



**Vol. 3
Issue 12**

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Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

The winter season has finally arrived in the great State of Connecticut. It will not be long before we have snow, icy roads and everything else that comes with New England weather. This issue will focus on our recent "Winter Storm Drill" convened at the request of Governor M. Jodi Rell that replicated the ice storm that paralyzed the State of Pennsylvania last year. We all recognize how fast the climate and weather can and does change in Connecticut and we are trying to work with our partners, in an attempt to remind the 3.5 million people living in the state, that we must be prepared to endure some difficult times ahead if necessary.

We should all be prepared the very best we can at our homes by having sufficient fuel on hand to keep our families warm, and a supply of water and food along with our emergency kit if necessary. The old saying of "shelter in place" is a good theory during the tough times of winter.

WHAT'S NEW:

**December is National
Read a New Book Month**

UPCOMING TRAINING and EXERCISES

**Terrorism Liaison Officer
Training**

**Transit Terrorism Tools &
Tactics**

ICS-400

Of special concern is making certain that we have some basis equipment in our vehicles, should we be caught on the highways or local roads for a prolonged period of time because of either an accident that has the road closed down or because of "impassable" roadways. First and most importantly, we should try to keep the fuel tank of the vehicles full or at least more than half full in case we are stalled on the highway for a period of time. You should also carry a couple blankets, extra gloves or mittens, a battery radio, and a flashlight so that if necessary, you can stay warm and listen to the radio without using the engine of your vehicle if you need to preserve gasoline.

Of special note, we would like to acknowledge the very successful Connecticut Citizen Corps Conference held at the Mohegan Sun on November 20th. Over 250 people attending this very informative and worthwhile program. A special thanks to the Mohegan Tribal Nation for hosting the conference and to Sharon Mazzochi and Bob Scata of the DEMHS, and Chief Bill Austin of the Town of West Hartford, for all of their efforts in putting this conference together.

As we all get ready to enter into December, let's be safe and enjoy this very special time with our families. Enjoy the holidays, and this issue of the DEMHS Advisor!

Winter Storm Drill

November 20, 2007

There was one exercise inject that did not need to be played out in the state's Winter Storm exercise on Tuesday November 20, 2007, that was slippery roads and snowy conditions! The season's first measurable snowfall came on a day when almost a hundred participants were heading to the State Emergency Operations Center in Hartford for a winter storm exercise.

The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, in cooperation with the Governor's Office facilitated a table-top exercise, having participants determining what actions the state would need to take if our roads were paralyzed by a serious winter snowfall, followed by a rapid freezing condition.

"I put in a purchase order for the snow for today's exercise" joked exercise designer and facilitator Bob Christ as he began the tabletop speaking of the snow and road conditions that caused a few exercise participants to arrive a little late. Connecticut State Police spokesman Lieutenant Paul Vance would later tell reporters that State Police had responded to 123 motor vehicle accidents during the morning rush hour.

Participants from state, local and non-governmental agencies came to the EOC to participate in the table top exercise which had snow falling at the rate of approximately three inches an hour. A key element in the scenario is that most plows and snow removal equipment can keep up with a snowfall rate of about two inches an hour. When the snow fall rate exceeds two inches an hour it is very difficult to keep roads clear. Further in the scenario additional precipitation created an accretion of ice on roads and power lines, further hampering snow removal and travel throughout the state.



Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford flanked by participants, discussing the exercise framework.



Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Director Bill Hackett welcomes exercise participants and makes introductions.



Exercise Designer and facilitator Bob Christ drives discussion, encouraging agencies representative to share their response plans during the table top.

The scenario was notionally based on the Valentines Day Snow Storm in February 2007 that paralyzed much of the northeast and shut down Pennsylvania's Interstate 80, leaving some motorists stranded in their vehicles for almost 20 hours. The severity of that storm and the delayed response prompted Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell to order an investigation into the response.

Recognizing the serious potential for a winter storm to negatively affect Connecticut, Governor Rell participated in the exercise with commissioners from key state agencies. Upon completion of the exercise she was briefed about the strengths and vulnerabilities that the exercise brought out. After the exercise actions are being taken to remedy those weaknesses.

Commissioner Thomas of DEMHS said, "This drill gave all involved an opportunity to get fully engaged in a situation that could actually happen during the upcoming winter months. It also demonstrated how extremely critical it is that our state, local and non-governmental agencies work together to continue improving our level of responsiveness."

