



# THE DEMHS ADVISOR

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**October 2006**

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## **WHAT'S NEW:**

**October is  
National Fire  
Prevention Month**

## **UPCOMING TRAINING and EXERCISES**

**Oct. 3 & Oct. 4—ICS-200,  
East Hartford**

**Oct. 5—SLATT, POSTC**

**Oct. 16-18—ICS300 & 400,  
Windsor Locks**

**October 28—TICP Exercise**

## Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

The month of October is clearly a sign that summer is over, the temperatures are dropping, the leaves are changing color, school is back in full swing, and again everyone's schedule is full of activities.

This month's DEMHS Newsletter touches on many topics, such as preparing for the upcoming heating season, as many sources anticipate that the cost of heating our homes and businesses will be very expensive. The State Department of Social Services does have a Winter Heating Assistance Program that we hope that you can share with your clients, and customers.

We are sharing some exciting news about a major exercise in Fairfield County that will take place on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, after months of planning and coordination by so many people and organizations. This drill will surely test the skills, abilities and equipment of the participants. We have an article on the State Public Safety Interoperable Committee that has been working so hard over the past years to improve communications interoperability for all disciplines.

Also featured is in an article on business Continuity and Disaster planning along with an offer of free assistance for small business owners in the development of their Continuity Planning efforts.

We continue to emphasize training and list some of the available training that we know of. Please take advantage of the training opportunities that are made available through so many sources. As we all know, training is an excellent investment in the personnel of your business or agency, and it clearly will help your staff grow in the knowledge and expertise that is required in today's complex environment.

Last and not least, a reminder that this is Fire Prevention Month. There will be services and information offered to you and your community through your fire local fire department this month. Please pay attention to the information and be prepared, it could save a life!

We hope you enjoy this edition of the DEMHS newsletter.

## Region 1 Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Exercise Operation Ready Region

by Bill Tessier

Just imagine it's Wednesday morning at the height of commuter traffic time. You are having breakfast at the Fire Station or in your Police patrol car and you are dispatched to a reported commuter train accident on the Metro-North Railroad (MTA) line that runs from Waterbury to Norwalk, then onto New York. The weather is seasonably warm with light winds coming off the Long Island Sound. Traffic on the nearby I-95 (The Yankee Doodle Bridge) is particularly heavy due to significant construction on Route 1. The Norwalk Fire Department response is 2 engines, 2 ladders, 1 rescue and car # 2 (the Deputy Chief on duty). The radio cracks and dispatch states witnesses on the scene heard an explosion before the crash and there are many people injured. At this time many things are going through the mind of the Deputy Chief. How many are injured? Is this an accident or done by the hand of others? Are the police on the scene? How can I talk to them? How many ambulances are responding? How can I communicate with them? As Operation Ready Region grows, so grows the need for Regional assets and the ability to communicate with those responders effectively by using Tactical Interoperable Communications. This is the basis of the Region 1 exercise, to verify the workability of the TIC Plan.

The Region started this adventure in December of 2005 with a planning meeting of the principle players. This dedicated group meets almost every Monday and will continue until the exercise date. Funds were secured through Federal Homeland Security and guidance came from the Interoperable Communication Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP). At this meeting the ground rules and extent of play was set.

- ◆ On January 31 and February 1, 2006, a workshop was held at Troop G in Bridgeport, hosted by DEMHS. Fourteen municipalities, local, state and federal agencies worked with ICTAP consultants to develop a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP). This plan is designed to allow the regions First Responders to communicate during a multi-jurisdictional incident.
- ◆ May 24, 2006 a Table Top Exercise was held in Norwalk. The players from across the region, local, state and federal agencies tested the plan against a realistic scenario. The purpose of this tabletop was to examine the plan for gaps and identify best practices, thus allowing better communications in the event of real world event. This tabletop was aimed at first responders and how they would communicate during an incident.
- ◆ On July 11, 2006, a second tabletop was held. This was designed for the policy makers across the region. It focused on the following: How would they respond to an incident that would affect the region, state and beyond? What were their concerns? How would this large of an incident affect the populace, municipal governments and business across the region. How would we communicate effective to the 1<sup>st</sup> responders, the public, the press, state and federal authorities.

