



**Vol. 3
Issue 2**

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Flooding

*Risk Assessment &
Emergency Ops Plans*

Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

We are experiencing one of the most unusual winters ever since the National Weather Service began keeping records. There has been very little snow, one of the local television stations indicated that we had one inch of snow through January 31st.

I believe that “Mother Nature” has a way of equalizing the bad weather over time so this month we are concentrating on “Flooding” and preparing for emergencies in general. Even though Connecticut has not realized significant snow, some of our neighboring states have and there is always the potential for major rain and or snow melt during the spring.

WHAT'S NEW:

**February is Black
History Month**

**UPCOMING TRAINING
and EXERCISES**

**Feb 16 & Feb 24 - G-191
Emer. Op. Center Interface**

**Feb 26 —Frontline Responder
Training**

Feb 26-28— ICS 300

**May 1—DEMHS and CCM
Homeland Security
Conference**

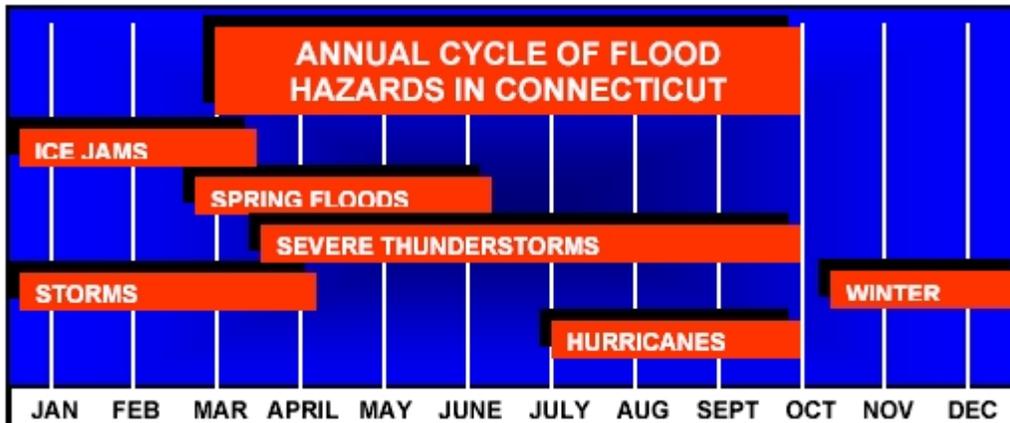
We know that most all of the communities in Connecticut have been reviewing their individual emergency operations plans over the past few years, and thousands of first responders have been taking classes on the National Incident Management System (NIMS), so we are probably better prepared than we have ever been before. We still need to continue to update date the local, regional and even the state plans on an ongoing basis. They have to be as current as possible, and most importantly everyone should be not only familiar with the written word but we need to exercise the plans.

We at DEMHS just like you are hoping that the rest of the winter is as mild as it has been to date, but we must be prepared in case “Mother Nature” does come back at us with a fury.

Enjoy the February newsletter and please take advantage of any training you see listed that would make you and your agency better prepared.

Flooding:

Flooding is the number one cause of damage and fatalities brought about by natural disasters in Connecticut each year. Flooding can occur at any time of the year from a variety of causes (see diagram below).



The winter of 1935/36 was cold and snowy and the usual January thaw of most winters did not occur. The "Great Connecticut River Flood" of March 1936 was the result of a combination of melting snow and moderately heavy rains over a 13-day period. Three major rivers were affected in Connecticut, the Connecticut, Housatonic and Thames rivers. Each of these rivers reached all-time highs. The Connecticut River rose 8.6 feet higher than had been historically observed in the 300 year known history of the river. The flood waters left some 10,000 Connecticut families homeless, contaminated drinking water supplies, brought the threat of typhoid and resulted in curfews in the flood ravaged communities. In Connecticut, the flood left several dead and \$20 million (1936 dollars) in property damage.

