



Vol. 4
Issue 11

Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

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DEMHS News

RESOLVE TO BE READY

Dear Friends:

Nearly 50 percent of Americans will make at least one resolution as they look toward the New Year. Today, DEMHS is encouraging all of the citizens of Connecticut to make a resolution that is both important and easy to keep: preparing for emergencies.

In a recent national survey conducted by the Ad Council, 91 percent of Americans agreed that taking some simple steps to prepare could help protect themselves and their families in the event of an emergency. However, only 54 percent had taken at least one of the three steps recommended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign, including getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, and being informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

DEMHS is encouraging you to visit ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY to learn how to prepare your families, homes and businesses for all types of emergencies including natural and human-caused disasters. Free materials, including family emergency plan templates and sample business continuity plans, are available through these resources. These materials will provide you with tools to make a New Year's resolution that will bring you and your loved ones peace of mind. If you wish to take a more active role in your community's preparedness, get involved by joining or starting a Citizen Corps Council near you. Citizen Corps brings community and government leaders together to coordinate the involvement of community members and non-governmental resources in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. Visit citizencorps.gov for more information.

Wishing you a happy and safe New Year - and remember - Don't wait. Set a date. Resolve to be Ready in 2008.

Sincerely,
James M. Thomas, Commissioner

WHAT'S NEW:

**January is National
Blood Donor Month**

UPCOMING TRAINING and EXERCISES

**WMD Threat and Risk
Assessment (TEEX)**

Intro to Cameo

**CTIC—Intel Liaison Officers
Conference
Jan. 23, 2008**

CT URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM—US&R

The events of the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001, as well as the current global threat potential to our nation, created the need to establish this unit in preparation for any future attack on American soil. In doing so, the task force mission, and procedures need to be defined.

DEMHS ROLE IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) primary mission is to serve and protect the citizens of Connecticut and The United States.

This mission includes:

- ◆ Working to mitigate, plan and prepare for emergencies;
- ◆ Public emergency education and preparation;
- ◆ Coordinating emergency response and recovery efforts;
- ◆ Collecting and disseminating critical information;
- ◆ Investigating terrorism;
- ◆ Preparing and equipping a dedicated Urban Search and Rescue Task Force; and,
- ◆ Actively seeking funding opportunities to support of the overall preparedness of the State of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, CT-TF1 is a multi-discipline group comprised of more than 150 Doctors, Nurses, Emergency Medical Technicians, Firefighters, Paramedics and Police Officers that represent Municipal, State and Private Industry emergency response organizations from all corners of the State of Connecticut.

Members of the team are highly trained specialists that are capable of locating and rescuing victims that are entrapped in Confined Space, Low to High Angle Rope, Structural Collapse, and Trench Rescue emergencies that exceed the capabilities of the local response effort.

The concept of operation is that this team provides the local Incident Commander with a multi-discipline resource that supports responders in accomplishing their technical rescue incident objectives.



Providing Technical Rescue Services To The Residents and Visitors of the STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Activation / Deployment

Requesting CT-TF1

Agencies or municipalities may request deployment of CT-TF1 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Once a request for CT-TF1 is received the DEMHS duty officer to relay the request. Upon receipt of gubernatorial approval to deploy CT-TF1, DEMHS will notify CT-TF1 of the mission.

When to request CT-TF1

The primary mission of CT-TF1 is structural collapse rescue. Upon recognition of a structural collapse event, the local incident commander may request a full deployment of CT-TF1 (through their dispatching agency).

Other times to consider requesting CT-TF1

CT-TF1 embodies a resource for a wide range of technical and expert knowledge that may be helpful in events other than structural collapse. As such, local incident commanders and emergency managers may request CT-TF1 for other emergencies. In these situations, CT-TF1 will deploy an Incident Advance Team (IAT). The IAT is comprised of CT-TF1 personnel who will report to the requesting agency and assess the situation with local authorities. Once the IAT assesses the situation, the IAT will then determine what, if any, support CT-TF1 can provide to support the local operation. The IAT may request deployment of all or part of CT-TF1, as appropriate for the circumstances.

