



**Vol. 4  
Issue 8**

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## Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

It is hard to believe that the summer of 2008 is winding down and we are preparing for the school year to begin. Several communities in Connecticut will actually begin their classes during the last week of August.

This month we are highlighting the very successful School Security Grant Program, that was implemented last year, focusing on physical security improvements to public schools. We are hopeful that the communities that did not take advantage of the program last fiscal year, do so this year. There are a couple of important issues to remember about this program, first is that it is competitive, and secondly that it is a reimbursement grant. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Tom Vannini, a retired Police Officer from the City of Torrington, as the coordinator of this grant program. If you have any questions or concerns please contact him at 860-256-0825.

We are planning two school safety conferences this fall. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> a conference will be held for community colleges, 4-year colleges, and universities both public and private. The focus will be Campus Mental Crisis and what to do about it. The Department of Public Safety has arranged to have Dr. Richard Kadsion of Harvard University as a key presenter. In addition, members of the Virginia State Police Department, which responded to the crisis at Virginia Tech, will also be presenting and sharing their experiences with the attendees. Additional information on this conference will be forthcoming shortly. We will also be holding a special program for grades K-12 at Southern Connecticut State University on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The plans for this conference are in the final stages of development and information on the conference will be coming out shortly.

Additionally, we have highlighted the State Tactical On-Scene Channel System (STOCS). This system is another tool in the toolbox that works to further interoperability throughout the state. Phase I which placed about 50 units in the state is well under way and Phase II, which will put another 50 units out, will be finished this fall. The applications for Phase II are now out and due back to DEMHS by September 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions on the program please contact Mr. Phil Mikan at 860-256-0923.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and enjoy the DEMHS Newsletter

### WHAT'S NEW:

**August is  
Immunization  
Awareness Month**

### UPCOMING TRAINING and EXERCISES

**Utilizing Computer-Aided  
Management (CAMEO)**

**CERT Weekend, Sept. 6-7  
Windsor Locks**

**ICS 300 & ICS 400**

# School Security Grant—2nd Round

As the anticipated school year is quickly becoming a reality, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security along with its partners the Department of Education and Department of Public Safety, recently announced the application process for the second round of \$5 million dollars in funding for the School Security Grant program. The Letter of Intent to Apply for the school security grant is due July 25<sup>th</sup> and the application package due October 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

The School Security Grant Program was established in the fiscal year 2007 by the Legislature under Public Act 07-208 and enacted into law by Governor Rell. It provides two years of funding totaling 10 million dollars to establish and enhance a safe learning environment for school age children.

The purpose of the grant is to reimburse towns and cities on a percentage basis, to improve security infrastructure in schools through the purchase and installation of security systems in primary entryways, portable security devices, card access systems, camera's, locks, lighting, and fencing.

## The Initial Program - State Fiscal Year 2007/08

The initial program was announced in August of 2007. It required school districts to review school security plans with Law Enforcement, Fire Service, and Emergency Management and city officials. In addition, the application required schools to test their plans and to document dates on which plans were exercised. The program further required that each school that applied for funding complete a school security assessment checklist by their local Law Enforcement agency or the State Police.

In November 2007, approximately 360 individual applications from schools were received at the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. These applications and school security checklists were then reviewed and scored by a committee from DEMHS, Department of Public Safety, and the State Department of Education. The schools with the greatest security needs were ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in priority, followed by schools that had no security infrastructure in place at entrances, and finally followed by schools that were identified as priority school districts by the Connecticut Department of Education. This ranking system is specified in the state statute.

Of the 360 applications received, the review committee recommended funding to 201 schools totaling \$4,900,000.00, which DEMHS executed with the release of grant awards in the same amount. To illustrate the demand for these resources it is important to note that if all 360 schools that applied for funding had been granted support, the state would have had to supply over \$7 million dollars -- \$2 million dollars in excess of appropriated funds.

Projects that were funded ranged from installing locks on doors, to installing card access systems, installing cameras with video monitors and recorders, the purchase of portable security devices, and adding lighting and fencing to secure school grounds.



### Renewal Program - State Fiscal Year 2008/09

DEMHS will once again be working in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and State Department of Education when it releases the application process for the second round of funding for the School Security Grant Program. The process will be the same as last year, with each school district filing an application, conducting a security assessment, certifying that a collaborative approach was pursued with their respective public safety, emergency management, and city officials in preparing school security plans, and exercising these plans to everyone's satisfaction. A Letter of Intent to Apply will be required followed later by the submission a complete grant application to DEMHS.