From June 4 - 7, 1982 heavy rains fell over most of Connecticut totaling 3 - 16 inches during the 48-hour storm. Dam failures in the hardest hit area around the mouth of the Connecticut River occurred in the towns of Chester, Haddam, Deep River, and Essex. A total of 30 dams failed or were partially breached during the storm. Damages from the 1982 storm totaled \$270 million (1982 dollars). This storm led to the installation of an automated flood warning system in the State of Connecticut in 1986. Connecticut was struck again by flooding from May 28 - June 2, 1984 and again on June 5-6, 1992.

Major flooding of Connecticut's small rivers and loss of several lives can be expected once every 5 - 10 years during the 21st century. Major flooding of the larger rivers (Housatonic, Connecticut, Farmington) with some loss of life and several hundred million dollars in damage can be expected once every 30 years on average. Since the passage of flood regulations in 1968, and the creation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1978, flood vulnerability in Connecticut has continued to increase but at a slower rate than it would have in the absence of regulation. In the future these regulations will serve to slowly eliminate floodprone buildings by requiring the elevation or removal from the 100 year floodplain, buildings that are significantly flooded (50% or greater damage).

The urban flood risk will continue to increase steadily over the next several decades because many factors that affect urban flooding cannot be mitigated. These include large-scale urbanization combined with older undersized drainage systems that are so extensive that the cost to upgrade them is prohibitive as part of the post disaster mitigation. Urbanization will continue to create more impervious areas that channel increased runoff into under-sized catch basins causing flooding of low lying areas within towns and cities and along small urban brooks. Automated warning systems cannot effectively warn against the very rapid onset of urban flooding that occurs within one (1) hour of the start of heavy rainfall.



RISK ASSESSMENTS and EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

MISSION:

The mission of Connecticut's emergency management community (state and local governments and private response and recovery organizations) in times of disaster is to:

- 1) maximize the preservation of life and property (including public infrastructure);
- 2) correct or alleviate, as expeditiously as possible, serious disaster or emergency-related conditions which present continued threats to the health or welfare of the residents of the state, and
- 3) facilitate a return to normalcy by all practical means.

DEVELOPING EMERGENCY PLANS:

To accomplish the mission, Chief Elected Officials and Emergency Managers and Planners prepare Emergency Operations Plans and/or Emergency Response Plans and develop Standard Operating Procedures.

In recent years, many have promoted the development of "All-Hazards" Plans. An All-Hazards approach is useful as long as the plans address the types of responses and actions generally necessitated by an emergency or disaster.

Many states and towns have found it most feasible to develop a Basic Emergency Operations Plan, and then have gone on to develop Hazard-Specific Plans or Annexes that address the most likely hazards the community may experience. In any case, no single plan or group of plans can possibly speak to all possible hazardous conditions a town may face.

Most importantly, municipalities should focus their planning on the "most probable worst-case scenario" they are likely to face, not necessarily the "absolute worst-case scenario." Plans and procedures developed to address the most probable worst-case scenario will be helpful in responding to other events as well. Plain, straight-forward common sense planning is the key.

To view DEMHS Plans, go to: <http://www.ct.gov/demhs> Look to the left side bar and click on Emergency Management. Then, click on Planning Guides. Then on Model Local Emergency Operations Plan to view the Basic Plan and Annexes. Or, click on Natural Disaster Plan to view the State's Natural Disaster Plan signed by the Governor in January 2006.

NATURAL HAZARDS:

The natural hazards that pose the most likely threats to the State of Connecticut include floods, severe thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, winter storms, blizzards, and coastal storms. Droughts and earthquakes are also possible.

The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) feels the "most probable worst-case scenario" is a major hurricane (a strong Category 3 with winds up to 130 mph) resulting in a widespread and prolonged loss of power (a month and perhaps longer in some areas), massive amounts of debris, impassable roads, communications interruptions, and major damage to tens of thousands of residential units and thousands of businesses. This is a universal hazard faced by all Connecticut municipalities.

