



**Vol. 3
Issue 7**

Inside This Issue

July 2007

*Evacuation and
Sheltering*

Kindschi steps down

CERT

WHAT'S NEW:

**July is
National Ice Cream
Month**

**UPCOMING TRAINING
and EXERCISES**

**ICS 200, 400, 800
Courses**

**Planning & Response for
Equine Related
Emergencies**

**Soft Target Awareness
Courses**

Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

Summer is here! School is out and we have been experiencing some very unusual weather. We had our first official heat wave from June 26-28 with the temperatures reaching over 90 degree on all three days. We also had some very severe thunder storms, which did cause some power outages, with trees and power lines down throughout the state. Unfortunately, there is more to come our way which is why we have to be better prepared than we have been in the past. All throughout this great country we have been seeing the unusual weather patterns, in the Texas and Oklahoma area there have been almost 2 weeks of straight rain, with major flooding, and then we have the wild fires in the Lake Tahoe area. It is just a matter of time before we, in Connecticut, also experience some of this bad weather.

As we can all recall, we did have a disaster declaration as a result of the April Floods here in Connecticut. FEMA has been in the state since May dealing with both the Public Assistance and Individual Assistance aspects in a combined effort to recover from this significant rain storm. Our hats are off to FEMA and the many members of the FEMA team that set up a Joint Field Office (JFO) in Windsor, Connecticut and IMMEDIATELY went to work in assisting our residents, businesses and local governments. It is an impressive operation to see in action, and it is only possible because of the many people who believe in helping others in the time of emergencies.

In this issue there is a discussion on the first version of the Evacuation and Sheltering Guide that has been developed through the combined efforts of many people and organizations; which we called Regional Emergency Planning Teams (REPT'S). The Guides have been distributed to all local emergency management directors (EMD'S) and will serve as a baseline in dealing with any emergency that would require sheltering or the movement of people via evacuation.

We also want to acknowledge the retirement of Mr. Ken Kindschi, who is stepping down as the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Middlefield. Ken did an excellent job for the community and we want to thank him for the many years of dedicated service!!

Enjoy this issue of the DEMHS Advisor, and be safe, especially as we approach the 4th of July. Please note the information on Fireworks Safety.

DEMHS Issues Evacuation and Sheltering Guide

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) has issued Version 1.0 of Connecticut's first Regional Evacuation and Shelter Guides. The Guides have been distributed to all Emergency Management Directors and Chief Elected Officers, as well as state agency liaisons who participate in drills, exercises, or emergency activations at the State's Emergency Operations Center in Hartford.¹

In October of 2005, Governor M. Jodi Rell directed DEMHS, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to develop evacuation and sheltering guides for Connecticut. In addition to working with state agencies, DEMHS established Regional Evacuation Planning Teams (REPTs) in each of the 5 DEMHS Planning and Preparedness Regions. The REPTs were comprised of local, regional and state officials who worked collaboratively to formulate the guides. The planning effort was led by the DEMHS Regional Coordinators in conjunction with DEMHS Regional Planners. The Evacuation and Sheltering guides are part of a much larger planning process which will lead to the creation of regional Emergency Operations Plans in accordance with FEMA's State and Local Guide (SLG 101) for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning and the Department of Homeland Security's National Response Plan. As a result, the work of the REPTs is ongoing.

Connecticut's mission, in developing the Evacuation and Sheltering Guides, is to:

- ◆ Remove people from harm's way;

- ◆ Optimize the State's transportation system;
- ◆ Deploy appropriate resources; and,
- ◆ Provide secure shelter.

In developing these guides, two *most possible* scenarios were identified – including a category three or four hurricane and a large scale terrorist attack in New York City.² In Connecticut, it is estimated that a category three or four hurricane would require the evacuation of approximately 280,000 people from the Connecticut shore and an estimated 42,300 people (15%) could be in need of public shelter. In addition, significant “protective measures” or “shelter in place” directives would need to be issued for many other parts of the state. A large scale incident in New York City could create contamination over Fairfield County, with up to 400,000 people in need of evacuation and up to 40,000 in need of shelter.