Applications will be due October 1, 2008. The review process will be the same as the first year. They will be reviewed and scored initially by DEMHS, and then given a second review by a committee comprised from DEMHS, Department of Education and Department of Public Safety for final approval.

In September of this year a technical assistance meeting will be held for potential applicants to assist them on this process. The location and date of this meeting will be announced later this summer.

As Governor Rell stated in her announcement of the first award grantees, "our children are the future of tomorrow, and we need to provide them with a safe learning environment" which is the goal that DEMHS, Department of Education and Department of Public Safety wish to fulfill with through this grant.



## State Tactical On-Scene Channel System (STOCS) Box Deployment

As part of the Statewide Homeland Security Strategy, DEMHS and the Public Safety State Executive Interoperable Committee continue to develop and implement improvements to Connecticut's communications systems by enhancing portable radio interoperable communications. The State Tactical On-Scene Channel System (STOCS) Box deployment is an important part of this strategy.

Phase I of the program was initiated earlier this summer and marked the beginning of rolling out fifty systems to designated municipalities, state agencies and regional HAZMAT Teams. Phase II is a competitive application process that allows other municipalities to compete for the remaining systems. DEMHS will keep several in inventory for the purpose of switching out boxes in need of repair or replacement.

The STOCS Box consists of two durable cases that contain several radios that operate on different frequencies; there is also a power supply and a portable telescoping antenna. These cross-banding repeating devices are designed to be quickly deployable for use by any agency or community with a major incident that has multiple jurisdictions and multiple agencies involved in a response. They are highly portable and can be easily transferred to a neighboring community through mutual aid.



## STOC's Box Deployment cont.

Large scale responses that call for multiple agencies frequently present Incident Commanders with operability and interoperability communications challenges. The use and deployment of a STOCs system can remedy this. For example, three area Fire Departments operate on three different radio bands; one department on UHF, another on VHF and another using 800 MHz. Those departments can now operate at the same incident by using the STOCs tactical radio. By using a cross band repeating device tactical radio interoperability between firefighters of all departments is established on all portable radios operating at the scene. Now all firefighters on scene can communicate directly as they carry out their tactical assignments. More importantly, any message given that may affect life and safety of all firefighters on scene can be heard by all personnel.

Applications for Phase II STOCs Box assignments are due to DEMHS by September 5, 2008.

If you have further questions about the STOCs Box or the application process you can contact Phil Mikan at 860-256-0923 or [philip.mikan@po.state.ct.us](mailto:philip.mikan@po.state.ct.us)



## NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

- August is National Immunization Awareness Month. This observance provides the opportunity to remind the community of the importance of immunization. Make sure that your family and friends are up-to-date on their immunizations.
- In August, parents are enrolling children in school, older students are entering college and adults and the health care community are preparing for the upcoming flu season. This makes August a particularly good time to focus community attention on the value of immunization.
- Vaccines are responsible for the control of many infectious diseases that were once common in this country. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that once routinely killed or harmed tens of thousands of infants, children and adults.
- The viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable diseases and death still exist and can infect people who are not protected by vaccines. Vaccine-preventable diseases have a costly impact, resulting in doctors' visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths. Sick children can also cause parents to lose time from work.
- Maintaining high immunization rates protects the entire community by interrupting the transmission of disease-causing bacteria or viruses. This reduces the risk that unimmunized people will be exposed to disease-causing agents. This type of protection is known as community or herd [immunity](#), and embodies the concept that protecting the majority with safe, effective vaccines also protects those who cannot be immunized for medical reasons.

## Federal Monitoring Visit

July 14 to 17, 2008

On July 14, 2008 two FEMA Region 1, Grants Management Division, individuals came to DEMHS to conduct a Financial Monitoring visit. These visits are standard protocol in the grant world. They provide an opportunity for hosts to showcase their work and for federal representatives to gain a better understanding of fiscal and grant operations at the state level. Generally, the federal monitors come for a few days to review several different programs and to establish that agencies are following the Federal grant guidance, the Financial Management Handbook and required OMB Circulars, with regards to policies, procedure, and fiscal oversight. This year, the federal monitors came to review the 2005 State Homeland Security Grant Program, the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program (to include the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, Citizen Corps Program and the Metropolitan Medical Reserve System), and lastly the 2007 Emergency Management Performance Grant.