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- ◆ On September 25-29, an All-Hazards Communication Unit Leader Training was conducted. This training was the first of its type outside of the Wildfire Community, was approved by DHS, and developed and presented by members of the Connecticut Emergency Response community. An additional day was added to the course. Here the newly trained Communications Unit Leaders worked with the Incident Commanders during a tabletop, to develop strategies and tactics that will allow them to respond and effectively communicate during a region-wide event.
- ◆ October 6, 2006 will be the Final Planning Conference. At this point all aspects of the operation will be brought together. Which Municipalities will be standing up their EOC's (Emergency Operations Centers)? Who will send Police and Fire Units to Norwalk staging and who to their own railroad Station(s)? How many Ambulances will be available? How many hospital beds are available? Who will be in charge of the incident, accountability, safety, and staging?

Finally the big day comes. On October 28, 2006 the exercise will proceed as planned. Afterwards, the only remaining project will be the hot-wash, a time to determine what was done correctly and what we need to do better. We must remember this is a Regional Communication Exercise designed to test our Interoperable Regional Communication in the event of a large scale incident.

On February 26, 1993 in New York City the first bombing of the Worlds Trade Center occurred. The terrorist parked a truck loaded with IED's on the third level of the parking garage under Tower 1 and exploded it killing 6 and injuring 1,042. The explosion was intended to devastate the foundation of the North Tower, causing it to collapse onto its twin. The ensuing fire progressed to the equivalent of three simultaneous 6 alarm fires. One 6 alarm fire in Tower 1, one 6 alarm fire in Tower 2, and one 6 alarm fire at the Vista Hotel. The bomb caused smoke to rise to the 93<sup>rd</sup> floors of both towers, which resulted in the loss of electricity and telephone service for much of lower Manhattan. The explosion overtaxed the communication system in Manhattan, without a break down in communications contrasting; and on September 11, 2001 when the second tower fell, so went the primary radio communication/telephone systems in lower Manhattan, causing a major communication breakdown. (Always remember 343.)



## CONNECTICUT'S WINTER HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Thousands of homeowners and renters across the state are eligible for winter heating assistance during 2006-2007 energy program year. The application deadline for the energy assistance program is May 1, 2007, which will especially benefit residents struggling with this winter's exorbitant heating bills. Governor M. Jodi Rell continues her commitment to the winter heating needs of low-income Connecticut residents. These services are designed to help offset the winter heating costs of eligible households. The goal is to assist eligible Connecticut residents in maximizing potential energy assistance options so that their health is not jeopardized by the inability to meet heating needs.

- Winter heating assistance pays for such heating sources as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal and wood.
- Both homeowners and renters may apply.
- The only sure way of knowing whether your household is eligible is to apply. Applications will be taken beginning August 15, 2006 at about 160 community sites. For referral to an application site near you, please call 2-1-1 Infoline.
- Households eligible for the winter heating program may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. This can help conserve energy and lower heating bills. For information on weatherization assistance, please call 2-1-1 Infoline; or the Department of Social Services' winter heating assistance line at 1-800-842-1132

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program and the Contingency Heating Assistance Program are administered by the Department of Social Services and coordinated by regional Community Action Agencies, in cooperation with municipal and other non-profit human service agencies.

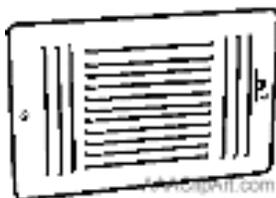
For further information on benefit level and eligibility criteria, please go the Department of Social Services Energy Assistance Web site at: [www.ct.gov/staywarm](http://www.ct.gov/staywarm), or contact 2-1-1 Infoline; or the Department of Social Services' winter heating assistance line at 1-800-842-1132.