The exercise closed with Governor Rell, Connecticut Department of Transportation Commissioner Ralph J. Carpenter, Commissioner Thomas, Department of Public Safety Commissioner John A. Danaher III, and Major General Thaddeus Martin of the Connecticut Military Department responding to questions from reporters. These are the key state agencies that would play a major role in the response. Of course, many other state and non-government agencies play supporting roles in this response as well.

Holiday Safety Tips

Outdoor Lights:

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL or ETL. This indicates conformance with safety standards. Use only lights that have plugs containing fuses.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets. Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.
- If using an extension cord, make sure it is rated for the intended use.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
- Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into older homes.
- Keep ladders away from power lines.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples (not nails or tacks) to hold strings in place. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).
- Keep electrical connectors above ground and away from water.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- Use caution when removing outdoor holiday lights. Never pull or tug on lights – this could cause stress on the connections that could create a fire hazard.
- ◆ Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to protect against electric shock. Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can also be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.



Winter Preparedness

ENSURING THE COLD DOESN'T TAKE A BITE OUT OF YOU



Prepare your home and family

- **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** to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- **Place a winter emergency kit in each car** (see sidebar for items to include)

FEMA has more information on what to do:

- [Before a winter storm](#)
- [During a winter storm](#)
- [After a winter storm](#)
- [Winter Preparedness Newsletter](#)

Did You Know?

Your winter survival kit should include the following items:

- 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

The body loses heat quickest through the head and hands, so be sure to have a hat and gloves or mittens.

Before Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

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 YOUR HOME AND FAMILY

- 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 fire-place or wood-burning stove.
- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. 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. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- 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.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.

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PREPARE YOUR CAR

- Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your **car**:
 - 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. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.
 - 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.

Course Announcement—Terrorism Liaison Officer Training

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council is pleased to offer for the second time a comprehensive training program for Connecticut police officers that will prepare them to be proactive members of the law enforcement community helping to combat terrorism within their jurisdiction, the state, and the nation. We are the first state on the East Coast to sponsor this training seminar which was developed in conjunction with several California governmental agencies. A tentative, daily schedule is attached for your review.

The course will be held on Monday, December 10, 2007, through Friday, December 14, 2007, at Central Connecticut State University's Institute of Technology and Business Development, in downtown New Britain. Daily class times for the first four days will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; on Friday, the class will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Directions will be sent to all selected participants.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, demonstrated the necessity of a comprehensive law enforcement strategy to assist in the national effort to prevent further acts of terrorism against the people of the United States. It is mandatory that components of this law enforcement strategy address the need to improve the communication, cooperation, and coordination between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

The concept of the Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) was designed to be a nationally interconnected program of designated law enforcement officers that attended an approved and accredited course of instruction. Their shared learning experience would prepare a TLO to fill a specific need within their organization and that role would be a link, or a connection, or a liaison.



Bob Scata and Sharon Mazzochi at the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education/Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendent (CABE/CAPSS) Convention that was held in Groton, Connecticut. Information on "Crisis Planning and Emergencies" was given to Superintendents and Board of Education members throughout Connecticut.

DEMHS News

DEMHS New Employees— The following trainers started working at DEMHS on 11-23-07. Please join us in welcoming them to our team.

Gordon W. Harris, Jr. – Durational Trainer—Region 3

Gordon has been involved with the Fire Service for approximately 40 years and is currently serving as a Deputy Chief with the Wethersfield Fire Department. He earned an Associate's Degree in Fire Protection and Life Safety Technology from Oklahoma State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science Services from Southern Illinois University.

Edward M. Murray- Durational Trainer—Region 1

Edward has previously worked with DEMHS through the Connecticut Fire Academy on the Region 1 2007 MetroNorth Norwalk Exercise. Prior to coming to state service, Edward gained extensive experience managing trade associations and chambers of commerce. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War and is currently commissioned as a major in the New York Guard. Edward earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing/Management from Fordham University.

Thomas J. Romano- Durational Trainer—Region 5

Thomas is currently district chief for the Suffield Fire Department. Prior to serving in his current volunteer capacity, Thomas spent eight years as the department's training officer in addition to a stint as the Suffield Emergency Management Director. In addition to his Fire Service and Emergency Management experience, Thomas worked as a Systems Engineer/Team Leader at Aetna as an Assistant Vice President at the Connecticut Bank and Trust/Bank of New England. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Charter Oak State College and currently a certified Fire Service Instructor II.