Historically, the worst disasters to affect the State of Connecticut have been the 1938 hurricane and the 1955 floods. The 1955 floods were caused by the heavy rainfall associated with the remnants of two hurricanes.

Flooding is a universal hazard faced by virtually every municipality in the State and should be a consideration when developing response plans. However, some municipalities have a greater risk of flooding and greater vulnerability to the effects of flooding than others.

The State of Connecticut Hazard Mitigation Section 322 Plan details the following:

- ◆ Once in every 10 years, a moderate Category II hurricane can be expected.
- ◆ At least 1 major hurricane of Category III or IV can be expected before 2040.
- ◆ Once in every 5 years, severe flooding occurs.
- ◆ Once in every 10 years a tornado occurs.
- ◆ Severe winter storms, which result in over a foot of snowfall combined with either major coastal flooding or ice storms have occurred 7 times since 1973.
- ◆ Less frequent are droughts, forest fires and earthquakes that cause damage.
- ◆ Large forest fires (usually caused by drought) are rare.
- ◆ Once every 25 years on average, CT experiences a magnitude 4.0 or greater earthquake.
- ◆ The chance of an earthquake greater than 6.0 is 1 in every 300 years.

Refer to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan on the Department of Environmental Protection website for additional information:

<http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wtr/hazardmitigation/hazardmitigationplan.htm>

OTHER HAZARDS:

Other hazards to be considered include: hazardous materials incidents, highway/ transportation accidents, airplane crashes, dam failures, etc. In the mid-1990s, the federal government encouraged states and towns to consider the possibilities of terrorist-inspired acts of destruction as a part of an overall emergency disaster planning effort. Possible terrorism incidents include: chemical agent incidents, biological agent incidents, radiological agent incidents, bombings. Other law enforcement incidents include: school violence and civil unrest.

Every town faces the threat of responding to a hazardous materials transportation accident - therefore this hazard should also be addressed in local response plans. In 1988 the towns in Connecticut formed Local Emergency Planning Committees and developed Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plans. These Plans address hazardous materials incident operating procedures for fixed facilities that have large quantities of extremely hazardous substances on-site as well as hazardous materials transportation accidents.

Other natural hazards as well as technological and man-caused disasters must be considered as well. Some municipalities face unique hazards that they must prepare for such as the municipalities within ten miles of the Millstone nuclear power generating station, and municipalities with potential terrorist targets in them or near them.

Currently there is concern about the possibility of a pandemic and its affect on the ability of government and key industry to maintain critical functions due to loss of staff. This is called Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) and may prove beneficial not only in responding to a pandemic but to other events such as a major hurricane, where history has shown that many public and private sector employees will not report to work for weeks in some cases because they themselves, along with their families, are disaster victims.

RISK ASSESSMENT A.K.A. HAZARD ANALYSIS:

Webster's New College Dictionary provides us the following definitions: "*Risk - 1. Possibility of suffering harm or loss: Danger; 2. A factor, course, or element involving uncertain danger: Hazard...*" "*Hazard - 1. A chance happening: Accident; 2. A chance of being harmed or injured: Danger; 3. A possible source of danger <a highway hazard>.*"

An analysis of a community's vulnerability begins with an inventory of possible hazards and an assessment of the risk that the hazard poses. What hazards can affect a community? How bad can it get? How likely are they to occur? What areas/structures will be affected?

The combination of the impact of the hazard and its probability/frequency is used to determine a community's VULNERABILITY as HIGH, MODERATE, or LOW.

For example, a flood event is highly likely (nearly 100% probability in the next year) in many communities in Connecticut; but the degree of impact varies so a highly likely flood probability combined with a critical or catastrophic impact results in a Community Vulnerability Rating of HIGH.

Another community with a highly likely or likely probability of flooding (at least one chance in the next 10 years) combined with a limited impact would receive a Vulnerability Rating of MODERATE. The Vulnerability Rating of a community having the occurrence of an event as possible or unlikely combined with a limited or negligible impact would be LOW.