In order to plan for the New York City scenario, DEMHS worked with the DOT, DPS, and the Connecticut Police Chief's Association to: develop a Route 15 northbound contra-flow plan; identify the specific positioning of resources along the highways, such as cones, signs and barriers; identify areas for potential vehicle crossover points; and perform a test run of a DOT bus on Route 15 to determine height clearances.

The Regional Evacuation and Sheltering Guides have been written to be used by state and local government organizations to manage and coordinate multi-jurisdictional or regional evacuations. Implementation of the procedures outlined in the guides would occur under the direction of the

¹Due to the sensitive nature of some of the information included in the Guides, they have released and distributed For Official Use Only.

²A well developed evacuation and sheltering plan exists in the event of a release of contamination at the Millstone Power Plant. The DEMHS Radiological Emergency Preparedness Unit is responsible for reviewing and updating those plans regularly and DEMHS is responsible for exercising those plans on an annual basis.

Governor, through the State Emergency Operations Center and the Regional Offices of DEMHS.³ Each of the guides identifies a range of emergency situations which have the potential to disrupt essential services or mobility, or adversely affect public health and safety, or regional infrastructure to varying degrees.

The Regional Evacuation and Shelter Guides include a concept of operations which is compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). They outline each Region's emergency communications capabilities, including the use of high band radio networks. A broad range of emergency support staff are identified in the guides, and the number needed during an actual event would vary depending the nature and extent of the emergency. DEMHS recognizes that several of its Regional Offices are too small to house a full team of emergency support staff, and the agency is taking incremental steps to address that challenge. For example, plans are underway for DEMHS to move its Region 5 office from Litchfield to a building located at the Southbury Training School in Southbury Connecticut. DEMHS is working closely with the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) to take possession of a 10,000 square foot building in the fall of 2007. Plans are underway to create new office space in the building for the Regional Coordinator, Planner, and Secretary, as well as other staff, some of whom may be from other state agencies. Space is being designed for a training room, and space has been identified to create a rather rudimentary regional emergency operations center. This project is a work in progress, and DEMHS hopes to undertake several office relocations and expansions in several of the other DEMHS regions in the relatively near future.

Other components of the Guides include a description of the use of mutual aid, a process for public information notification; use of the Emergency Alert System for communicating protective action recommendations to the public, and the use of the Connecticut Television Network (CT-N) which can be done at the Joint Information Center at the State Emergency Operations Center in Hartford.

Each of the Regional Evacuation and Shelter Guides contain 5 Appendices which are referred to as Regional Emergency Support Functions. They are written to facilitate communication and coordination among local municipalities and agencies around specific subject matter issues and activities during a disaster. For example, the Transportation Emergency Support Function focuses on disruptions of the regional transportation system which would require inter-jurisdictional coordination and information sharing. The other four Emergency Support Functions include: Emergency Management; Mass Care and Sheltering; Resource Support; and Health and Medical Services. One of the most impressive things about each of the Appendices is the attachments that are imbedded within them. One of the reasons why these documents are called resource guides and not plans is because they provide emergency management personnel with information on resources, facilities, special populations of people, and services, all of which are unique to each of the five regions.

The examples highlighted below show the depth of information that is now readily available at the regional level for planning and decision-making purposes. The information includes, but is not limited to:

³The procedures identified in these guides do not replace the authorities or responsibilities of municipal governments to develop, test, and implement emergency evacuation and shelter plans within their own jurisdictions.