After a review of DEMHS Policy and Procedure Manuals, the reviewers examined the General Ledger to determine how we use the system to segregate funding, as well as the requisition process from the inception of a request to the Federal Reporting of the actual expenditures on the Federal Quarterly Reports. Many actual transactions were identified for review and all were found to be in compliance with all guidance and Federal regulation.

The reviewers then took a good look at our sub-grant process. They reviewed everything involved from the application process and award of the sub-grants to the financial reporting and closeout procedures for the sub-grantees.

After three days of broad, yet sometimes very detailed review of our financial systems and the physical operations of our grants, the FEMA team concluded their visit with an exit meeting that highlighted their satisfaction with DEMHS' fiscal and grant operations. Although there were a few minor issues identified, there were no significant findings as a result of this review. This is a testament to the cooperation of the entire staff of this agency and their ability to stay focused, so as to maintain integrity in our day to day business operations.

### FEDERAL REVIEW OF DEMHS ACTIVITIES

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) recently underwent its third annual Federal monitoring visit. Rob Kevan, a Program Analyst with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Grants Development and Administration Division, serves as Connecticut's principal point of contact for all homeland security funding. His three day visit was part of a federally mandated assessment to ensure continuing, consistent, and effective efforts to advance the State's emergency preparedness, as well as its alignment with the National Priorities.

The monitoring visit was not a financial audit; rather it focused on Connecticut's federally-funded program achievements. The focus of the visit was on (1) the goals and objectives of the State Homeland Security Strategy and (2) the Investment Justifications for the FY 2006 and FY 2007 Homeland Security Grants. Kevan also used the visit as an opportunity to meet with Maggie Targove, New Haven's Deputy Director Emergency Management, to conduct the close-out review of the FY 2004 UASI grant.

For several weeks preceding the visit, Rita Reiss, an Emergency Preparedness Program Specialist within the Strategic Planning and

### Upcoming Training & Exercise

Aug 4	Senior Fraud Investigations—POSTC
Aug 5	Senior Fraud Investigations—POSTC
Aug 5	Utilizing Computer-Aided Management (CAMEO) - Brainard
Aug 6	Senior Fraud Investigations—POSTC
Aug 19 thru 21	ICS 300 – for Expanding Incidents—New Haven
Sept 6 thru 7	CERT Weekend—CFA, Windsor Locks
Sept 23 & 24	ICS 400—Advanced Command, Complex Incidents—New Haven
Sept 26 & 27	Region 1 Full Scale Exercise
Oct 7 thru 9	ICS 300 – for Expanding Incidents—New Haven
Nov 18 thru 20	ICS 300 – for Expanding Incidents—Brainard
Dec 10 & 11	ICS 400—Advanced Command, Complex Incidents—Brainard

For training & exercise questions contact the Training Unit at **860-256-0840**.  
 Fax: 860-706-5539 or email: [Training.demhs@ct.gov](mailto:Training.demhs@ct.gov)

You may register for these courses as listed at: [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs)  
 or through POSTC at [www.ct.gov/post](http://www.ct.gov/post).

#### FEDERAL REVIEW OF DEMHS ACTIVITIES cont.

Grants Unit, met with DEMHS staff members and other stakeholders to ascertain the progress made in completing the implementation plans of the Strategy's objectives. She prepared a series of spreadsheets, listing the Strategy's goals, objectives, and implementation steps, corresponding to the eight (8) National Priorities (e.g. Regional Collaboration, Interoperable Communications, CBRNE Detection, Response and Decontamination, etc.). Each spreadsheet also identified the associated Investment Justifications, if any. As in past years, interviews were then

scheduled with the staff member(s) or local subject matter experts with the greatest knowledge and/or functional responsibility for the projects. These interviews provided the basis for Kevan's assessment our progress in achieving the State Strategy's goals and objectives, as well as the milestones associated with the grants' Investment Justifications.

It is expected that the positive feedback that Kevan provided during his exit interview will be repeated in the written report that is expected in the fall.

