



# THE DEMHS ADVISOR

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## Vol. 2 Issue 2

Inside This Issue

February 2006

*Critical Infrastructure  
Protection Unit*

*Area 4 Coordinator*

*Governor's Press  
Release*

### WHAT'S NEW:

February is  
National Black  
History Month

### UPCOMING TRAINING and EXERCISES

CEO's Only—NIMS  
Compliance Seminars

Feb. 15—Mashantucket  
Pequot Public Safety Bldg.

Feb. 16—Danbury  
Sheraton

Feb. 21—Meriden  
Hampton Inn

March 2— NECCOG

## Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

This month, "Chuckles IV," the official Connecticut Ground Hog saw his shadow at the Lutz Museum in Manchester on Ground Hog Day, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and announced that we would be having six (6) more weeks of winter. As we go through the month of February we must remember that we are still very much concerned with winter storms. We are hopeful that the weather will continue to be kind to us, but we should not forget we are still right in the snow and ice storm season. The local new media reports that "Chuckles" has never been wrong with his prediction, but we are hoping that this is first time that he is.

The DEMHS staff is working several key projects as we move forward. They include:

Preparing the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Application which is due in Washington, DC by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have had many stakeholders meetings and are working to take the key issues that have surfaced as the basis for our grant application. Yes, the Federal Government is now moving to risk-based funding, and we are developing our application with this in mind. We have identified our key strengths that need to be sustained and have identified weaknesses that need to be improved upon as we move forward. The DEMHS staff and all of the stakeholders recognize the need to continue to prepare for any and all hazards, both natural or man made, and then train and exercise our staffs so that we can respond appropriately if a disaster occurs.

Progress is being made on the Evacuation Planning efforts, due to the strong collaboration of the local and state leaders that have taken on refining their local plans and developing both a regional and statewide plan. This project is the joint responsibility of the Department of Public Safety, The Department and of Transportation and DEMHS. However, without the support and coordination of the local emergency first responders, we would not be where we are today. Stay tuned for future updates.

We do have plans to conduct a "Flooding Drill/Exercise" in March in order to prepare for any spring flooding that might occur in Connecticut. More information on this topic will be coming out from our training unit in the near future.

As announced in this flyer, we will be hosting a presentation from Vice Admiral Thad Allen of the United States Coast Guard on the lessons learned from the Hurricanes of Katrina and Rita. We are very grateful that Captain Peter Boynton, USCG, was able to arrange for this briefing.

There are many more projects moving forward which we will address in the coming issues of the DEMHS Advisor. Enjoy this issue!

## CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION UNIT

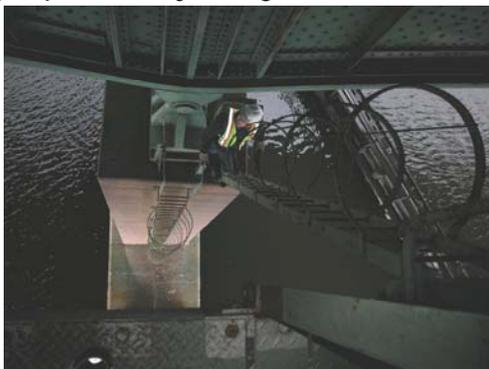
The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit's primary mission is to identify, assess risk & vulnerability and categorize key assets within the state. The Unit works to develop mitigation strategies designed to improve security at these critical sites, defined as both physical and cyber-based systems that are essential to maintaining minimal operational capabilities of government. These critical sites include public and private entities necessary to the well being of the economy. This will include: 1) Identifying critical key assets within the state (These sites can be both public and/or private); 2) Assessing the vulnerability of designated key sites within the state; 3) Developing mitigation strategies designed to improve security at these critical key sites; 4) Completing a detailed risk and vulnerability assessment of the passenger ferry terminals and boats operating within Connecticut; 5) Completing a detailed risk and vulnerability assessment of Connecticut's railroad system infrastructure with the emphasis on the passenger and freight rail lines; 6) Participating in the development of a comprehensive Global Information Systems (GIS) database detailing the states critical infrastructure along with site-specific information capable of being utilized to assist in crisis management.

The quality of critical infrastructure assets within Connecticut is of paramount importance to this Unit. The Unit's security assessments of key state physical structures as well as private facilities in the State are critical to maintaining the quality of life.

Critical infrastructures include both physical and cyber-based systems that are essential to maintaining minimal operational capabilities of government, and include public and private entities necessary to the well being of the economy. This includes, but is not limited to: energy; telecommunications; banking and finance; transportation; public water systems; and, both government and private sector emergency service providers.