Transportation

- ◆ *State Traffic Control Points and road maps*
- ◆ *Wrecker/towing services and gas stations*
- ◆ *Commuter parking lots and lot capacity*

Emergency Management

- ◆ *Census data and municipal information on first responders*
- ◆ *Locations of Hazardous Materials Teams and Decontamination Trailers*
- ◆ *Locations of special populations including child care facilities, nursing and long term care facilities, youth camps, schools, state parks, Department of Correction facilities, Department of Mental Retardation residential facilities, and much more.*

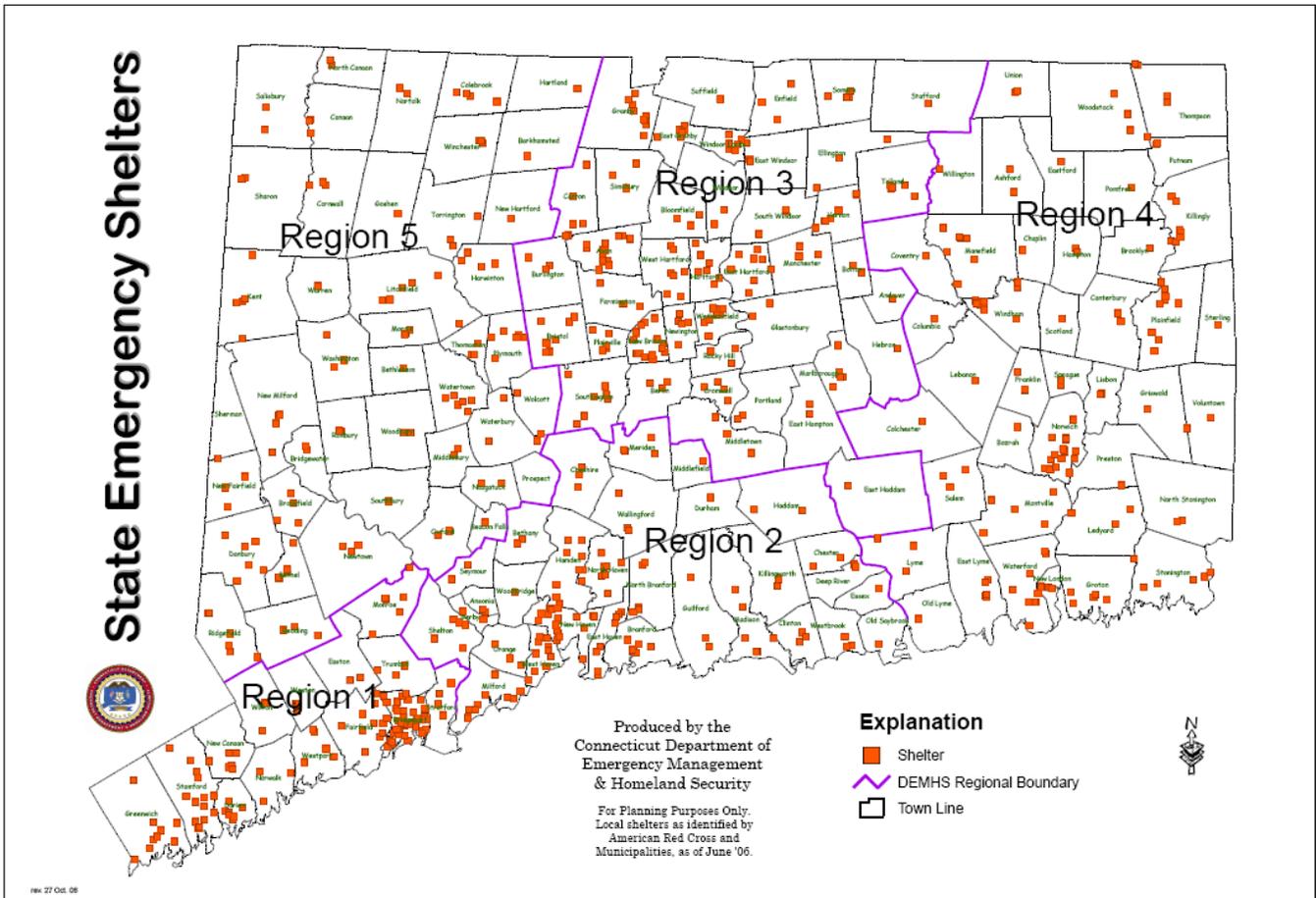
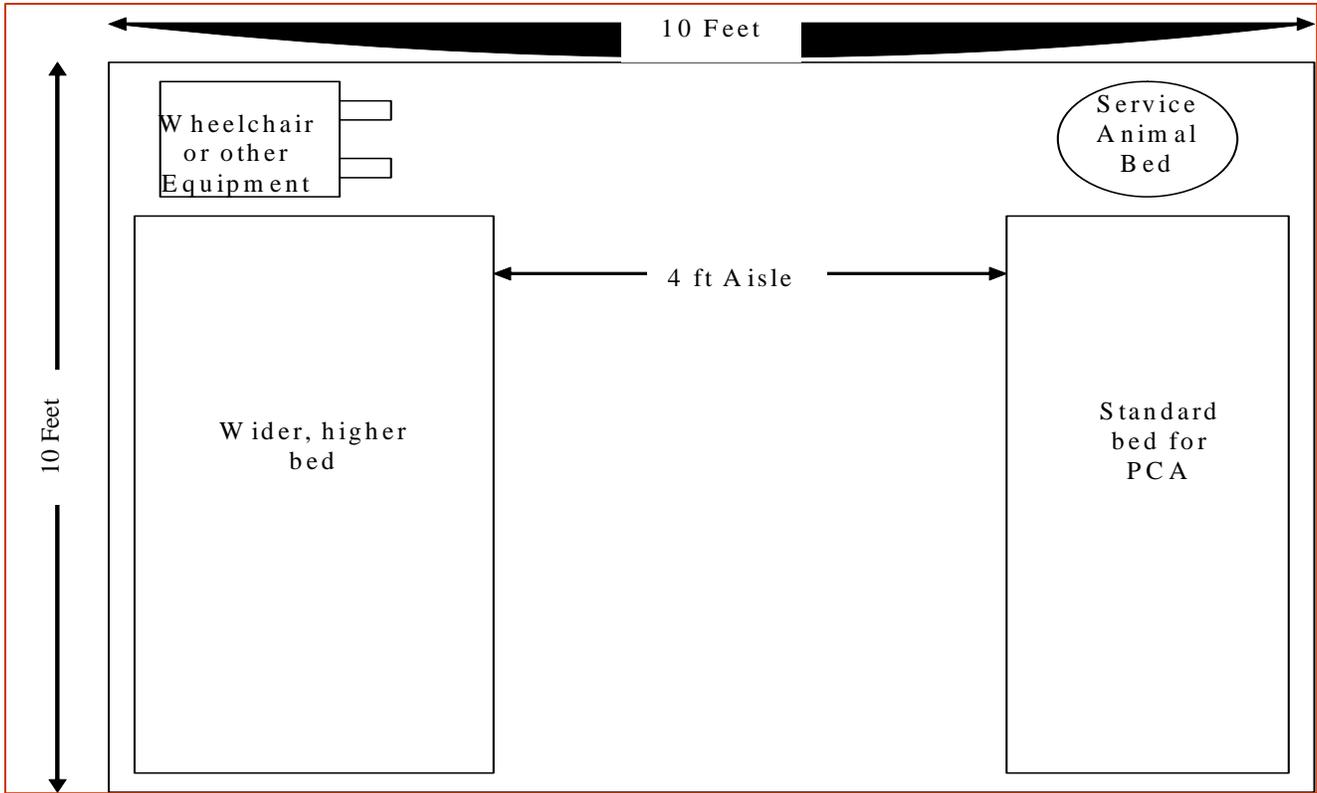
Development of the Evacuation and Shelter Guide has served as a spring board for other initiatives. For example, DEMHS is advancing its GIS capability and is now able to plot all local shelters on maps. In addition, new guidance has been drafted for emergency management directors on how to provide