## National Preparedness Month - CERT Weekend

### September 6 & 7, 2008 - CERT Weekend

September is **National Preparedness Month**. As CERTs you understand the necessity of remaining prepared for any type of emergency. To maintain the skills of our Connecticut CERTs we will have a **CERT Weekend** on the weekend of September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. The event will occur from 8:00 a.m. till 4 p.m. All Connecticut CERTs are invited to attend and practice some of the skills that they learned in CERT training. Chief Elected Officials, Board of Education Members, and all CERT members are invited to attend.

CERT activities will include a three hour course entitled “**Heart Saver CPR**” that will include Adult/Child CPR, Adult/Child Choking as well as Infant CPR and a three hour course entitled “**SMART Triage**” **First Aid**. Both courses will be offered Saturday, September 6, 2008. Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Detective Patrick Conway of the CT State Police will speak about the Status of Homeland Security Programs in Connecticut. Also on September 6, 2008, Jonathan Hardy, from the **Newington Amateur Radio League, Inc.** (an ARRL-affiliated Special Services Club dedicated to the promotion of amateur radio and public service) will give a presentation on how the league operates and how they work together with the CERT Teams. An all day course entitled “**HazMat Awareness**” will be offered Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. September 7, 2008 will include a course entitled “**1st Responder Well Being & Rehabilitation**”. This course will cover the Introduction to Fire Service Rehabilitation, recognizing the need for on scene rehab, pre-incident training and SOP/GOG requirements; on scene operation’s and post incident monitoring. The class will include lecture and practical session on the training grounds. **The Connecticut Canine Search & Rescue CERT Team** will give a presentation on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. **Other activities held during the weekend will include Fire Extinguisher Use, Cribbing, Public Education Home Safety Check Training and a Maze Confidence Course. Registration and bringing your CERT Backpack is required for attending the CERT Weekend.**

A light breakfast and a lunch will be provided for those attending. With the new course offerings, we hope that as many of our CERTs can attend as possible. Please see the schedule for the events of the CERT Weekend.





**Schedule for the upcoming CERT Weekend-  
Saturday 6, 2008**

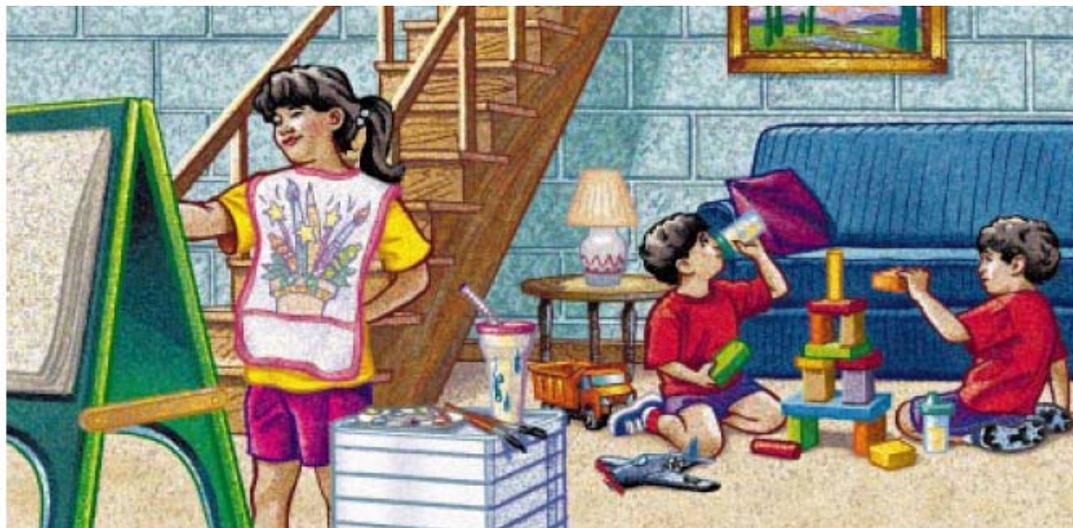
0800-0830 Continental Breakfast Saturday  
 0840-0850 Opening Remarks-Auditorium  
 0900-1200 Heart Saver CPR  
 0900-1030 Cribbing  
 1040-1200 **Ham Radio ARRL Presentation**  
 1040-1200 Portable Fire Extinguishers  
 1200-1300 **Lunch**  
 1300-1430 Status of Homeland Security Programs in CT Presentation  
 1300-1430 Cribbing  
 1300-1600 SMART Triages  
 1440-1600 Maze Confidence Course  
 1440-1600 Portable Fire Extinguishers  
 1440-1600 Public Education Home Safety Check Training

