

# ADVISOR



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## STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GRANTS

The Strategic Planning & Grants Administration Division is responsible for the administration of the Federal Department of Homeland Security grants for the State of Connecticut. Since the inception of DEMHS, the SPGA Division has administered over \$125 Million dollars from over twenty federal programs, both disaster and non-disaster grants. In December, FEMA announced the allocations for the FFY 2010 grants, and Connecticut will once again be the recipient of substantial funds, nearly \$25 Million dollars, with higher amounts possible from Competitive Grants. The following information outlines the purpose of a few of key grant programs managed by the SPGA unit, as well as their FFY 2010 allocations:

### Homeland Security Grant Program - \$8,894,442

This funding enables states to prepare for, prevent, and respond to terrorist attacks and other major disasters. In addition to funding many DEMHS activities and programs, these funds also support each DEMHS Region directly. Each year, the Regional Emergency Planning Teams

(REPTs) are sub-granted funds to support regional programs, to procure resources, and to further the overall mission of each region. This program also supports State Law Enforcement agencies for Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention activities; the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) and an array of training and exercise programs.

### Emergency Management Performance Grant - \$4,718,749

These federal funds directly support the local Emergency Management community and are critical to the sustainment and enhancement of the local and state programs. With these funds, communities can support staff and enhance their programs through procurement of supplies and services. Previous years grants have provided for computers and other technology grants for participating communities. Any municipality that is not currently in the program is strongly encouraged to contact their DEMHS Regional

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**Peter J. Boynton**  
Commissioner

## FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The new year brings the beginning of another federal grant cycle for federal fiscal year 2010. This issue of the newsletter summarizes some of those grant programs. For example, FEMA announced the Connecticut allocation for FFY2010 at approximately \$25 million in

federal funds. DEMHS continues to work with our partners and stakeholders, and we have completed an updated statewide strategy that builds on the completion of the previous strategies from 2005 and 2007. The updated statewide strategy will assist us in being

competitive for the new grants cycle.

2009 ended with a troubling example of an attempted attack on an airliner arriving in Detroit from Amsterdam. At the direction of Governor

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# STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GRANTS

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Coordinator to get additional information.

### Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program - \$525,500

This program is intended to improve local, tribal, regional, statewide, and national interoperable emergency communications, including communications in collective response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters.

### Buffer Zone Protection Program - \$400,000

The program funds equipment to protect, secure, and reduce the vulnerabilities of federally identified critical infrastructure and key resource (CI/KR) sites.

### Port Security Grant Program - \$2,250,077

The Port Security Grant Program allows Connecticut to fund costs related to creating a sustainable, risk-based effort for the protection of critical port infrastructure from terrorism, especially explosives and non-conventional threats that would cause major disruption to commerce and significant loss of life.

### Urban Area Security Initiative (DEMHS Regions 1 & 3) - \$5,564,404

Since 2008, DEMHS Regions 1 & 3 have been designated as UASI regions. This means that the communities located within these areas are at high risk for a terrorist attack. The goal of the funding is to enhance the regional preparedness through planning, training, exercises, organization, and equipment procurement.

To obtain more information on the SPGA or an individual grant program, please visit [our web page](#) or you may call 860-256-0900.



## FOCUS ON: MANCHESTER

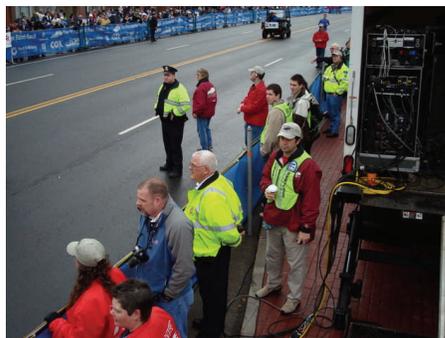
Manchester residents can be proud of its leadership and their pro-active approach to special event planning.

### Case in point; the Thanksgiving Day Road Race.

This year (as in years past) the Road Race Committee held a pre-race briefing with Town Officials (General Manager Scott Shanley, the Fire Chief and EMD, the Police Chief, Representatives from Manchester Hospital, ASM, and race planners to name a few).

During the briefing, all sorts of potential "emergencies" and the probable response plans were discussed. All present agreed to the Incident Action Plan as written and all agreed to the "what - if" scenarios were to occur. This included to what thresholds we would use if we had to cancel the race entirely. (No one wanted

to plan on a race cancellation, but they all knew we had to address the worst case scenario).