Many segments within our society can play a vital role toward reducing our vulnerability and increasing the current levels of security. Protecting critical infrastructures and other key assets requires a cooperative effort among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as private security services within the private sector, and assistance from all citizens.

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit is staffed with 1 Sergeant & 4 Troopers. The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit has received specialized training throughout the country, specifically designed for the task of critical asset protection.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### FERRY SERVICE SECURITY ASSESSMENT

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit assisted the State Department of Transportation in obtaining over \$90,000.00 in federal grants to conduct a detailed security & vulnerability assessment of the Ferry Services operating in the State. This assessment identified the current security levels at each of the Ferry Operations as well as recommended mitigating strategies to improve security.

This assessment included the assessment of 8 Ferry Terminals in Connecticut, 4 in New York and 1 in Rhode Island along with 20 Ferry Transport Vessels. This assessment was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.



### PORT SECURITY ASSESSMENT:

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit assisted the State Department of Transportation in obtaining \$200,000.00 in federal grants to conduct security and vulnerability assessments of the Ports of Bridgeport, New Haven & New London operating in Connecticut.

It should also be noted that as a direct result of the Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by this Unit, State, Municipal and private facilities received over \$6.4 million in federal grants to make security improvements.

This assessment was also completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

### BUFFER ZONE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Selected by the Federal Department Of Homeland Security to participate in Buffer Zone Protection Plan (BZPP). The purpose of the BZPP is to develop effective preventive measures that make it difficult for terrorists to conduct surveillance or launch attacks from the immediate vicinity of Critical Infrastructure / Key Asset Targets.

The BZPP initiative is a non-regulatory, voluntary program with no tasking from the Federal government. It is being implemented nation-wide at all DHS Target List sites (approximately 1700) that have been identified through Information Analysis as candidates for protective measures. The BZPP initiative is specifically designed to complement and supplement protective measures otherwise being undertaken by State and local jurisdictions.

The BZPP will define a buffer zone outside the security perimeter of a Critical Infrastructure / Key Asset (CI/KA) target; identify specific threats and vulnerabilities associated with the buffer zone; analyze and categorize the level of risk associated with each vulnerability; and, recommend corrective measures within a buffer zone that will reduce the risk of a successful terrorist attacks.

The BZPP is a strategic document that will apply to a CI/KA site, provide planning guidance and suggested actions to be taken during each Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) level; and illustrate ways in which federal, state, and local agencies can most effectively synchronize their preventive actions.

Connecticut is one of the first states to become involved with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Buffer Zone Protection Plan and has been trained to teach and assist other entities within Connecticut on this Federal initiative. This Unit hosted a Buffer Zone Training Program that included representatives from the local police departments for the designated BZPP Sites. This program was completed efficiently and effectively. Connecticut was one of only a few states to meet the US-DHS deadline for assessment submission.

#### SOUND SECURITY INITIATIVE

This initiative was a major undertaking, which included hundreds of personnel from a wide variety of agencies. Primarily this involved the gathering and disseminating of security and intelligence information relating to the Long Island Sound through the July 4, 2002 period. The augmenting of security at selected key federal, state, commercial, public and private asset facilities along the Connecticut shoreline. Finally, this initiative was responsible for providing pilot-house security for commercial ferryboat traffic from the Bridgeport and New London ports.

#### TOPOFF 3

This Unit was involved in the working groups and the planning stages for TOPOFF 3, a multi town, multi agency, multi state, multi sector, and international exercise designed to test the nation's ability to respond to a catastrophic event.

#### STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE (SNS)

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit is working on the security plan for the SNS drill in coordination with the State Police. This includes conducting assessments of the Receiving and Storage Facilities (RSS) that the Center for Disease Control will use when and if a SNS package is needed in Connecticut. Currently 5 of the proposed 7 RSS sites have been assessed and the remaining 2 will be completed when they are finalized by the Department of Public Health.

The SNS is a national repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies, and medical/surgical items. The SNS is designed to supplement and re-supply state and local public health agencies in the event of a national emergency anywhere and at anytime within the U.S. or its territories.

The SNS is organized for flexible response. The first line of support lies within the immediate response 12-hour Push Packages. These are caches of pharmaceuticals, antidotes, and medical supplies designed to provide rapid delivery of a broad spectrum of assets for an ill defined threat in the early hours of an event. These Push Packages are positioned in strategically located, secure warehouses ready for immediate deployment to a designated site within 12 hours of the federal decision to deploy SNS assets.