Gary F. Ruggiero- Durational Trainer—Region 4

Gary is currently Chief of the Windsor Locks Fire Department. Prior to assuming his current duties, he was Training Officer for 16 years. In addition to his experience in the Fire Service with the Windsor Locks Fire Department, Gary has also served as an instructor with the Hartford County Regional Fire School. His private sector work experience includes 28 years as a drafter/designer at Crouse-Hinds Airport Lighting Products. Gary earned an Associate's De-

Upcoming Training & Exercise

Dec 4, 3 day course
Dec 5 & Transit Terrorism Tools & Tactics—Brainard Field, Hartford
Dec 6

Dec 13 & 2 day course
Dec 19 ICS 400 - Middletown

Dec 10,
Dec 11,
Dec 12, 5 day course
Dec 13 & Terrorism Liaison Officer Training—POSTC
Dec 14

For training & exercise questions contact Dave Brown, Bob Christ, Bob Scata, or Sharon Mazzochi at 860-256-0840. Fax: 860-706-5539. You may register for these courses at: www.ct.gov/demhs

Training is critical for first responders and is readily available through the State Fire Academy, Regional Fire Schools, and the Police Officers Training Academy. First responders include Police, Fire, Public Works, and 911 dispatchers to name but a few.

All of the following organizations have the ability to deliver NIMS training to your police officers, fire-fighters, public works employees, 911 dispatchers, health workers, education staff and emergency management personnel. Training can be delivered weekdays, weekends or evenings to meet your needs. The NIMS program can be delivered in four, eight or twelve hour modules depending on the duties assigned to personnel.

You should also know that these programs are available on line at FEMA's web site:
http://www.fema.gov/tab_education.shtm

Training Facility Contact Information:

Police Officers Training Council	203-238-6505
Connecticut Fire Academy	860-627-6363
Eastern CT Fireman's Training School	860-487-1105
New Haven Regional Fire Academy	203-946-6215
Wolcott Fire School	203-879-1559
Hartford County Fire School	860-828-3242
Burrville Fire Training School	860-482-7496
Valley Fire Training School	203-736-6222
Middlesex County Fire School	860-663-1308
Fairfield Fireman's Training School	203-254-4709
Stamford Regional Training Fire School	203-977-4673

All State Agencies should contact the Training Unit at DEMHS.



Town of
MANCHESTER

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FIRE - RESCUE – EMS

Manchester CERT Capabilities

SUB GROUP	FUNCTIONS	LEVEL OF TRAINING AND/OR ABILITY	LEAD TIME UNTIL FIRST TEAM MEMBER ARRIVES	CONTACT/ACTIVATION INFORMATION
Basic CERT Team	EOC support	Basic training in task specific EOC operations	10 – 15 Minutes	Don Janelle or Chief Bycholski or Global Connect (group 5)
Basic CERT Team	Shelter Operations/Mgmt.	Red Cross certified to Shelter Manager level	10 – 15 Minutes	Don Janelle or Chief Bycholski or Global Connect (group 2)
Basic CERT Team	Manpower	N/A	10- 15 Minutes	Don Janelle or Chief Bycholski or Global Connect (group 5)
Emcomm (radio)	Redundant Communication Support	Expert in radio operations able to operate, as teams, in the field, unsupported	10- 15 Minutes	Same as above Or Jim Todd (team POC)
Mountain Bike Rescue	Specialized in Case Mountain lost person rescues	Expert riders and extremely familiar with Case Mtn. terrain	20 – 30 Minutes	Don Janelle or Chief Bycholski or Global Connect (group 4) Or Kurt Wagner (team POC)
Canine Search and Rescue	Specialize in lost (living or Cadaver tracking) persons, scent tracking (clothing), air tracking (human scent), & water tracking	Expert dog teams (up to 9 teams) Self contained unit – needs minimal support	30 minutes to one hour (the team is dispersed throughout the State)	Don Janelle or Chief Bycholski or Global Connect (group 5) Or Peter Vernesoni (team POC)

*Committed to providing quality, courteous and professional
life safety and public services*



Photos from:

CT Annual Citizen Corps Conference

November 20, 2007

Mohegan Sun
Uncasville