shelter for older persons, persons with disabilities, their care givers, and service animals. (See DEMHS web site for copy of the guidance.)

Finally, one of the most important outcomes from this initiative has been the forging of new and solidifying of existing professional relationships among a cross section of disciplines. Participants in the REPTs include representatives from Regional Planning Organizations, transportation planners, local emergency management directors, fire, police, emergency medical services, the American Red Cross, local Chief Elected Officials, state agencies, persons with disabilities and advocates for older persons. FEMA Administrator David Paulison is frequently quoted as saying “the time to form and build relationships is not during an emergency.” By working collaboratively at the local, regional, and state level, we can only improve upon emergency preparedness and response in Connecticut.

Service animals require minimal space.





**Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC**

Soft Targets Awareness Course

Why: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Michael Chertoff, is committed to reaching out to the 25 million businesses and organizations that make up America's public and private sectors. To fulfill that commitment, he has asked the Department's Protective Security Coordination Division and the Private Sector Office to team up and offer a Soft Targets Awareness Course for both the public and private sectors. As a member of this community and as a partner in our homeland security mission, we would like you to be a part of this effort.

What: As a participant in the course, you and the other attendees will receive an introduction to terrorism; learn to recognize and prevent terrorist activities (basic surveillance detection methods); learn the basics of prevention, response, and recovery; and then discuss with other attendees issues specific to their sector of business. It is purposely designed to be interactive and your feedback and insights both during and after the course will help us and the Department in fulfilling Secretary Chertoff's commitment to America's private sector.

Who: Property/facility managers, supervisors, 1st line managers and their security and safety staff are encouraged to attend.

When: Tuesday August 7, 2007 8:00 – 12:00 session is for Stadiums and Arenas: enrollments for members and non-association members are handled by the International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM)
Ms. Brenda Pennington (972) 906-7441 email: Brenda.pennington@iaam.org

Wednesday August 8, 2007 8:00 – 12:00 session is for Places of Worship (all denominations): enrollments are handled by the Secure Community Network (SCN)
Mr. Patrick Daly (212) 284-6940 email: scandesk@scnus.org

Wednesday August 8, 2007 1:00 – 5:00pm session is for public/private school systems and institutions of higher learning: enrollments handled by Robert Christ Jr., phone number: 860-706-5516,
email: robert.christ@po.state.ct.us



**Homeland
Security**

When: Thursday August 9, 2007 8:00 – 12:00 session is for Malls & Shopping Centers: enrollments are handled by the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Ms. Amelia Koethen (646) 728-3814 email: akoethen@icsc.org
Alternate enrollment POC: Mr. Malachy Kavanagh mkavanagh@icsc.org

Friday August 10, 2007 8:00 – 12:00 session is for Hotels, Large Buildings, *Hospitals and Medical Facilities*: enrollments are handled by the American Hotel & Lobby Association (AHLA) Mr. Kevin Maher (202) 289-3147
email: kmaher@ahla.com

Where: New Haven Regional Fire Academy
230 Ella Grasso Blvd.
New Haven, CT 06519

The local point of contact is Robert Christ Jr., phone number: 860-706-5516,
email: robert.christ@po.state.ct.us

U. S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Team Lead:
Doug Pesce - Protective Security Advisor for Connecticut

78 Protective Security Advisors have been placed in field offices around the country. The mission of the PSA is to represent DHS in local communities throughout the United States, serving as a liaison between DHS, the private sector and federal, state, local, and tribal entities; act as DHS' on-site critical infrastructure and vulnerability assessment specialist; and provide real-time information on facility significance and protective measures.

DHS Contacts:

Dennis Sill
Training Unit Coordinator
Protective Security Coordination Division
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528
703-235-5779
dr.sill@dhs.gov

William "Keith" Nix
Program Manager
Protective Security Coordination Division
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528
703-235-5717
wkeith.nix@dhs.gov



Homeland
Security

Kindschi steps down after 25 years as Emergency Management Director

(Reprinted by permission of the Town Times and Pamela Morello. Article originally appeared in the Town Times, Friday, May 18, 2007)

By Pamela Morello

In 25 years as Middlefield's emergency management director, Ken Kindschi has been part of nuclear drills for the Yankee Atomic Power Plant, was part of the response team after Hurricane Gloria hit Connecticut in 1985, right before the Durham Fair, and has had to open the town's emergency shelter only three times.

