



**Vol. 4
Issue 6**

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By James M. Thomas

This month we are focusing our newsletter on the important topic of “Tri-State Regional Planning.” Connecticut has long recognized that in order to be better prepared or to deter a potential act of terrorism, it will require a very strong collaborative effort on both a local, regional and national level. We also acknowledge that when one considers the issue of “International Terrorism,” New York City is clearly still a target.

Connecticut Officials have been very engaged with our partners in New York and New Jersey for the past several years, and we have been developing strategies that will hopefully make all of us safer. We in Connecticut have, and continue to stress, the importance of working together in order to make a city such as New York safe and secure. As we all know the New York City Police Department has and continues to be very effective and highly visible in efforts to deter terrorism, but for them to be even more effective we have to move the security ring out into the neighboring states. We are very thankful for the New York City “Secure the City Program” which has been providing our Connecticut police officers with equipment and training in order to keep this perimeter of safety and security a strong viable partnership.

The good news is that we have been and will continue to work closely with all of the law enforcement officials, local state and federal in all phases of homeland security, including information sharing, improving the interoperability capabilities, joint terrorism task forces, and highly visible patrols that will serve as both a deterrent and also intervener when appropriate. It is only in working together, that we can and will make a difference! Enjoy this issue, and have a safe enjoyable summer!!

WHAT'S NEW:

**June is National
Safety Month**

UPCOMING TRAINING and EXERCISES

**Cat 2 Hurricane Functional
Exercise**

**Active Shooter Tabletop
Exercise**

EMD Hurricane Workshop

**Senior Fraud
Investigations**

Tri-State Regional Planning—Beyond Our Borders

Mention regionalization to Connecticut's first responder community and you will likely hear of the State's long and proud tradition of providing municipal mutual aid to needy neighbors that has blossomed into the Regional Collaboration Initiative. The Regional Collaboration Initiative was begun in 2005 shortly after Connecticut established the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). The concept was not new: regional resource sharing was proven to be efficient and cost effective in other disciplines. What was new was the application of the concept to emergency management and homeland security in a state where strong home-rule and Yankee self-sufficiency prevailed.

The goal of the Regional Collaboration Initiative is to strengthen mutual aid systems to enhance prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts statewide. This was originally articulated in Regional Planning Model (2005) and a series of policy documents subsequently released by DEMHS including the Regional Support Implementation Plan (2006), the Regional Funding Formula (2007), finally, the FFY2007 Regional Collaboration Grant Application.

At its core, the Initiative provides for the establishment of Regional Emergency Planning Teams (REPTs) structured to correspond to the National Response Framework through its Emergency Support Function (ESF) configuration. The REPTs would develop and oversee a region-wide spending plan designed to address identified regional needs, National Incident Management System-compliant resource typing, and the creation of a regional emergency operations plan (REOP). All this work, complete or ongoing, has been accomplished with the knowledge and support of chief elected officials within each region.

The early signs of success are evident. Consensus was reached regarding the contents of the spending plan with proposed projects truly fulfilling regional needs (for example, communications improvements in Region 4, animal sheltering in Region 2 and a comprehensive training initiative in Region 5). Data is flowing in to populate Connecticut's resource typing data repository and positioning towns for the state-wide release of WEB EOC, a web-based emergency management tracking system. Members of regional ESFs are meeting, talking and preparing to produce a workable plan for responding to region-wide emergencies.

This type of collaboration builds solid working relationships that are essential to the successful management of emergencies and disasters. This collaborative approach may also be applied to a larger geographic area. That is precisely what the federal government has done with Transit Security Grant and the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant. Connecticut is a principal in both of these programs and expects to derive similar benefits from the regional approach with our neighboring states as has been experienced within our own borders.

Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)

The Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) is one of five federal grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2008 Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP). The IPP is one tool among a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by the federal government to help strengthen the nation's critical infrastructure against risk associated with potential terrorist attacks.

Goal: The TSGP provides funds to owners and operators of transit systems (which include intracity bus, rail and ferry systems) to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism, major disaster and other emergencies.

Regional Transit Security Working Group: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) places a very high priority on ensuring that all TSGP grant applications reflect robust regional coordination and a grant investment strategy that institutionalizes regional security strategy integration. In order to ensure this approach, each Tier 1 region (defined by DHS as a high-risk transit system with high passenger density and significant infrastructure) must have a Regional Transit Security Working Group (RTSWG). The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CONNDOT) and DEMHS work in partnership to represent the State's interests on the RTSWG.

Partners: Other members of the group include the following:

- Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and its subsidiary agencies:
 - oMTA New York City Transit
 - oMTA Long Island Railroad
 - oMTA Metro-North Railroad
 - oMTA Long Island Bus
 - oMTA Bus
 - oMTA Bridges and Tunnels
- ◆New York City Department of Transportation
- ◆Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- ◆Port Authority Trans Hudson
- ◆New Jersey Transit
- ◆National Rail Passenger Service
- ◆Private ferry systems
- ◆Private bus operators.

History: Connecticut has received over \$8.5 million in federal grant support for the transit sector from 2003 – 2007. CONNDOT, Office of Rail Administration, is the direct recipient of these grant funds, and along with DEMHS, collaborates closely with the tri-state regional security group to develop spending plans that enhance layered security and mitigate terrorist and natural hazards. Past funding has supported the following projects:

FFY2003

Closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras were installed at New Haven's Union Station and State Street stations, Bridgeport, Stamford, Milford, Waterbury, New Canaan and Danbury Stations.