Examples of situations that CT-TF1 may be able to assist include, but are not limited to:

- Technical rescues
- Trench collapse
- Cave rescue
- High-angle rescue
- Post-disaster community access
- Flooded communities
- Communities isolated by debris
- Communities isolated by special hazards (chemical plumes, etc)
- Logistical support for extended operations (CT-TF1 may provide a Base of Operations, generator power, other logistical support)
- Wildland fires
- Wilderness search operations
- Catastrophic recovery efforts

Pre-deployment of CT-TF1

CT-TF1 may be pre-deployed to incidents when there is a reasonable anticipation that the team may be needed. Large gatherings of people, credible terrorist threats, or forecast natural disasters are some examples of events that local emergency management staff may wish to consider pre-deployment of CT-TF1.

TASK FORCE DISCIPLINES

COMMAND STAFF

Responsible for providing command and control of the Task Force by working within the command structure identified in the National Incident Management System. The Command Staff includes a management cadre that represents each discipline, as well as dedicated Safety Officers.

SEARCH

The Search Component provides manual, technical and canine resources that locate entrapped victims. Members utilize sophisticated listening equipment and search cameras to locate victims and assess their condition.

RESCUE

The Rescue Component is tasked with performing the rescue of victims that are complex in nature and require specialized tools and training. Rescue Technicians possess specialized technical certifications in rope, confined space, shoring, and breaching & breaking concrete and steel.

PLANNING

The Planning Component consists of team of specialists that establish work goals, develop operational plans for work periods, coordinate communication efforts, assess structural components & stability and coordinate accountability of team members.

MEDICAL

The Medical Component consists of a cadre of Emergency Physicians, Nurses and Paramedics that support medical needs of the Task Force and provide direct care for any rescued victims.

LOGISTICS

Logistics serves as the backbone of the taskforce and is responsible for issuing, maintaining, and repairing all of the equipment assigned to the taskforce cache.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Component is a unique addition to the Urban Search & Rescue Taskforce and is tasked with providing scene support and evidence collection and documentation. In addition to the law enforcement responsibilities, all members of this component are cross-trained as Rescue Specialists.

HAZMAT

The HAZMAT Component conducts air monitoring, assesses hazardous conditions, develops implements and oversees decontamination, and is WMD trained to operate in a variety of hazardous atmospheres in support of team operations.

To activate CT-TF1 to assist at your incident scene, call DEMHS:

860-566-3180 or 860-842-9536 - Pager
or the
CT Public Safety Message Center at 1-800-842-0200





First Regional Mall Community Emergency Response Team CERT Graduation—December 15th, 2007—Westfield Connecticut Post

The first graduating class of a Regional Mall Community Emergency Response Team was announced by Dr. Dennis McBride, Milford Health Director. Graduation was celebrated on Saturday, December 15th, at Westfield Connecticut Post. Speakers: Wayne Sandford, Deputy Commissioner of CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; Dr. Dennis McBride, M.D., M.P.H., Milford Health Director; Rick Fontana, Milford Health Department; and Bryan Gaus, General Manager, Westfield Connecticut Post.



Dr. Dennis McBride – Milford Health Director



Wayne Sandford – Deputy Commissioner of DEMHS

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

A special group of emergency responders graduated from a program in Milford Saturday that allows them to keep shoppers safe at malls.

Twenty people became Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) members and are ready to jump onto the front lines. The group, made of mostly mall employees, trained in CPR, firefighting and evacuation techniques for three months. The training could also help with major disasters or emergencies like the recent shooting in an Omaha, Neb. Mall. The CERT course is free and available to anyone within the state.



DEMHS NEWS: STAFF JOIN THE STRATEGIC PLANNING & GRANT ADMINISTRATION UNIT

The Strategic Planning and Grant Administration Unit (SPGA) of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is pleased to formally announce the arrival of two new staff members. Mr. Philip Mikan and Mr. Thomas Vannini recently joined the staff as Emergency Preparedness Program Specialists with primary responsibility for the development and administration of specific grant programs.

Mr. Mikan comes to the SPGA Unit with a broad knowledge of working at various levels of government as a first responder. He was a Police Officer in the Town of Windsor, Connecticut for sixteen years. In addition to his patrol responsibilities he had collateral duties that included School Resource Officer, Bicycle Patrol Officer and Regional SCUBA Team Member. He is also currently a Lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, assigned to Sector Long Island Sound in New Haven, CT. In February 2004 he was recalled to active duty and he was assigned the Supervisor of the Ports Waterways and Coastal Security Branch. In September 2005 he was deployed to Port Arthur, Texas for Hurricane Katrina/Rita recovery operations. He joined DEMHS as an Emergency Preparedness Program Specialist in November 2005 and was assigned to the Radiological Preparedness Unit. In August 2007 he joined the Strategic Planning and Grants Unit and is now assuming the responsibility of Region 2, the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant and related interoperable communications projects including the approval of Interoperable Communications Project Funding Requests.