Fast forward to 0800 Thursday morning, race day. The reduced EOC was set up, everyone was in position, the ham radio operators, the Fire Dept., the Police Dept., AMS was set up with their state-of-the-art GPS monitoring sys-

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# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS



*“Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.”*

The new year has begun with a bout with below-freezing temperatures across the state. Unfortunately, we can no longer avoid the fact that winter is here! Cold weather can cause different types of emergencies. Some cannot be prevented, (blizzards) but some can be mitigated (frozen pipes). Here are some tips that you can follow to prepare your home, vehicle, and loved ones for freezing conditions.

**Add the following supplies to your disaster supplies kit:**

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways
- Sand to improve traction
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.

**Prepare for possible isolation in your home by :**

having sufficient

heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Winterize your home by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

Insulate pipes with insulation or

newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.

Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them.

Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

**Prepare your car—Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:**

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# FROM THE COMMISSIONER

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Rell, DEMHS will be hosting a Homeland Security Roundtable to review the declassified summary of intelligence failures surrounding the attempted Christmas Day bombing of Flight 253. The intent of this review is to reduce the risk of similar

communications breakdowns among federal, state and local partners in Connecticut. DEMHS will include local, state and federal partners in this review, which is scheduled for the week of 11 January. Even before this event occurred, a workgroup to examine and enhance our Connecticut Fusion Center

(CTIC) has begun working and DHS has approved a physical security upgrade to the DEMHS office that will enhance access and flow of critical homeland security information with CTIC and our partners.

*Be Ready*  
Peter Boynton

# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

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- Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.
- Exhaust system - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. *Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.*
- Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
- Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights - check for serviceability.
- Oil - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- Thermostat - ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- Install good winter tires. Make sure the tires have adequate tread.
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.

Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes:

- a shovel
- windshield scraper and small broom
- flashlight
- battery powered radio
- extra batteries
- water
- snack food
- matches
- extra hats, socks and mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- blanket(s)
- tow chain or rope
- road salt and sand
- booster cables
- emergency flares
- fluorescent distress flag

### Dress for the Weather

- Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.
- Wear a hat.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.



[Courtesy of FEMA website](http://www.fema.gov)



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DEMHS posts a weekly [situation report](#) on our website to keep you apprised of the current H1N1 Flu season. You can also login to Web EOC® to view the situation report. For more on influenza from the State of Connecticut and the US Government, you can also go to [CT FLU WATCH](#) on the web.

## FOCUS ON: MANCHESTER

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tem, Emergency Management and dispatchers, all in position - and ready to go.

At 0900, everyone was doing their routine race monitoring tasks, when a radio message was sent to Assistant Fire Chief Billings that there were very high levels of natural gas in a man-hole. You guessed it - right in the middle of the intersection where 14,000 racers were getting ready to run their race!

Because all the emergency agencies had representatives in one location, the information was disseminated to everyone at the same time. The hams notified the race leadership, the PD and FD dispatch were in touch with units on scene. The EOC advised the Town Dept. of Public Works leadership of the situation. The race leadership was appraised of the issue and the race might have to be delayed or even ... canceled. It all depended upon the advice given to the EOC by the responding CNG supervisor, not yet on scene.

Ten minutes later a request was made of the EOC to get a PD escort to the CNG supervisor's location, as he could not get through traffic - because of all the race attendees going to watch the race. That one phone call to the EOC got a police officer dispatched to the CNG location and gave him an escort to the scene - in less than 5 minutes! The CNG supervisor immediately said he needed his boss to make the call on whether the race could start. Time: 0918. At 0925 his boss was also escorted to the scene by the Police. Now it is 0930 (30 minutes before the race is set to start.). The



CNG manager made the determination (with the Fire Dept's concurrence) that it would be safe to start the race - and on time!

What was more amazing, very few of the over 20,000 people, ever knew there was any problem at all. A very low key response, to say the least! What was even better the race started on time for the 73rd year in a row!

The following day, the gas leak was repaired, people went shopping and the race management and EOC staff knew they did their job - in the background with out any hoopla satisfied in knowing their hard work and pre-planning works!

Can't wait 'til next year, when we can do it all over again, hopefully with no major incidents - but like this year, we will be prepared.

*Submitted By: Donald Janelle, Deputy Director Manchester Office of Emergency Management*

**If You See Something Suspicious... Say Something!**

**1-866-HLS-TIPS**

In an emergency contact your local police - 911

For Connecticut's Homeland Security

Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).  
 Questions or comments? [E-mail](#) us or call 800-397-8876