FFY2004 and 2005

CCTV cameras were installed at New Haven Union Station at the concourse, tunnel and stairways to platforms, and at Westport and Branford Stations. Also security infrastructure enhancements were completed at New Haven Rail Yard including installation of perimeter fencing, surveillance cameras, access control systems at the guard booths and ID card activated motorized gates.

FFY2006

CCTV cameras and intrusion detection devices will be installed on Cos Cob and Peck moveable bridges on the New Haven rail line. A regional interoperable communications project will be executed which will allow dissimilar communications systems of various first responders along rail line to operate together. A tri-state regional response protocol project to develop, evaluate and synchronize emergency response protocols, policies and procedures will be undertaken.

FFY2007

Federal project approval is pending. If Connecticut's proposal is approved, projects will include CCTV and intrusion detection devices on an additional moveable bridge, public awareness activities including the "See Something, Say Something" ad campaign, and development of an overarching master security plan for CONNDOT's Rail Operations Division.

FFY2008

CONNDOT and DEMHS representatives are currently negotiating with regional partners for its share of available federal funds. Areas of financial investment may include upgrade to network infrastructure; a security plan, design services and installation of recommended security enhancements for select rail yards; and procurement of a specialized remote explosive mitigation unit that will fit within the aisles of rail cars. Final regional funding decisions are expected by summer.

The RTSWG has developed a positive and effective working relationship over the past several years and continues to work toward identifying and balancing the needs of all its partners. Connecticut is committed to the collaborative, regional approach to transit security.

Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP)

The federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established this new grant program in Fiscal Year 2008. It is an outgrowth of the *Nationwide Plan Review* that was conducted in 2006 at the direction of the President and Congress. Public safety and homeland security officials participated in the review process and universally reported the need for comprehensive planning support and technical assistance. This underscored

the *Review's* conclusions regarding the need for planning modernization to improve flexibility, adaptability and robustness of individual emergency operations plans (EOPs) and to strengthen collaborative planning.

The RCPGP focuses on the highest risk Urban Areas (as defined by DHS under the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program) and surrounding regions where its impact will have the most significant effect on our Nation's collective security and resilience. The population of the federally-identified geographic area is 22,000,000. One out of every 14 Americans lives within the 12,000 square miles that comprise the New York/New Jersey Area.

Goal: The goal of the program is to allow jurisdictions to determine how to improve their security and resilience through a process best described as "*Fix, Build and Resource*" – that is, *fix* shortcomings in existing plans; *build* regional planning processes and planning communities; and, link operational needs identified in plans to *resource* allocation, including homeland security grant programs. UASIs must use available grant funds to employ regional approaches to overall preparedness to address catastrophic incidents and are encouraged to adopt regional resource structures whenever appropriate.

Connecticut is engaged in this process as a contiguous state to the New York City UASI. The RCPGP program implementation and governance must include regional partners and should have balanced representation among entities with operational responsibilities for prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation activities in the region.

Partners: Connecticut's partners in this work constitute the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team (RCPT) and are listed below:

From New York: Office of Homeland Security, New York City Office of Emergency Management, Nassau County Office of Emergency Management, Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management, Westchester County Office of Emergency Management;

From New Jersey: Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, State Police Office of Emergency Management;

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Office of Emergency Management;

And representatives from each state's Citizen Corps Council, Metropolitan Medical Reserve System representatives from New York and New Jersey UASIs, and private sector representatives.

Non-Competitive Project Requests: After extensive discussion and negotiation, the RCPT developed a comprehensive set of planning projects that address the range of hazards faced by the region. These projects, if approved will consume the \$8,000,000 in non-competitive funding, and are listed below:

Project 1: Regional Catastrophic Planning System – This project will establish the foundation for all the projects under this grant. It will create a Regional Integration Center (RIC) to link all emergency operations centers (EOCs) into a Virtual Regional Operations Center (VROC) that integrate local geospatial data through a Regional Geospatial Information System Project.

Project 2: Regional Evacuation and Sheltering Plan – This project will coordinate operations, resources and timelines for sheltering and evacuation for the general population and special-needs populations, healthcare facilities, homebound individuals and household pets. This project will include the development of a local response plan template and regional playbook.

Project 3: Regional Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Plan – This project will coordinate response operations to an IED and mass casualty incident. This project will include consequence modeling, collaboration with the private sector, establishment of mutual aid agreements, and integration of local characteristics into a regional playbook.

Project 4: Regional Disaster Housing Plan – This project will develop an all-hazards response that will provide interim and long-term housing options. This project will assess socio-economic needs for displaced populations, processes for relocation, options for existing housing alternatives and development of innovative housing options for urban and suburban areas.

Project 5: Regional Infrastructure Protection Plan – This project will identify interdependencies between various sectors and their criticality in the recovery from a catastrophic event. This project will include development of an Energy Sector Annex that will assess the regional power infrastructure, including the processes of generation, transmission and distribution with the cooperation of regional power providers.

Project 6: Regional Mass Fatality Plan – This project will enable rapid, coordinated deployment of emergency mortuary operations during a catastrophic event. The project will assess existing capacity as well as develop a robust regional mass fatality capability with field and surge capacity protocols using both public and private sector assets.

Project 7: Regional Debris Management Plan – This project will establish procedures to clear, process, remove and dispose of vast quantities of post-incident debris. The Plan will identify operational resource and capability gaps and fill these gaps with federally-funded Public Assistance resources and/or private contractors.