After years of volunteer service, Kindschi, 74, recently resigned his position to tend to his health. He has long dealt with Crohn's disease, the effects of which have led to recent hospital stays.

He said he has seen the duties of emergency management directors change greatly over the years.

"The demands are so great now by the state and federal government that it requires a lot of time, and I just can't give the time anymore," Kindschi said.

Aside from planning for and responding to both natural and manmade disasters like tornadoes, explosions, massive power outages and snow storms, the major function of an emergency management director is keeping residents informed. In the event of an emergency, Kindschi worked with other department heads in town to open the emergency operations center at the firehouse. There, officials use the command center to determine further calls of action, including whether or not to open the town's shelter at Memorial School.

"The emergency management director is there to help town leaders make important decisions," Kindschi said.

One of the biggest changes in the job is that it now comes under the military department, specifically emergency management/homeland security. *(Note: The State's Emergency Management Office is no longer a division of the Military Department. As of January 2005, the Office of Emergency management and the Division of Homeland Security became the State agency known as the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)).*

The change came shortly after Sept. 11, when it became clear that communication among departments needed to be improved, Kindschi said.

The reorganization requires that department heads take courses from the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which was created so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can all work together to respond to natural disasters, emergencies and even acts of terrorism. "All officials have to take these courses so everyone is at the same level of command," Kindschi said.

The shift not only supports improved communication and response, but also fosters a spirit of working together across town and even state lines. During recent severe rain storms that caused flooding in many parts of the state, Kindschi said he received calls from several towns asking for sand bags, which were provided.

"We didn't always have all these organizations behind us," he said.

Technology has also helped to further better communication. According to Kindschi, radio communication improved from being only interdepartmental to all being on the same frequency and all calls come into one central command post.

Kindschi said he has enjoyed serving the town as emergency management director, and has long been a volunteer in the community. In the past he has volunteered at the Middletown Fire Department and the Comcast Advisory Council.

"Volunteerism is important," he said. "It's just knowing that you're doing something for other people."

Kindschi was the 2005 recipient of the Chief Michael L. Green Award, given by the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.

The Board of Selectmen recently named Charles Zieminski as the new emergency management director, and Kindschi is working with him through a transition period.

"His contribution to the town has been exemplary," said First Selectman Jon Brayshaw. "Few people put in the time, effort, energy and focus to a job as he has."

Brayshaw said he would not be surprised if Kindschi was one of the longest running emergency management directors in the state, and most notably, he said, he did it at no cost to the town.

When he first became emergency management director, rather than move into the firehouse or another town office, Kindschi decided to work out of his home, Brayshaw said.

"His wife told me they haven't used their dining room in 25 years," Brayshaw said. "That's dedication on her part too because she gave up her dining room."

Kindschi has lived in Middlefield since 1959 with his wife Betty. They have three children Kenny Jr., Roger and Lori.

The Town of Middlefield honored Ken at a reception June 2, 2007 at the Middlefield Firehouse. Pictures courtesy of Roger Kindschi.



Mary Rose presenting Ken with a Certificate of Appreciation



Changing of the Guard: Charlie Zieminski with Ken



Connecticut CERT Teams have been busy during the spring. The following activities have taken place.

May 19, 2007, the Southeastern Connecticut CERT Team held a field day at Ocean Beach Park located in New London Connecticut. This Field Day allowed individual CERT team members to meet and interact with other trained CERT team members in a controlled, supervised, exercise setting.

In addition it allowed opportunities to test and improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities with hands-on, simulated field information's and states informational presentations. NLFM, Groton City, NLFMO, Waterford FMO, Yankee Gas, CL& P, Mashantucket Pequot Fire Department, American Red Cross, Waterford Ambulance, Mohegan Tribe, Mystic, SBF, OSHA, DEMHS, and the Urban Search and Rescue Team participated in this field day.

