management policies and procedures were scrutinized for federal grant compliance and effectiveness.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant was selected for special attention by the DHS Office of Inspector General as part of its nationwide program review. Connecticut's program was recommended for examination because of its proven grant effectiveness as recently demonstrated by the statewide implementation of the High Band Radio initiative, and for its exceptional grant administration.

We are pleased that we had the opportunity to report to the federal government on the successful work of our first responder community and look forward to implementing the best practices suggested by the DHS to further improve Connecticut's emergency management and homeland security grant programming.

Grant Awards

DEMHS has begun to receive Connecticut's FFY2010 from the DHS/FEMA and will con-

tinue to do so in the coming months. To date we have received more than \$11 million in federal grant funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2010. That includes:

- \$400,000 through the Buffer Zone Protection Program
- \$1,391,828 through the Severe Repetitive Loss Program
- \$2,257,341 through the Port Security Grant Program
- \$525,500 through the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program
- \$4,718,749 through the Emergency Management Performance Grant
- \$1,740,126 through the Emergency Operations Center Grant Program.

We expect to receive the awards for the Homeland Security Grant Program and the Nonprofit Security Grant Program in September. These grant funds will go towards supporting all hazards emergency preparedness, response and recovery across Connecticut at the state, regional, and local levels.

Regional Collaboration Grant Program

Grant applications for the FFY 2009 Homeland Security Grant – Regional Collaboration Program were due on August 6 to DEMHS. A total of \$5 million has been allocated for this program to continue Connecticut's efforts to foster collaborative emergency preparedness planning throughout the state. Regional grant administrators should expect awards in early October from DEHMS.

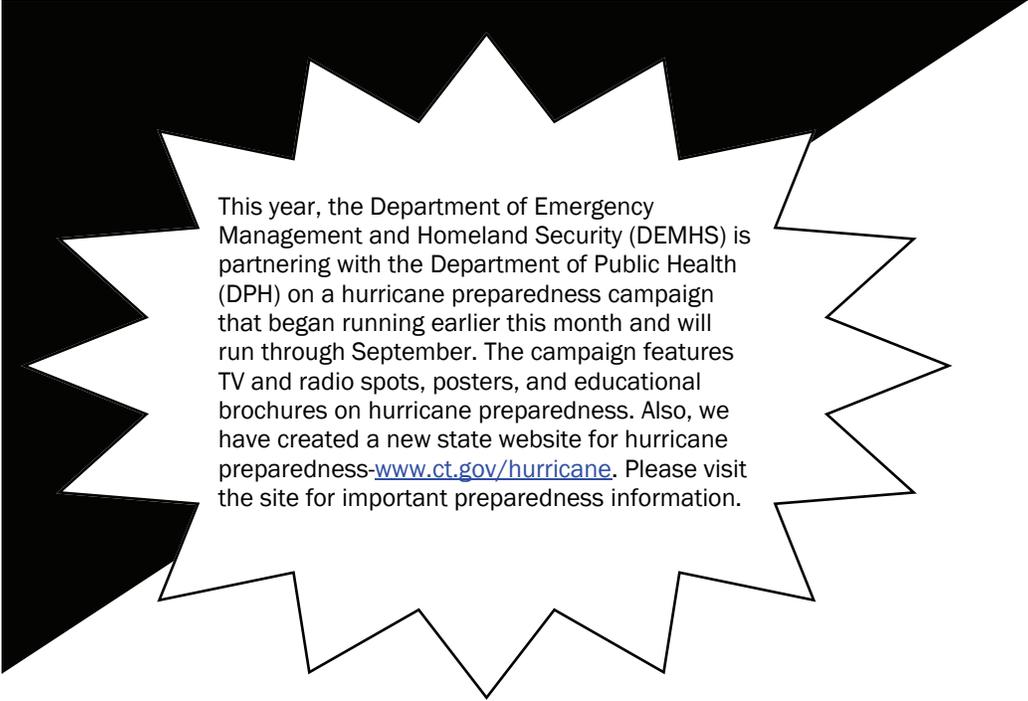
Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Shelter Grant Program

(Continued on page 9)

“A total of \$5 million has been allocated ... to continue Connecticut's efforts to foster collaborative emergency preparedness planning throughout the state.”



25 Sigourney Street, 6th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-5042
Tel: (860) 256-0800
Toll-Free: (800) 397-8876
Fax: (860) 256-0815



This year, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is partnering with the Department of Public Health (DPH) on a hurricane preparedness campaign that began running earlier this month and will run through September. The campaign features TV and radio spots, posters, and educational brochures on hurricane preparedness. Also, we have created a new state website for hurricane preparedness-www.ct.gov/hurricane. Please visit the site for important preparedness information.

(Continued from page 8)

DEMHS recently unveiled a pilot program utilizing some of the remaining funds from the FFY 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program for this program. This competitive grant program provided funding to towns for a new generator for either their emergency operations centers or their shelters. Each awarded project is "shovel ready" and expected to be complete by November 2010. In July DEMHS awarded more than \$1.5 million total to 21 communities large and small throughout the state.

Public Assistance and Individual Assistance

DEMHS is the administrator for the federal Public Assistance and Individual Assistance Programs and is currently managing funding that was pro-

vide to the state as a result of severe flooding that occurred in March 2010. Public Assistance funding provides reimbursement to public agencies and certain non-profit organizations for debris removal, emergency protective measures and permanent restoration of infrastructure. The Individual Assistance Program provides money or direct services to individuals, families and businesses in an area whose property has been damaged or destroyed and whose losses are not covered by insurance.

To date, the Public Assistance Program has provided, or will provide, support to 83 applicants in the amount of \$11.5 million. The Individual Assistance Program has aided 4,221 people in the amount of over \$5,048,365 for Housing and Other Needs Assistance.

If You See Something Suspicious... Say Something!
1-866-HLS-TIPS
For Connecticut's Homeland Security

In an emergency contact your local police - 911

Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
Newsletter Feedback: [Cynthia Tangney, Editor](#) or call 800-397-8876