Project 8: Regional Continuity of Operations Plan – This project will coordinate recovery operations to resume full service of essential functions following a catastrophic event. This plan will identify critical processes instrumental to continue essential functions at the local level.

Competitive Project Request: The RCPT also submitted an application for competitive funding consideration in the amount of \$ 5,246,750 for a Regional Logistics Program. The goal of the Regional Logistics Program is to link the considerable logistics resources and expertise scattered across the project site into a shared system. This shared system will enhance the region's capability to manage the information and resources necessary to respond to a catastrophic impact in one or more jurisdictions.

The Regional Logistics Program will be flexible, scalable and adaptable to all hazards. It will build upon each jurisdiction's capabilities to:

- ◆Notify, assign and deploy personnel;
- ◆Procure, track, accept and distribute emergency supplies and equipment; and
- ◆Link seamlessly with regional EMAC, State and Federal systems in a robust supply chain.

The RCPT has established a very ambitious regional workplan. The region's funding request is pending federal approval, which is expected in July. A busy summer is anticipated as the program moves into its implementation phase. DEMHS will continue its investment of staff time, expertise and talent to be sure Connecticut contributes to and benefits from this regional catastrophic planning initiative.

It is often said in the emergency preparedness business that all incidents start and end locally. This is true. However, when events gain momentum and eventually exceed available local resources, the wisdom of the regional collaborative approach to emergency preparedness becomes evident. Incident commanders can confidently rely upon their regional partners within Connecticut, or beyond our borders, to provide timely and effective emergency services. Regional collaboration works and so will Connecticut's emergency preparedness community to provide the best possible service to those in need.

Legislative Update

Fiscal restraints and the lack of time in a short legislative session caused many worthwhile bills to not be taken up before the adjournment of the 2008 legislative session. A number of legislative proposals affecting emergency management and homeland security, including the bill regarding the use of the E-911 database by municipalities, were not acted on by the General Assembly in the final days of the session.

Working with the Governor and the Legislature, DEMHS will continue to promote a number of issues as the 2009 legislative session approaches. DEMHS's 2009 legislative package will be finalized sometime in late 2008/early 2009.

If you have any legislative proposals that would be beneficial to the emergency management and homeland security community that you would like DEMHS to consider or if you have any questions regarding the 2008 Legislative Session, please contact DEMHS Legislative Program Manager Scott DeVico at 860-256-0813 or at scott.devico@ct.gov



**American
Red Cross**

Charter Oak Chapter
of Connecticut

Charter Oak Chapter
209 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
www.charteroak.redcross.org

News Release
NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Paul Shipman
Phone: (860) 678-2796
shipmanp@usa.redcross.org

Active Hurricane Season Forecast; Red Cross Urges Readiness ***Preparing Early Helps to Ease Many Emergencies***

FARMINGTON, CONN., May 27, 2008 – Hurricane Season begins June 1. In advance of the season, National Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 25 through May 31. The American Red Cross reminds people in areas at risk of Hurricane threats to understand their risks and to prepare. Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year.

Recent forecasts from Hurricane watchers predict an active Hurricane Season for the U.S. Connecticut has been severely affected many times by Hurricanes. Individuals, businesses and communities can take some basic steps to be better informed about and prepared for Hurricanes.

"We all have a role to play in our personal safety," said Charter Oak Chapter CEO Dianne Auger. "Some early attention to risks and planning can avoid great inconvenience or even tragedy later."

Auger said the Red Cross offers information to help people plan for Hurricanes and other emergencies. "Free information is available from the Red Cross. We want to talk to you now so that you're in less danger during a Hurricane or other emergency," she said. Auger added that the Chapter has posted a "one week plan for hurricane preparedness" on its Web site, www.charteroak.redcross.org. "We hope that people will break their planning up into approachable pieces and will get it done."

Auger offered some safety tips and guidelines for the coming season:

Prepare a Personal Disaster and Evacuation Plan

The American Red Cross, the National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency urge each and every family to develop a family disaster plan.

- Meet with your family to create a plan. Discuss the information you have gathered and why it is important to prepare for a disaster.
- Show and explain to each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches, and how to use a fire extinguisher. Remember, if the gas is turned off, only a professional can turn it back on.
- Identify ahead of time where you would go if you are told to evacuate. Choose several different places – a friend's home outside of the affected area, a motel or a shelter.
- Get a good map and be familiar with your community's evacuation routes.
- Listen to local media broadcasts or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest storm conditions.
- If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- In case you have to evacuate, be sure to bring your disaster supplies kit including medications, extra clothing, pillows and blankets, and other hygiene and comfort supplies, along with copies of essential papers and documents.
- Be sure to make advanced safety preparations for your pets. Only Service Animals are permitted in Red Cross shelters. Contact your local humane society or veterinarian for suggestions. More information on disaster planning and pets is available at www.redcross.org.
- Ask an out-of-town friend or family member to act as "family contact" for everyone to call in case of separation. It is often easier to call long distance after a disaster than to make local calls.

Local Red Cross Urges Hurricane and Summer Storm Preparedness – Page 2**Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit**

Gather enough emergency supplies to meet your needs for at least three days. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy to carry, water resistant containers. It's also a good idea to keep a smaller kit in the trunk of your car. Your disaster supplies kit should include:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and ready-to-eat canned goods, such as tuna fish, peanut butter, crackers, canned fruit, juice boxes, etc. Please remember to replace stored water and food every six months.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries
- A manual can opener
- Copies of important documents, including birth certificates, insurance policies and social security cards. Original documents should be secured in a locked box or safety deposit box.
- Comfortable clothing and footwear
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person
- A first aid kit, including prescription medicines
- Emergency tools, including tools to turn off utilities
- An extra set of car keys
- Cash/Credit cards
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses

Prepare for Hazards at Home

Pick a day in June to conduct a home hazard hunt and perimeter search, in which you inspect your home for items that can move, fall, break or cause a fire.

- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs
- If your home is especially vulnerable to wind, consider hurricane or high-wind shutters or pre-cut plywood to cover windows, especially large expanses of glass
- If your basement is prone to flooding, consider raising electrical and heating appliances above the flood area. Consult your heating, plumbing or electrical professional.
- Have a plan to move or secure lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants and anything else that can be picked up by wind and become a projectile

Practice and maintain your plan. Ask questions to make sure your family remembers meeting places, phone numbers and safety rules. Conduct drills.

Keep in mind the importance of neighbors during a difficult time. Working with neighbors can save lives. Know your neighbors' special skills and consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as disabled and elderly persons. Make plans for child care in case parents cannot get home - that way, all of the children in your neighborhood can be safe.

For more information regarding how individuals and families can prepare for disasters visit www.charteroak.redcross.org.

About the Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross:

The Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross provides life safety, emergency preparedness and disaster response services to 83 communities in Hartford, Litchfield, New London, Tolland and Windham counties and Fishers Island, N.Y. The Chapter has offices in Farmington and Waterford, Connecticut. The Charter Oak Chapter responds to approximately 200 local disasters annually, providing for food, clothing, temporary shelter and emotional support at no charge to recipients. The Chapter helps to collect nearly 90,000 units of blood each year and provides life safety training and education to approximately 70,000 Connecticut residents. Each year, we help hundreds of military families in Connecticut with emergency communications services and other support. Our work is made possible through the dedicated service of nearly 4,000 volunteers and the generosity of our donors.

Regional Animal Response

The Region 3 Animal Response Team (R3ART) held its second Emergency Support Function 11 specific CERT training at the DEMHS facility at Brainard airport on April 26th and May 1st. Training was provided by Dr. Arnold Goldman and Mr. Craig Hancock, both members of CREPC and the Region 3 planning and response infrastructure. Mr. Dan Dube of the Regional Incident Dispatch team provided instruction on regional communication and dispatch capabilities. The Capitol Region Council of Governments and the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Foundation provided meals and refreshments. Sharon Mazzochi and Robert Scata represented DEMHS and offered logistical support during the training.

Thirty-three volunteer responders of widely varying backgrounds and experience completed the training. They included animal control officers, animal owners, animal trainers, breed fanciers, farmers, veterinary technicians and other civilians with an interest in the animal response mission. Previous professional skill working with animals is helpful but not a requirement to join these teams.

The five regional teams, which together comprise the Connecticut State Animal Response Team, are the operational units of Emergency Support Function 11 in each Preparedness Region. CERT is required of individuals in Connecticut to participate in any "civilian preparedness force" by Title 28. The R3ART, and all the CTSART units, are considered civilian preparedness forces under this set of laws.

Similar in basic training and capability to traditional, municipally affiliated CERT teams, the Region 3 Animal Response Team has been trained in knowledge, skills and capabilities specific to its unique mission. These mission specific skills include animal behavior & handling, animal shelter management and operations as well as foreign animal disease awareness, agro terrorism response skills and personal protective equipment use. It is expected that deployment of the team will occur through a chain of command tied to RED Plan activation and the direct involvement of DEMHS in a Regional response. Each of the five teams, once fully operational, are expected to follow this regionally based activation model.

In Region 3 a total of forty-four R3ART members have completed CERT training. Approximately forty other potential Region 3 team members have expressed interest in the training and we expect that many of them will receive CERT training in the future. Currently, final certifications are pending and a database is being compiled to share with the Region 3 communications infrastructure known as the Regional Incident Coordination System (RICS). It is through RICS that actual deployment instructions will be issued.

For further information on the Regional Animal Response Teams contact Dr. Arnold Goldman at ctsart@ctvet.org.



CITIZEN CORPS NEWS

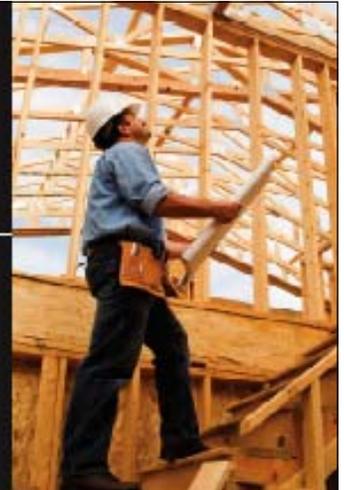
"Develop Mega-Preparedness Volunteer Communities in New England"

April 29, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Region 1, held a forum with a theme "Develop Mega-Preparedness Volunteer Communities in New England." The forum was held at the United States Coast Guard in Boston, Massachusetts and included attendees from the Community Preparedness Headquarters staff located in Washington DC, regional staff, state and local contacts and other specialized individuals from both government and non government personnel. Mark Sloan, the Director of Harris County Citizen Corps was the guest speaker. He received "The president's call on service award" in September of 2007, for the accomplishments of the Harris County Citizen Corps and for coordinating the volunteer response during the Katrina relief effort in Texas. Sharon Mazzochi, the Connecticut Citizen Corps Program manager also heard Rachel, Jacky, CERT Program Director of the Community Preparedness division of the National Preparedness Directorate within FEMA, speak about the CERT Program. In the fall of 2008, updated basic CERT training and materials will include supplemental sections on animal rescue, radio communications, and advance triage. Standard annexes are currently being developed for target groups of Tribal CERT (due September 2008), Workplace CERT (due September 2008), All Abilities CERT (due in February 2009) and Large Venue CERT (due in February 2009). Job aids for delivering basic training to target groups and updated course materials for the student manual for low-vision users will also be available. A national Citizen Corps conference is currently being planned for late in the summer of 2008. For more information check the national website, www.citizencorps.gov.