Currently this Unit is working with local and state agencies to prepare for the upcoming April 2006 SNS Full Scale Exercise.

## Office of Emergency Management Area 4 Coordinator Anthony Scalora

Anthony Scalora was born in Italy, and attended the City of Hartford public schools. He attended Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven and graduated with a B.A. in History. He continued his education in Washington, D.C. attending the American University, where in 1975, he received a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Urban Affairs.



Anthony Scalora

Tony began his public service career as an intern at the Government Office of Planning in Washington, D.C. While serving as an administrative analyst in the City of Hartford Civil Preparedness Office, he gained significant emergency management experience during the response to the "Blizzard of 78" and the "Civic Center Roof Collapse". In 1980, Tony moved over to the State of Connecticut Civil Preparedness Office as the Area IV Coordinator. He was immediately assigned to work directly with the Area IV towns and cities in preparedness planning, training, and implementing the initial State Emergency Response Plan for both Millstone and Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plants. For more than 25 years he has successfully participated in FEMA and non-FEMA evaluated exercises for the Connecticut Yankee and Millstone Nuclear Power Plants. He currently serves as the State of Connecticut Alternate Member to the Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee for the Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. The Advisory Committee provides evaluations for the License Termination Plan and overall decommissioning work.

Currently, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is focused on regionalization and developing new working partnerships with the Connecticut Council of Governments, Health Organizations, the American Red Cross, two Indian Tribal Nations, and the Connecticut Office of Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities in preparing the initial Area IV Regional Evacuation and Shelter Plan.

Tony is married, has three sons and resides in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

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### An Important Announcement from our Friends at CL&P

Per CL&P, if you or someone in your household uses life-support equipment, you should have a backup plan in the event of power outage. Please let CL&P know about medical priorities by calling 1-800-286-2000 (860-947-2000 in the Hartford and Meriden calling areas).

### For Your Information

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is a competitive grant opportunity for local fire departments and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) organizations that are not affiliated with a hospital. The AFG funds activities such as purchasing firefighting equipment, personal protection equipment, training, firefighting vehicles, and firefighter/first responder safety projects.

Each year the AFG regional staff conducts hundreds of workshops nationwide to provide up-to-date program information to applicants. On Wednesday, January 18, 2006 the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) began posting the FY 2006 AFG workshop schedule on its website: [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com). The workshops are scheduled and conducted by AFG regional representatives and offer current program information for any fire and/or EMS organization that wishes to submit a 2006 AFG application.

There is no admittance charge to any AFG workshop. The schedule will provide the locations, dates, times and points of contact for each workshop. If you are unable to attend a workshop offered in your area, the program office will also be providing on the AFG website an electronic copy of the PowerPoint presentation used at the workshops. In addition, by mid-February, the applicant tutorial, the FY 2006 AFG Program Guidance, and a list of FAQ's will be available on the website. During the application period, there will be an expanded help desk at 1-866-274-0960 and at [FIREGRANTS@DHS.GOV](mailto:FIREGRANTS@DHS.GOV).

*Please do not contact DEMHS in regards to this program. It has been included here for informational purposes only.*

Press Release from Governor Jodi M. Rell  
For Immediate Release  
February 2, 2006

Contact:  
David Dearborn  
860-524-7313  
[david.dearborn@ct.gov](mailto:david.dearborn@ct.gov)

## Governor Rell, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt Host 600 at Pandemic Flu Summit

Governor M. Jodi Rell and federal Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt hosted 600 Connecticut health and community leaders at a Hartford summit meeting aimed at preparing the state in the event of an outbreak of 'pandemic' influenza or other disease.

Acknowledging that pandemics can happen and require a strong local response if they do, Governor Rell and Secretary Leavitt signed a resolution committing the state and federal governments to joint planning and response initiatives.

"Connecticut, like other states and the entire nation, needs to be fully prepared for a pandemic emergency," Governor Rell said. "The goal of this summit is to raise awareness among state, local and private-sector leaders about the importance of planning and responding to what would be a tremendous public health challenge."

Secretary Leavitt is visiting states for pandemic summit meetings as the federal government prepares for a potential influenza pandemic. Today's meeting was coordinated by the state Department of Public Health and the Department of Health and Human Services at the Connecticut Convention Center.

"Pandemics are global in nature but their effects are always local, so I am pleased that Governor Rell is taking a leadership role to prepare Connecticut for this threat," Secretary Leavitt said. "Pandemic planning needs to address how schools, businesses, public agencies, faith-based organizations and others participate in pandemic preparedness. With this meeting, local officials can identify needs specific to Connecticut communities and begin crucial coordination to assure readiness if a pandemic outbreak strikes."