Mr. Vannini joins the SPGA Unit following 28 years with the City of Torrington Police Department. During his tenure, Mr. Vannini was assigned to the Patrol Division, then later Support Services where he served as the Community Relations Officer, Grants Writer, Communications Officer, and DARE Officer for numerous schools within the city. In addition to his law enforcement duties, Mr. Vannini served as both Deputy Director of Emergency Management, and after his retirement, as the Director of Emergency Management. He also served as the Region 5 representative to the Statewide Interoperability Communications Committee. He currently serves on the Statewide Citizen Corps Council and on numerous committees for the Region 5 Public Safety Task Force.

DEMHS is pleased to have such experienced staff join the Strategic Planning and Grant Administration team. Please contact Phil at 860-256-0923 or Philip.mikan@po.state.ct.us with your DEMHS Region 2 grant-related questions and Interoperable Communications Project Funding Requests. Tom can be reached at 860-256-0825 or Thomas.vannini@po.state.ct.us and will handle all your School Security Grant questions.

Upcoming Training & Exercise

Jan 12 Jan 19 & Jan 26	3 day course ISC 300—Watertown—through CT Fire Academy
Jan 15, Jan 16 & Jan 17	3 day course WMD Threat & Risk Assessment (Texas A&M) - Brainard, Hartford Course # MGT310
Jan 22 Jan 23 & Jan 24	3 day course Introduction to Cameo Suite—East Hartford
Jan 23	CTIC—Intel Liaison Officer (ILO) Conference— CCSU, New Britain Limited to Intel Liaison Officers Only, Online Registration Only
Jan 27	Cold Water Rescue—Oakdale— through CT Fire Academy
Feb 5	Preparing Communities for Agroterrorism— Brainard, Hartford
Feb 6	Preparing Communities for Agroterrorism— Guilford
Feb 7	Preparing Communities for Agroterrorism— Fairfield
Feb 19 Feb 20 & Feb 21	3 day course EMS Operations & Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction East Hartford

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 as listed at: www.ct.gov/demhs or through the CT Fire Academy at www.ct.gov/cfpc



- 1 Get a Kit
- 2 Make a Plan
- 3 Be Informed

Learn how to prepare for emergencies before they happen. Visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY for free materials and additional information.



**"SIMULATION-BASED CRITICAL INCIDENT TRAINING FOR
EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISPATCHERS" Training Seminars**

Course Announcement

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council is pleased to offer two sessions of a training seminar for telecommunicators on how to deal with a critical incident. This training will serve as an integral companion to P.O.S.T.C.'s other Critical Incident Training programs that are offered for supervisors and executives.

The first session of the dispatchers' course will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, and Wednesday, January 23, 2008, and the second one on Thursday, January 24, 2008, and Friday, January 25, 2008. Both sessions have daily class times of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will be held at the Connecticut Police Academy.

There is no one more crucial to an agency's response during a critical incident than the department's telecommunicators. The "9/11 Commission Report" makes numerous references to telecommunication issues and their positive and negative impact in the saving of lives and property. Communications personnel are a key to insuring a coordinated, unified public safety response and increase the likelihood of a successful conclusion to a critical incident.

This highly interactive course is designed to have a direct impact on public safety personnel in the field through improved service efficiency and increased responder safety. By training and exercising communications personnel in the basic aspects of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS), they will have an increased understanding of the field response and will be better prepared to participate in a unified effort to bring an incident to a successful resolution.

When participants complete this course, they should be able to:

- List the seven Critical Tasks™ to be accomplished during the initial phase of an incident
- Describe in detail how communications personnel can assist in accomplishing those tasks
- Assist in performing those tasks in a simulated environment with field personnel
- Describe how NIMS/ICS function during the management of an incident
- Describe the nature of critical incidents and how command shifts take place as the incident progresses
- Observe the impact of obtaining critical information from multiple sources, making timely decisions about that information and relaying it appropriately to the field

The course will be presented by BowMac Educational Services from upstate New York. The specific trainers will include Barbara Harris and James Stricker. Harris retired from the Tucson, Arizona Police Department where she developed and implemented the department's incident command system. Recently she served as the Chief Deputy for the Cass County Sheriff's Department in Missouri and as the senior public service administrator for the Illinois State Police. Stricker has thirty-one years of law enforcement experience at the local, state, and federal levels. He graduated from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Academy, was a member of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and spent over twenty years with the Illinois State Police.