Falls Prevention

Falls are more common than you think. Ranked third among the leading causes of accidental death in the United States, deaths from falls are a growing safety concern as the nation's population ages.



Falls Prevention in the Workplace

- Aisles, stairs and walkways should be clutter-free; spills should be wiped, dropped objects picked up and cabinet drawers closed when not in use.
- Use handrails in stairways; take one step at a time and report broken stairs or loose stair coverings
- Apply nonskid floor coatings and slip-resistant mats where falls are likely. Slow down and take small steps when walking on a wet or slippery surface.
- Wear slip-resistant footwear and keep shoe soles clean for better traction if your work area tends to be wet, dirty or oily.
- Inspect ladders before and after every use.
- Report every incident – even minor falls. Your efforts can save someone else from a more serious injury.

Falls Prevention for Aging Adults

- Wear proper footwear. Athletic shoes greatly reduce the risk of falls among the elderly. The risk of falling increases if in stocking feet or barefoot.
- Install handrails in stairways and grab bars in the bathroom near the toilet, in the shower and along the tub.
- Keep living areas well lit and place a night light in the bathroom.
- Use non-skid throw rugs to reduce chances of slipping on linoleum.
- Store frequently used items in easy-to-reach areas.
- Exercise regularly. The stronger the body, the more likely a person is to sustain a fall.
- Monitor medications. Studies show older adults taking more than four medications are at high risk for falls.



NATIONAL
SAFETY
MONTH 08

make a
difference

nsc.org/nsm

Upcoming Training & Exercise

Jun 4	Heat Emergency Tabletop Exercise—Wallingford
Jun 17	EMD Hurricane Workshop 3—West Haven
Jun 19	Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise - Southern CT State University
Jun 23	ID Fraud—POSTC
Jun 24 thru 26	ICS 300 – for Expanding Incidents—Brainard
Jul 23	FEMA Region I, Hurricane Tabletop Exercise - Maynard MA
Jul 29	Cat-2 Hurricane Functional Exercise—Middletown
Aug 4	Senior Fraud Investigations—POSTC
Aug 5	Senior Fraud Investigations—POSTC
Aug 6	Senior Fraud Investigations—POSTC
Aug 19 thru 21	ICS 300 – for Expanding Incidents—New Haven
Sept 23 & 24	ICS 400—Advanced Command, Complex Incidents—New Haven
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

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

CEDAP APPLICATION INFORMATION

The National Preparedness Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced the schedule for the 2008 application period of the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). Applications may be submitted via the Responder Knowledge Base (www.rkb.us) starting at 0900EDT on Friday, May 30th, and continuing until 1700EDT on Monday, June 30th.

Questions regarding the CEDAP program should be referred to the Centralized Scheduling Information Desk (CSID) at 800-368-6498.

Thank you,

Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk
Federal Emergency Management Agency
(T) 1-800-368-6498
(F) 202-786-9920

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

2008 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP 3

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is sponsoring a Hurricane Preparedness Workshop on June 17, 2008. The conference will run from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm and will be held at the Savin Rock Convention Center, Captain Thomas Blvd., West Haven, Ct.

Due to space limitations, the conference will be open to Emergency Management Directors **ONLY** and pre-registration is required. Topics will include FEMA Region 1, Public & Individual Assistance, weather updates, and more. Presenters will represent DEMHS, FEMA, and Save the Children. Also this year, there will be a display of equipment resources from the State and Regions in the parking lot for your examination.

Registration deadline is June 11, please contact your Regional Coordinator.



The **Summit scope** is to focus the Northeastern regional maritime stakeholders on a range of discussions and problems involving the small vessel security risk in the northeastern maritime domain. Defining the terms “small vessel” is an essential starting point for bounding the scope of the Summit. For the purposes of this Summit, a *small vessel* is characterized as any watercraft, regardless of method of propulsion, which is generally less than 300 gross tons, and used for recreational or commercial purposes. Small vessels include commercial fishing vessels, recreational boats and yachts, towing vessels, uninspected passenger vessels, or any other small commercial vessels involved in foreign or U.S. voyages. This definition distinguishes small vessels from large commercial vessels and yachts (generally 300 gross tons and over) that are applicable to security measures already put in place under the authority of the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) of 2002 and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

Security risks for small vessels can be broken down into four general categories:

Use of small vessels as a conveyance to smuggle weapons (including, but not limited to, Weapons of Mass Destruction/Effect (WMD/WME));

Use of small vessels as Water Borne Improvised Explosive Device (WBIED) - small, explosive-laden vessels used as "boat bombs" against another vessel, maritime critical infrastructure, or key resources;

Use of small vessels as a conveyance to smuggle terrorists into the U.S.; and

Use of small vessels as a platform for standoff weapon (e.g. Man Portable Air Defense Systems [MANPADS], SCUD platform for launch offshore) attacks on the maritime industry or critical infrastructure.