BRINGING IT HOME, MAKING IT REAL:

Having identified the hazards the municipality should be prepared for in order to meet the crises most effectively, a Planning Team can now develop plans, both general and specific, which clearly spell out the necessary actions and identify the persons and agencies needed, along with an outline of their roles and responsibilities. The Town should create a Planning Team composed of the Chief Elected Official, Town Manager, Emergency Management Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Emergency Medical Services Director, Public Works Director, Road Foreman, Town Planner, Social Services Director, along with members of community agencies and local business to provide input into the ongoing planning and preparedness efforts.



Training Update

The following training programs were sponsored by DEMHS at POSTC and taught by Det. Pat Chagnon in 2006. Please check the POSTC website for scheduling of these and other courses throughout the year.

CT State & Local Anti-terrorism Training Program—515 trained
Terrorism & the Suicide Bomber Training Program—1087 trained
Operation Safeguard Training Program—506 trained
Crime Prevention & Counter Terrorism Measures Course—46 trained

Total persons trained is 2,154. These courses will be offered in 2007. Additional courses under development include "Coordinated Response to Critical Incidents" and "Intelligence & Information Development for Patrol." For more information Det. Chagnon can be contacted at 860-706-5500.

Promises Promises— NIMS Compliance Information

We get calls almost every day with someone asking if they take this one hour course can they be NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800 certified. Can we use our HLS funds to pay for costs? The answer is no. Only full length courses are covered.

The HLS NIMS office is very clear that if you're taking a yesing program it must follow the lesson plan. That means an eight (8) hour course can't be delivered in one (1) hour. A twenty-four (24) hour course can't be delivered in three (3) hours.

Taking a course should not be about getting a certificate but about learning the material. If all of your department members have their NIMS certificates but can't complete a situation report, what have you accomplished other than wasting staff time?

So when you get a call from an instructor that makes promises that sound too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true.

The required hours for NIMS courses is as follows:

ICS-100	8 hours
ICS-200	8 hours
ICS-700	8 hours
ICS-800	8 hours
ICS-300	24 hours
ICS-400	16 hours

Upcoming Training & Exercise

- Feb 16 G191—Emer. Op. Center Interface, Brainard
- Feb 24 G191—Emer. Op. Center Interface, Middletown PD
- Feb 26 Frontline Responder Training, Brainard
- Feb 26-28 ICS 300—Dept. of Veteran's Affairs

**Save the Date—May 1, 2007— DEMHS/CCM Homeland Security Conference, Cromwell
(see last page of newsletter for registration info)**

For training and exercise questions please contact Bob Christ at 860-706-5519, Bob Scata at 860-706-5518, or Sharon Mazzochi at 860-706-5517.

For POSTC classes, please go to their website at:
<http://www.ct.gov/post/site/default.asp>

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, firefighters, 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.

ODP funded training is still available to Connecticut’s Emergency Responders!

ODP funds a number of programs for Police, Fire, Health and Emergency Management officials. The programs include G&T’s Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT), Louisiana State University (LSU), Texas A&M University (TEEX), and the Department of Energy’s Nevada Test Site (NTS).

An example below is one of the courses that can be attended in Texas. All expenses of the course are provided by TEEX through a homeland security grant. The only local cost is your time. The local expense of backfilling a person while away at training is an allowable expense up to \$200 per day not exceeding 20% of the homeland security grant award to that community.

Texas Engineering Extension Service

MGT314 – Enhanced Incident Management Unified Command Course
<p>Description The Enhanced IM/UC course focuses on incident management skills, staff responsibilities and the related situational awareness and decision-making skills using a computer-driven training simulation to offer a challenging decision-making environment in a WMD scenario. The course focuses on the Incident Command Post (ICP) and the key decision-making requirements within that response node. Participants learn from the cause and effects of incident decisions while working in an ICP using a simulated, notional jurisdiction. The course begins with a short overview of WMD emergency response considerations and methodologies of the Incident Command System (ICS) in a unified command structure followed by several rigorous computer-driven emergency response chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) scenarios. The course is delivered (resident) in the world-class NERRTC EOTC in College Station, Texas</p>

Check on this and other training opportunities at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/training_ndpc.htm

Don’t want to travel?