One hundred and fifteen (115) persons participated in an unusual event held on Memorial Day weekend, May 26-27, 2007. The Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) conducted a full functional exercise based on the operation of an emergency mass care shelter for up to 500 persons.

The scenario, based on a flooding situation, forced the evacuation of 10,000 residents from a nearby municipality. Approximately 500 persons were thought to require sheltering assistance. A regional shelter was opened at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 26th and operated until 1:30 p.m. on May 27th.

In addition to the operational use of the facility, participants gained experience in incident command. Operational periods of various lengths were established to allow multiple opportunities to fill in the various ICS positions. Among the eleven mission objectives were several that Connecticut Citizen Corps Council units were responsible for. These included evacuee identification, communications, shelter support, and medical services.

The West Hartford Community Accountability and Identification (CAID) team performed the shelter access and accountability function, processing 115 evacuees. The Manchester Emergency Management Communication Team (EMCOMM) provided both voice and data transmission backup and maintained a link with the State Emergency Operation Center.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members from several other municipalities provided shelter support. The Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps provided medical support for the evacuees. Thirty evacuees slept overnight, providing a realistic training opportunity for an extended period. The Connecticut Youth Health Service Corps also provided support for the operation.

The Central Naugatuck Valley Emergency Planning Committee working with the Northwest Public Safety Task Force held a Search and Rescue Conference/Exercise on June 2, 2007. The scenario was that terrorist bombs had gone off at scattered sites through CT. Also most 40 CERT Team members from the two regions, the American Red Cross, and a Nation Defense Forces CERT team attended the drill. Ma Radio CERT Teams from three municipalities also participated by establishing communications.

FIREWORKS SAFETY

To help you celebrate safely this Fourth of July, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following safety tips:

- Always read and follow label directions.
- Have an adult present.
- Buy from reliable sellers.
- Use outdoors only.
- Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Stay away from illegal explosives.

Tips on Choosing Safe Fireworks

It is extremely important to know the difference between a legal consumer firework and a dangerous explosive device. Items such as M-80s, M-100s and blockbusters are not fireworks, they are federally banned explosives. They can cause serious injury or even death. Stay away from anything that isn't clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacturer's name and instructions for proper use. Here are some more tips to help ensure a safe Fourth of July:

Fireworks are not toys. Fireworks complying with strict regulations enacted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1976 function primarily by burning to produce motion and visible or audible effects. They are burning at approximately the same temperature as a household match and can cause burn injuries and ignite clothing if used improperly.

NEVER give fireworks to young children. Close, adult supervision of all fireworks activities is mandatory. Even sparklers can be unsafe if used improperly.

Select and use only legal devices. If you choose to celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks, check with your local police department to determine what fireworks can be legally discharged in your area.

Stay away from illegal explosives. Illegal explosive devices continue to cause serious injuries around the Fourth of July holiday. These devices are commonly known as M-80s, M-100s, blockbusters or quarter-pounders. Federally banned since 1966, these items will not contain the manufacturer's name and are usually totally unlabeled. Don't purchase or use unlabeled fireworks. If you are aware of anyone selling such devices, contact your local police department.

Homemade fireworks are deadly. Never attempt to make your own devices and do not purchase or use any kits that are advertised for making fireworks. Mixing and loading chemical powders is very dangerous and can kill or seriously injure you. Leave the making of fireworks to the experts.

Upcoming Training & Exercise

July 13	ICS 200—Avon
July 14	Planning and Response for Equine Related Emergencies—Old Lyme
July 16	ICS 400—Granby
July 27	IS800—Avon

Please see the calendar for additional information at www.ct.gov/demhs

For training and exercise questions please contact Bob Christ at 860-706-5516, 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>

For Fire Academy classes, please go to : <http://www.ct.gov/cfpc>

DEMHS would like take a moment to announce our new Training Manager David Brown, who will be starting on July 6th. Welcome to the team Dave.

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.