The **Summit format** will consist of plenary addresses from the Coast Guard, and other government professionals on small vessel threat and layered security measures. These will be followed up by stakeholder participation on panel discussions and a facilitated discussion working group. The activities are centered on identifying small vessel threat issues and solutions specifically for the northeastern region from the perception of the small vessel stakeholders using a scenario based approach.

The **objectives** of the Northeastern Small Vessel Security Summit are to focus the broad stakeholder community on a range of issues and to launch continuing interactions regarding management of small vessel security risk in the U.S. maritime domain. The objectives of the meeting are:

Provide a regional forum for small vessel stakeholders to discuss and present their ideas on the development of security measures to mitigate gaps in small vessel management and control in the maritime domain with local federal leadership and coordinators.

Educate regional small vessel stakeholders of security threats in the local U.S. maritime domain.

Communicate with regional small vessel stakeholders on the actions being taken within the region to coordinate a layered security system at the federal, state, tribal, and local government levels, as well as within the regional maritime industry and public.

More details are available on the Summit’s website at:

http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc_1199394950818.shtm

CERT NEWS:

On Saturday May 24, 2008 the Glastonbury Fire Dept teamed with the Manchester CERT team to conduct a training exercise on Case Mountain. Case Mountain is a rugged, heavily forested nature preserve located in Manchester, Glastonbury and Hebron CT.

The Manchester CERT team contingent comprised of the Emcomm team (ham radio) and the MBSAR team (Mountain Bike Search and Rescue). The Bike Rescue team rides extensively on Case Mountain and is extremely familiar with its trail system. Case Mountain poses another problem, radio communication, or more exactly, the lack of uninterrupted radio transmission ability in the area (there are many “blind” spots on the mountain). Even Fire, Police or EMS radios cannot maintain radio contact with search teams, deep in the woods. The Manchester Emcomm team has developed a series of communication links, using high power, portable ham radios. With this ability, rescue teams can stay in constant contact with the Incident Commander at the Command Post.

To practice and hone their skills, the CERT team has trained with the Manchester Fire Dept. on numerous occasions. The training has proven its worth on many lost person calls on Case Mountain. The CERT team wanted to expand their training to include the Glastonbury Fire Department. (Many thanks go to Chief Matt Nelson for allowing this mutual aid training.) On May 24th the training exercise was conducted. It was a great success! The Search teams from Manchester and Glastonbury found all four “lost victims”. Some of the “victims” needed special medical attention and extraction from the woods. This required a great amount of coordination and manpower to bring the patient to safety.

Many, many lessons were learned and because of this training exercise, modifications to all SOPs will be made. One of the best things to come from the exercise was that it allowed team members to work with other emergency services and to become familiar with how each Department operates and the department’s capabilities and the assets that can be brought to bear on an emergency such as this. As people have said before, an emergency is not the time to trade business cards.

The entire training exercise lasted 1 ½ hours and the lessons learned will last a lifetime.

As fate would have it, at 10:30 AM, on May 27th (three days later) a 911 call was received by the fire department requesting medical assistance for a mountain biker injured on - you guessed it - Case Mountain!

This was the real thing. A 71-year-old biker fell from his bike and broke his hip. Because of their experiences on Case Mountain, Manchester FD immediately called for Glastonbury FD and their 6 wheel drive Gators. Also activated was the Manchester CERT team. Team members were instructed to stage and wait for further instructions.

At the Unified Command Post, the Manchester and Glastonbury Fire Battalion Chiefs discussed the best route to get to the patient (his location was verified by using GPS location of his cell phone). A Mountain Bike Rescue Team leader was summoned to the UCP for his expertise on the trails and the best and worst routes to get to the patient. At the same time, the communications team established mountain communications. This allowed the rescue teams to enter the woods with a working communications system.

The Bike team and the Gator teams reached the victim at about the same time. He was seriously hurt and was in need of advanced medical treatment, this was provided by the Manchester Paramedics. Once packaged, the long, rugged, labor-intensive ½ mile extraction from the woods began. Even the slightest jarring caused the patient great pain, so extreme care was taken when moving the patient.

To make things worse, a severe storm warning was issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for the Hartford and Tolland Counties. The ham radio operators, on scene, immediately contacted the NWS, in Taunton, MA (Operation Sky Warn) via 2-meter radio. They explained the situation in Glastonbury/Manchester and asked for assistance monitoring the approaching storm. The Sky Warn team did a great job keeping the responders, on scene, constantly apprised of any changes in storm direction or intensity. This constant flow of information kept the Unified Command abreast of the weather and permitted them to make decisions that would affect the rescue teams in the woods.

The patient was finally brought out of the woods at approximately 2:30 PM, four hours after the first call for help was received. All rescue operations were concluded by 3:00 PM. Although the patient was seriously injured, he is expected to make a complete recovery. At 4:30 PM, 1 ½ hours later the clouds opened and it rained quite heavily. That was cutting it close!

This is just another example of neighbors helping neighbors.

Article submitted by Don Janelle, Manchester

DEMHS URGES LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN JUNE 10th COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE

All municipalities are strongly encouraged to participate in the June 10, DEMHS High Band radio drill which will be used to exercise a portion of the State's distribution procedures for food, water, tarps and ice following a catastrophic disaster.

At 9:00 am on June 10, the DEMS Regional Offices will conduct a roll-call of their respective municipalities over the DEMHS Regional high band radio system. When responding to the roll call, municipalities participating in the drill will provide the facility name, address and type (i.e. Type I, II, or III) of Local Distribution Point(s) to be activated in the municipality in response to a major hurricane event causing a total loss of power statewide.