Enrollment in each session is limited to twenty-four (24) emergency response dispatchers. Please complete an application and return it to Steve Walsh by mail or fax (203-238-6119) no later than January 2, 2008. An additional name may be submitted on the application in the event the workshop limit is not reached.

The course is a federally sponsored training program funded through the auspices of the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Grant provided by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. This program was extremely well-received when it was presented for the first time last year.

Sworn personnel who complete this training will receive a total of twelve (12) hours of Review Training Credit: four (4) hours in Curriculum Area III: Practical Skills and eight (8) hours in Curriculum Area VI: Patrol Procedures.

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council Uniform Dress Code, General Notice #90-03, will be in effect. Please advise your personnel accordingly.

There is no tuition for the seminar. Coffee break refreshments may be purchased in the Academy's cafeteria. Lunch is available at several nearby restaurants.

Preparing Communities for Agro-Terrorism

DHS Course #: AWR-125 Training

Level: Awareness **Hours:** 5

Description

The *Preparing Communities for Agroterrorism: Awareness-Level* course raises awareness regarding the impact of agroterrorism on animal and plant health, the public's physical and mental health and welfare, environmental health, and financial well-being of communities. At the conclusion of the course, participants can understand fully all the nuances of the term "agroterrorism"; identify how agroterrorism might affect their community; identify the appropriate communications protocols, roles, and responsibilities to follow during an agroterrorism incident in their community; outline how their community's food distribution system functions (from production to delivery); identify security issues and available resources in the event of an attack to their local food supply; and draft a response to an attack on their local food supply

This program is being offered in Hartford, Guilford and Fairfield. This is a prerequisite for the Operations Level Program being offered in May 2008.

Please copy the following links to your address bar to register for each of these classes.

February 5, 2008 DEMHS Training Facility Brainard Field Hartford, Ct

http://www.ct.gov/demhs/iCal/eventDetail_page.asp?date_ID=CCCFC9C7C983CDC9CC

February 6, 2008 Guilford Fire Department Headquarters

http://www.ct.gov/demhs/iCal/eventDetail_page.asp?date_ID=CCCFC9C7C883CDC9CB

February 7, 2008 Fairfield Fire Training Academy

http://www.ct.gov/demhs/iCal/eventDetail_page.asp?date_ID=CCCFC9C7C783CDC9CA



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

1-866-HLS-TIPS
For Connecticut's Homeland Security

in an emergency contact your local police - 911

Connecticut
Department
of Emergency
Management
and Homeland
Security



IAEM Headquarters
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA
22046-4527 USA
Ph. 703-538-1795
Fax 703-241-5603
E-mail info@iaem.com

www.EMEX.org



News Release

Bruce A. Lockwood, Bristol (CT.) Bristol-Burlington Health District, Elected Region 1 President of International Association of Emergency Managers

Nov. 30, 2007 (Falls Church, Va) – Bruce Lockwood, CEM® Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator for the Bristol-Burlington Health District in Bristol, CT., has been elected as the 2007-2009 Region 1 (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island) President of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). Bruce was sworn in during the Presidential Banquet November 14 in Reno, Nev.

Lockwood has 16 years of experience in the field of emergency management, having been employed by the Town of Canton (CT) as Fire Marshal/Director of Emergency Management until April 2007. He now serves as the Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator for the Bristol-Burlington Health District (CT). He is employed full-time by the East Hartford Fire Department (CT) as an apparatus driver.

Lockwood is known by his peers to be a very knowledgeable emergency manager, willing to help anyone at any time. Throughout his career he has worked to promote the profession of emergency management. He serves on the Government Affairs Committee for IAEM. He is a founding member and past president of the Connecticut Emergency Management Association, the 1st Co-vice chair of the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee, and serves on several state level committees related to Emergency Management and Public Health Preparedness.

Lockwood is certified by the International Association of Emergency Managers as a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM®). In addition, he is a certified assessor for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program based in Lexington, KY.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is a non-profit organization consisting of nearly 4,000 emergency management professionals from local, state and the federal governments, military, private industry and volunteer organizations. IAEM has consistently promoted the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters since its founding in 1952 as the U.S. Civil Defense Council.



TOWN NOTES:

Region #1/ Fairfield County Haz-Mat Command and Communications Vehicle