*(Note: Information provided by Connecticut Department of Social Services)*



## Winter Storms: Safety Tips for Heating Your Home

Now is a good time, as winter approaches, to start thinking about alternative ways for heating your home in case of a winter weather emergency. Severe winter storms can cause power outages for days or even weeks. How will you heat your home if this happens? Some popular alternative sources of home heating are fireplaces, space heaters, wood-burning stoves, and kerosene heaters. Safety factors should be taken into consideration before attempting to purchase or operate any of these home-heating appliances. While chances of freezing to death in your home are small, there's a greater risk of death by fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. Fortunately, most tragedies are preventable; all it takes is a little education and some common sense. By following the safety tips outlined below, you can learn to identify potential hazards associated with the use of home-heating equipment during an emergency.



### Safety Comes First

Safety is crucial in a heating emergency. The following is a list of general guidelines related to alternative heating resources.

- Children should not have access to portable heaters, electric or fuel powered.
- Do not burn anything larger than candles inside your home without providing good ventilation such as opening windows, doors and fireplace flumes.
- All heaters that run on fuel (natural gas, butane, oil) should be vented.
- Do not use the kitchen oven or stove top to heat your home. This can be a fire hazard as well as a source of toxic fumes.
- "Space" heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.
- If you are using supplemental portable electric heaters, never use an extension cord. Plug them directly into the electrical outlet.
- Before purchasing a portable heater, make sure it has "tip switches." These switches are designed to automatically shut off the heating unit in the event it tips over.
- Never refill a space heater while it is in operation or is still hot.
- ONLY refuel heaters outdoors! Use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer, and follow instructions carefully.
- Glass doors or a metal screen should be placed in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks or hot ash from igniting carpets, furniture, or other combustible items.
- Do not burn charcoal designed for barbecues indoors-not even in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. It releases odorless, but toxic, carbon monoxide fumes and can cause death!
- Test your Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms monthly; install new batteries twice a year. Remember to create and practice a home escape plan with your family. Remember most fires occur in residential properties. Take the proper steps to protect your home and family from the tragedy of a heating appliance incident.

Purchase and install a carbon monoxide alarm for your home. Make sure it is marked with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) safety listing. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for placement in your home.

*(Note: Guidance provided by Texas A&M University's Cooperative Extension Disaster Education Network)*

## DEMHS Coordinating Council Sub-Committee CT Public Safety State Interoperable Committee

An ad hoc communications interoperability working group was organized in May 2002 to address the immediate needs of the first responder community in the State. State, regional, and local fire, police, medical, transportation, environmental, information technology, emergency management personnel and federal and private sector partners are represented in this group.

That group, the Connecticut Public Safety State Interoperability Executive Committee has been formalized into a sub-committee of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council, which includes governance and project work groups. Some of the goals and objectives of the Connecticut Public Safety State Interoperability Executive Committee are the development of long range plans for the implementation of interoperable emergency communications systems, development of policies and protocols for the use of interoperable emergency communications systems, radio channel system policy development and utilization, Grant guidance and the review and approval of proposed local/regional radio interoperability systems.

Recently the Connecticut Public Safety State Interoperable Committee adopted by-laws which include voting member guidelines. The Committee will have two classes of members, voting members and non-voting members. The initial voting members will be selected and/or approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), in consultation with the agency or organization represented.

Voting members shall consist of one representative from each discipline or state agency involved with public safety, or their designee, as follows:

- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Correction
- Department of Public Health
- Military Department
- Department of Information Technology
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Judicial Department
- Department of Emergency Management And Homeland Security
- Connecticut Police Chiefs Association
- Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association
- One representative from each of the 5 DEMHS regions
- Commission on Fire Prevention and Control
- EMS Advisory Board
- Office of Statewide Telecommunications
- Connecticut Emergency Managers Association

## Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning Is Valuable To Connecticut Businesses & Governments

By: Michael W. Wanik, CPP, CBCP

Large business is keenly aware that their business success relies on a strategic continuity and disaster plan that is tested and proven. Since 9/11, the Asian tsunami, and like events; everything is foreseeable in the eyes of a reasonable and prudent man. I'm not so sure that small businesses have that view.

Various collected statistics in the space indicate that:

- 43% of small businesses that experience a disaster will never recover 25% of the remaining companies will close within 2 years

But what do communities believe to be disasters? Are they defined in their minds to be weather events or terrorist attacks? Is the extent of their plan being closed for a snow day?