DEMHS Regional offices will consolidate local reports and forward them to the State EOC. At the State EOC the Regional reports will be consolidated into a single, statewide order for food, water, ice and tarps for a 24-hour operational period. In a real emergency, this process would be repeated daily for as long as necessary.

The objective of this exercise will be to develop the consolidated statewide order for commodities in under 4 hours, the approximate amount of time the State will have in which to accomplish this activity each day in a catastrophic disaster in order to keep adequate amounts of commodities flowing into the State for distribution to disaster victims.

In addition to participating in the high band drill, municipalities are also urged to conduct a planning session for the operation of their Local Distribution Point(s), either immediately following the high band drill or sometime just before or after the high band drill. Participants in these planning sessions might include local EMDs, fire and police chiefs, CEOs, CERT Team leaders, and representatives of local business and industry (for the loan of material handling equipment). It is recommended that local planning sessions be geared to the completion of the "Local Commodities Distribution Point Standard Operating Procedure," included herewith.

During the planning sessions local officials are encouraged to email their DEMHS Regional Coordinator with any questions on distribution procedures that may arise. DEMHS will try to respond to these questions immediately and a consolidated list of all local questions and DEMHS answers will be provided later to every municipality and posted on the DEMHS website.

DEMHS hopes to get as many municipalities as possible discussing distribution point operations on June 10th. Perhaps knowing that others are engaging in the same activity at the same time across the State will help stimulate local planning for this critical mission as we enter the 2008 hurricane season, which experts say will likely be an active one.

DEMHS has been conducting a series of local training sessions around the State on the operation of Local Distribution Points in a catastrophic disaster. We wish to thank everyone who attended one of the sessions for their dedication to this important work.

We look forward to your participation with us in the high band radio drill and the Local Distribution Point planning sessions on June 10th.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION POINT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Town/City: _____

Name of Distribution Point: _____

Address of Distribution Point: _____

Type of Distribution Point: _____

(Type I - 4 vehicle lines for 560 cars per hour/20,000 persons per day

Type II - 2 vehicle lines for 280 cars per hour/10,000 persons per day

Type III - 1 vehicle line for 140 vehicles per hour/5,000 persons per day)

5. Hours of Operation _____ Hours of Resupply _____

6. LDP Manager _____ Phone: _____

7. Assistant LDP Manager _____ Phone: _____

8. Forklift Operators: _____

9. Pallet Jack Operators: _____

10. Describe Method of Communication with Local EOC _____

11. Local Organizations Providing Labor (ex. CERT Team, Fire Dept Auxiliary, local business)

12. Forklifts provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

13. Pallet jacks provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

14. Lighting provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

15. Traffic cones provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

16. Barricades provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

17. Dumpsters provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

18. Portable toilets with service contract provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

19. Shade tent (10'x10') provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

20. Food Service provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

21. Safety Equipment

Flashlights provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Safety Glasses provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Hearing protection provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Safety vests provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Hard hats provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Work gloves provided by: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____

22. If FEMA authorizes federal commodities for distribution to the general public, municipalities desiring to distribute commodities to their residents should contact the DEMHS Regional Office and request authorization to operate a Local Distribution Point. The DEMHS Regional Office will notify the State EOC and the State EOC will determine if and when commodities can be provided to a specific LDP.

Seven Days of Hurricane Preparedness: A one-week plan to be ready for hurricanes... or other emergencies

Recent predictions from Hurricane experts predict an active Hurricane Season for the U.S. Connecticut has been severely affected many times by Hurricanes. Individuals, businesses and communities can take some basic steps to be better informed about and prepared for Hurricanes.

Early attention to risks and planning can avoid great inconvenience or even tragedy later. The twelve steps shown here will help to prepare you for Hurricanes and other emergencies throughout the year.

**American
Red Cross**

Free preparedness and planning information is available from the Red Cross. Call the Charter Oak Chapter at 1-877-243-5727 or visit www.charteroak.redcross.org. Many supplies are available at our Red Cross Store, which is accessible online, by phone or at the Chapter, at 209 Farmington Avenue in Farmington.