**Schedule for the upcoming CERT Weekend-Sunday 7, 2008**

0800-0830 Continental Breakfast Saturday.  
 0840-0850 Opening Remarks-Auditorium  
 0900-1600 Hazmat Awareness -  
 0900-1030 K-9 The Connecticut Canine Search & Rescue CERT  
 Team Presentation  
 1040-1200 Public Education Home Safety Check Training  
 1040-1200 Portable Fire Extinguishers  
 1040-1430 1st Responder Well Being & Rehabilitation  
 1200-1300 Lunch  
 1300-1430 Cribbing  
 1440-1600 Maze Confidence Course

**Download and mail/FAX registration Form [CERT-2008](#)**

**Location:** Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks



## Are You Ready for a Heat Wave?

Here's what you can do to prepare yourself and your family

### Know what these terms mean

- ✓ **Heat wave:** Prolonged period of excessive heat and humidity. The National Weather Service steps up its procedures to alert the public during these periods of excessive heat and humidity.
- ✓ **Heat index:** A number in degrees Fahrenheit (F) that tells how hot it really feels when relative humidity is added to the actual air temperature. Exposure to full sunshine can increase the heat index by 15° F.
- ✓ **Heat cramps:** Heat cramps are muscular pains and spasms due to heavy exertion. Although heat cramps are the least severe, they are an early signal that the body is having trouble with the heat.
- ✓ **Heat exhaustion:** Heat exhaustion typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a hot, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Blood flow to the skin increases, causing blood flow to decrease to the vital organs. This results in a form of mild shock. If not treated, the victim may suffer heat stroke.
- ✓ **Heat stroke:** Heat stroke is life-threatening. The victim's temperature control system, which produces sweating to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.
- ✓ **Sunstroke:** Another term for heat stroke.

### If a heat wave is predicted or happening—

- ✓ **Slow down.** Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

- ✓ **Stay indoors** as much as possible. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor, out of the sunshine. Try to go to a public building with air conditioning each day for several hours. Remember, electric fans do not cool the air, but they do help sweat evaporate, which cools your body.
- ✓ **Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.** Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy.
- ✓ **Drink plenty of water regularly** and often. Your body needs water to keep cool.
- ✓ **Drink plenty of fluids even if you do not feel thirsty.**
- ✓ **Water is the safest liquid to drink** during heat emergencies. Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine in them. They can make you feel good briefly, but make the heat's effects on your body worse. This is especially true about beer, which dehydrates the body.
- ✓ **Eat small meals and eat more often.** Avoid foods that are high in protein, which increase metabolic heat.
- ✓ **Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.**

### Signals of heat emergencies

- ✓ **Heat exhaustion:** Cool, moist, pale, or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea or vomiting; dizziness; and exhaustion. Body temperature will be near normal.
- ✓ **Heat stroke:** Hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing. Body temperature can be very high—as high as 105° F. If the person was sweating from heavy work or exercise, skin may be wet; otherwise, it will feel dry.

### Treatment of heat emergencies

- ✓ **Heat cramps:** Get the person to a cooler place and have him or her rest in a comfortable position. Lightly stretch the affected muscle and replenish fluids. Give a half glass of cool water every 15 minutes. Do not give liquids with alcohol or caffeine in them, as they can make conditions worse.
- ✓ **Heat exhaustion:** Get the person out of the heat and into a cooler place. Remove or loosen tight clothing and apply cool, wet cloths, such as towels or sheets. If the person is conscious, give cool water to drink. Make sure the person drinks slowly. Give a half glass of cool water every 15 minutes. Do not give liquids that contain alcohol or caffeine. Let the victim rest in a comfortable position, and watch carefully for changes in his or her condition.
- ✓ **Heat stroke:** Heat stroke is a life-threatening situation. Help is needed fast. Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number. Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the body. Immerse victim in a cool bath, or wrap wet sheets around the body and fan it. Watch for signals of breathing problems. Keep the person lying down and continue to cool the body any way you can. If the victim refuses water or is vomiting or there are changes in the level of consciousness, do not give anything to eat or drink.

### Your local contact is:

American Red Cross  
Charter Oak Chapter of CT  
209 Farmington Avenue  
Farmington, CT 06032

E-mail: [charteroak@usa.redcross.org](mailto:charteroak@usa.redcross.org)

Phone: 860-678-2700