A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new flu virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity. The disease spreads easily from person to person, causes serious illness, and can sweep across the country and around the world in a very short time. Currently, much attention is focused on avian, or 'bird' flu, as the possible cause of a pandemic. However, it is important to note that avian flu is not easily transmitted from human to human, and no human cases have been reported in the United States.

"This summit is an important step forward," said DPH Commissioner Dr. J. Robert Galvin. "We need to raise awareness with business and community leaders about federal, state and local plans for addressing the threat of a pandemic event."

Pictured above (left to right): Secretary Mike Leavitt, Governor Jodi M. Rell, Commissioner J. Robert Galvin (DPH), Commissioner James Thomas (DEMHS), and Commissioner Gina McCarthy (DEP).

Continued on Page 8

**Pandemic Flu Press Release, con't.**

In December, Governor Rell assigned four state agencies—Public Health, Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Agriculture and Environmental Protection--to join forces to ensure that Connecticut is prepared to meet public health issues arising from a possible pandemic, including the potential for avian flu spreading into the region.

The Governor named DPH Commissioner Galvin and Emergency Management and Homeland Security Commissioner James M. Thomas to co-chair the state's pandemic planning and response team. The Governor also appointed Agriculture Commissioner F. Philip Prelli and Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy to the planning group.

The Governor's assignment includes updating the Department of Public Health's pandemic influenza plan of February 2005, ensuring conformance to the President's National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, and coordinating planning to address concerns about avian influenza.

The last influenza pandemic to strike the United States was in 1968-69, when approximately 34,000 Americans died. In 1957-58, about 70,000 Americans died from a flu pandemic.

The most destructive pandemic of the last century occurred in 1918-19, when an estimated 20 million people, including more than 500,000 Americans, died from influenza. In Connecticut, 8,487 died from flu and pneumonia, according to the April 1919 edition of the *Connecticut Health Bulletin*.

Secretary Leavitt, a former governor of Utah and administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, is taking part in pandemic planning summits in all 50 states. As part of President Bush's plan to mobilize the nation to prepare for an influenza pandemic, Secretary Leavitt recently announced \$100 million in funding for state and local preparedness, including \$1.35 million for Connecticut. In December, the Secretary hosted a national summit on pandemic influenza in Washington.

"Our overall goal is to ensure that all possible and necessary approaches, policies and measures are formulated and implemented to protect the residents of Connecticut," Governor Rell said. "It is critical that we remain vigilant in planning for all possibilities we need to consider in protecting the health and well-being of the people of Connecticut."

Web resources:

[www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

[www.dph.state.ct.us/avian/av-pan.htm](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/avian/av-pan.htm)

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[Check out our Kids Page](#)

Go to the DEMHS web site at [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs) and check out our Kids Page.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND  
HOMELAND SECURITY**

**AND THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

are proud to announce a speaking engagement on

**HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA**

and the after effects to be presented by

**VICE ADMIRAL THAD ALLEN**



**February 23, 2006 from 10 am to 12 pm**

**Rentschler Field Stadium**

**613 Silver Lane**

**East Hartford, CT**

**Pre-registration is required by February 17, 2006**

Log onto <http://www.ct.gov/demhs/ical/calendar.asp>

*(If link does not work – copy and paste onto your internet address line)*

Seating is limited to 350 persons

## Upcoming Training & Exercise

February 15—CEO NIMS Compliance Training—Mashantucket Pequot Public Safety Building

February 16—CEO NIMS Compliance Training—Danbury Sheraton

February 21—CEO NIMS Compliance Training—Meriden Hampton Inn

February 28—Exercise Planning Workshop, CT Fire Academy.

March 2—CEO NIMS Compliance Training— Location to be determined—Northeast Corner

March 6-10—ICS Train the Trainer, CT Fire Academy, 30 seat max.

March 7-8—Suicide and IED Bombing Seminar (TLO) - Rentschler Field, East Hartford

For training and exercise questions please contact Paul Benyeda, Bob Christ, Bob Scata, or Sharon Mazzochi at 860-727-9319. **\*Please note—this is a new number. Training office has been moved to Brainard Field.** For Bombing/TLO Seminar please contact Lee Toffey at 860-256-0916.

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, Education 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](http://www.fema.gov/tab_education.shtm)

Training Facility Contact Information: call to schedule training.

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 Paul Benyeda at DEMHS, 860-727-9319 to arrange training for your employees.