<p>On the First Day of Hurricane Preparedness</p> <p>Get a Kit. Have at least three days of supplies in an easy-to-carry kit, stored in an accessible place, if you need to evacuate or be self-sufficient at home for at least three days. A kit should include water, non-perishable food, a first aid kit, a battery powered radio, important medications, sanitary supplies and should include supplies for any household pets, as well. Consider buying a multi-gallon water container that can be filled if needed.</p> <p>Free information on preparing a disaster supplies kit is available by contacting us at 1-877-243-5727 or visiting www.charteroak.redcross.org. Disaster supplies kits are also available at our Red Cross Store. Call us, visit us or stop by during business hours to shop.</p> 	<p>On the Second Day of Hurricane Preparedness</p> <p>Make a plan. Planning ahead will help you have the best possible response to a disaster. Know what disaster risks could affect your family and discuss what you can do as a team to prepare. Create an evacuation plan for your house; practice it twice a year. Choose a place to meet away from home if you are separated during a disaster and can't get home. Designate a spot near home where you would gather during a sudden emergency, like a fire. Make sure that everyone in the household has important emergency numbers handy. Know how to shut off utilities in your home if necessary. Make sure everyone in your family knows where your emergency information and supplies are kept. And don't forget to include your pets in your planning. They need care too!</p> <p>Free information about creating and maintaining an emergency plan is available from the Charter Oak Chapter. Call us at 1-877-243-5727 or visit us online at www.charteroak.redcross.org.</p>	<p>On the Third Day of Hurricane Preparedness</p> <p>Be informed. Know what may happen and how to respond. Learn what disasters or emergencies may occur where you live, work and play. Identify how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and you will get important information from local television, radio or weather service broadcasts. Learn what you can do to be better prepared by taking a Red Cross course in CPR and first aid. At least one person in your home should be trained. Be sure that you have a battery-powered radio, preferably one with a weather band.</p> <p>The Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross can help you to know what you need to prepare and can provide information and resources. Contact us for more information.</p> 	<p>On the Fourth Day of Hurricane Preparedness</p> <p>Consider purchasing additional supplies that might be helpful in creating and maintaining a safe household.</p> <p>Consider purchasing an A-B-C type fire extinguisher for your home. Make sure everyone is trained in its use.</p> <p>Consider purchasing sleeping bags for your family. If you have to evacuate, a sleeping bag will provide extra comfort when you are at a Red Cross shelter. It can also help you to stay warm during an extended power outage.</p> <p>Evaluate your energy needs and consider purchasing a generator. If you or a family member has medical equipment, this is an important purchase to consider. Make sure that you have this equipment professionally installed and follow all operating instructions carefully.</p> 	<p>On the Fifth Day of Hurricane Preparedness</p> <p>Conduct a hazard search around your home. Look for items that could become dangerous in high winds, like dead tree limbs, loose shutters and unsecured furniture. Make a plan to address items that need fixing and a plan on where to store loose items.</p> <p>While you're checking, make sure that things are safe inside, too. If your home is prone to flooding, it's a good idea to raise appliances like furnaces, hot water heaters, washers, dryers and electrical panels to prevent damage. Consult your utility company, electrician or plumber.</p> <p>It's also a good time to make sure there are smoke alarms on each floor of your home and in each bedroom and that you've replaced batteries recently. The beginning and end of daylight saving time are good dates to change batteries.</p> <p>The Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross has more information on making your home safer. Visit www.charteroak.redcross.org or call us at 1-877-243-5727.</p> 	<p>On the Sixth Day of Hurricane Preparedness</p> <p>Take a moment to make sure you have copies of important identification, insurance and legal documents in your emergency kit. Consider also keeping important materials in a safe deposit box.</p> <p>Make a habit of reviewing your homeowner's insurance once a year to make sure it suits current needs. If you rent, consider renter's insurance, which could protect the contents of your rented home in many disaster and theft situations. The coverage can be very affordable and is often the only way to replace items lost in rented homes.</p> <p>The Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross has free information about preparing for disasters. Contact us at 1-877-243-5727 or visit www.charteroak.redcross.org to learn more.</p> 	<p>On the Seventh Day of Hurricane Preparedness</p> <p>Help your community be better prepared. Take a moment to encourage friends, colleagues and relatives to follow your example with the Seven Days of Hurricane Preparedness.</p> <p>Make an appointment to give blood. Blood is needed in times of emergency, but the ongoing need is also great. Every two seconds someone in America needs a blood transfusion—cancer patients, accident victims, premature infants and the list goes on. Your donation means so much to the individuals who need it.</p> <p>Consider becoming a Red Cross volunteer. Join the more than one million neighbors who help their communities be safer, healthier and better prepared. We'll train you with the skills you need and have opportunities for people of every age and ability. What you learn will help your community and your family. Contact us at 1-877-243-5727 or visit www.charteroak.redcross.org to learn more.</p> 
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FY 2008 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY:

Volunteer, career, and combination fire departments are eligible to apply under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity. Municipalities and fire districts may submit applications on behalf of fire departments that lack the legal status to do so, such as departments under the auspices of the municipality or district. Each eligible applicant is limited to one application per application period. Eligibility for this activity is limited to volunteer and combination fire departments (see "SAFER Grants Definitions"). Statewide or local organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters and individual fire departments (volunteer or combination) may apply for assistance for regional projects. An individual fire department may act as a "host applicant" and apply for regional projects on behalf of itself and any number of neighboring fire departments. For example, a host applicant could apply for a regional media campaign promoting volunteerism.

AGENCY NAME

Department of Homeland Security - FEMA

DESCRIPTION

The SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grants are awarded under a competitive process and managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Office. SAFER grants provide financial assistance to help fire departments increase their cadre of frontline firefighters. The goal is to assist the local fire departments' staffing and deployment capabilities, in order to respond to emergencies whenever they occur, assuring that their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The SAFER grants have two activities that will help grantees in this endeavor: (1) hiring of firefighters and (2) recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. (1) The Hiring of Firefighters Activity involves a grant with a five-year period of performance that provides fire departments with funding to pay a portion of the salaries and benefits of newly hired firefighters. These grants are awarded directly to volunteer, combination, and career fire departments to help the departments increase their number of frontline firefighters. Having more firefighters on staff should enhance the local fire department's abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by NFPA and OSHA. (2) Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity involves grants is to assist fire departments with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. The grants are intended to create a net increase in the number of trained, certified, and competent firefighters capable of safely responding to emergencies likely to occur within the grantee's geographic response area. The primary focus of this activity is the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with, or trained in, the operations of firefighting and emergency response. Applicants are allowed to submit only one application during this application period and may include either one or both activities.

Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency
Grant Program Directorate (GPD)
500 C St SW Washington, DC 20472
Tel: 1-866-274-0960 Fax: 202-786-9938

firegrants@dhs.gov