Then here is a course you can request to have delivered in your community or within a region with your mutual aid partners:

MGT312 – Senior Officials Workshop (SOW) for All Hazards Preparedness
<p>Hours 6.00 Hours</p>
<p>Description The Senior Officials Workshop is for local-jurisdiction elected and appointed senior officials. Its purpose is to provide a forum to discuss strategic- and executive-level issues related to disaster preparedness, share proven strategies and best practices, and enhance coordination among officials responsible for emergency response to a disaster.</p> <p>Participants receive an Executive Handbook outlining the Emergency Management framework (protection, preparedness, response, and recovery phases) as well as other key senior-level issues and discussions topics. The handbook contains essential "desktop" resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Quick Reference Guide to the National Response Plan (NRP) ● The Terrorism Incident Annex to the NRP ● An overview of the current DHS State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy (SHSAS) process for obtaining equipment, training, exercises, and technical assistance as well as other Federal WMD preparedness assistance programs ● Descriptions of appropriate Federal-level training courses available to community emergency responders and mayor's incident management team ● A synopsis of Federal operational response capabilities ● The American Bar Association (ABA) Checklist for State and Local Attorneys <p>This workshop is typically delivered at a time and place determined by the requesting jurisdiction. Each workshop, including site and curriculum delivery costs, is fully funded by a training grant provided by DHS, Office of Grants and Training (G&T).</p>

To apply an application must be completed, approved by the local authority, endorsed by the state Training Officer (fax 860-256-0815) then faxed to the program.



UNIFIED REGIONS = PREPARED COMMUNITIES

TOGETHER WITH REGIONS!

The 2007 Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium is devoted to strengthening regional collaboration among all local, regional, and state officials.



CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE OF
MUNICIPALITIES



Connecticut Department of
Emergency Management
& Homeland Security

Attend this informative day-long event that features a special keynote speaker, new regional workshop format, box lunch, and 50 vendors specializing in emergency management.

Attendance is limited to 400 registrants, so register NOW for the premier event on emergency management in Connecticut.

Advance registration is mandatory. You will receive a confirmation and other pertinent information prior to May 1.

If you have questions, please contact Beth Sullivan of CCM at esullivan@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3782.

5 WAYS TO REGISTER

- /// **On-line:** www.ccm-ct.org
- /// **E-mail:** esullivan@ccm-ct.org
- /// **Phone:** CCM Training Hotline
203-498-3018
- /// **Fax:** (203) 497-2480
Attn: Beth Sullivan
- /// **Mail:** CCM — 2007 Emergency Management Symposium,
900 Chapel St., 9th Floor
New Haven, CT 06510-2807

REGISTRATION FORM — SIGN UP NOW!

/// Registration is FREE and REQUIRED for all attendees.

YES! I want to register now for the 2007 Emergency Management Symposium and Exhibition on May 1, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Cromwell, Connecticut.

Name _____ Nickname _____
 Position _____ Department _____
 City/Town/Organization _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail Address _____

Additional Attendees from your City/Town/Organization:

Name _____ Nickname _____
 Position _____ Department _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail Address _____

Name _____ Nickname _____
 Position _____ Department _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail Address _____

_____ Total Number of Attendees from your City/Town/Organization

Each of the 5 DEMHS regions will host comprehensive workshops throughout the day for their respective local and regional officials. You will no longer be forced to choose between one workshop or another. Instead, critical emergency management issues and expert speakers now will come to you!

Following the keynote session, symposium attendees will assemble according to their DEMHS region. This new format is an invaluable opportunity for you to network and interact with officials from all levels of government and all job disciplines within your region.

/// Sample workshop topics include • Debris Management • School Safety • Distribution Point Planning • Public & Private-Sector Partnering.