Threats to business continuation are much broader than that. The Connecticut Lottery experienced business continuity issues after a severe act of workplace violence. Fires in Connecticut destroy sensitive vital company records and computing systems everyday. Accidental food poisoning of their staff recently affected a Connecticut utility's ability to answer customer inquiries.

Business continuation is the operation of the business in at least a calculated reduced capacity for a predetermined period of time. Drivers can include the loss of people, facility, and information. Among other things, a reduced capacity operating strategy must take into consideration contracted or implied service levels to their business customers; as well as their expectation of inbound goods and services from their vendors to enable their operations. After all, businesses rely on businesses in the supply chain.

A disaster recovery plan covers the data, hardware and software critical for a business to restart operations after an event. While business continuity and disaster plans must be intermingled, they are separate and distinct.

Government has a duty to ensure that small businesses have such tested plans that are reviewed at least annually, or any time a major change to the business occurs. Without small business, communities lose tax base, employment, and goods and services.

Preparation tools are readily available for use in two key places. "Ready Business" ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)) has a downloadable sample "emergency plan" that is adequate for small business.

Further, The Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) has partnered with the Association of Continuity Planners (ACP), a professional non-profit organization, to also provide small businesses inventory tools for the creation of their continuity strategy ([www.acp-international.org](http://www.acp-international.org)). In addition to downloadable forms, IBHS will also provide single CD-ROM copies free of charge.

As a public service, professionals of the Connecticut Chapter of ACP are willing and able to assist Connecticut small businesses in understanding their needs for proper continuity planning. Interested organizations should contact Scott Blanchette at: [Scott@Prepare-Today.com](mailto:Scott@Prepare-Today.com).

*Michael Wanik is a certified protection and business continuity professional employed by a Fortune 50 Company. He is a board member of the ACP Connecticut Chapter, as well as the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners in New Britain.*

## Upcoming Training & Exercise

October 3	ICS-200—East Hartford
October 4	ICS-200—East Hartford
October 5	State & Local Anti-Terrorism Training—POSTC
October 16-20	ICS-300 & 400 Train the Trainer—Windsor Locks
October 28	TICP Exercise—DEMHS Region 1

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.

The Training office has been moved to Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT.

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:

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.**

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT PREVENTION AND DETERRENCE OF TERRORIST ACTS: TRAIN-THE-TRAINER" Training Seminar

### Course Announcement

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is pleased to offer for the first time a two-day seminar for police trainers on the above-mentioned subject. The program will be held on Monday, October 23, 2006, and Tuesday, October 24, 2006, at the Connecticut Police Academy. Daily class times will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A tentative course outline is attached for your review.

The U.S. Department of Justice, through the Office for Domestic Preparedness, is supporting several major initiatives to improve the capability of law enforcement agencies to prevent and/or deter weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents. This class is one of those initiatives and was developed by the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education at Louisiana State University, the Center for Domestic Preparedness, the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center at Texas A & M, and the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Only with a robust incident management infrastructure can United States communities hope to prevent, deter, prepare for, or respond to a WMD terrorist incident. Whether such a threat involves conventional or non-conventional WMD's, successful prevention and deterrence depends upon law enforcement personnel who are adequately trained, equipped, and exercised.

This class is designed to provide certified federal, state, and local law enforcement officers with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to assist in the prevention and/or deterrence of WMD terrorist incidents by using OSHA Awareness level knowledge.

The course has the following instructional goals:

Cognitive:

To provide law enforcement personnel with the knowledge necessary to prevent and/or deter WMD terrorist incidents.

Affective:

At the conclusion of the class, participants will

- Appreciate the complexity of preventing and deterring WMD terrorist incidents
  - Understand the complexities of preventing/deterring a WMD terrorist incident and the local and national resources that are available for such prevention/deterrence.
- Possess the necessary knowledge to effectively perform patrol responsibilities in preventing and/or deterring WMD terrorist incidents.

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Law enforcement officers are part of the front line defense in preventing and deterring WMD terrorist incidents where the release of WMD agents is likely to occur as a result of criminal actions. The nature of their daily work environment provides them with an enhanced understanding of their community not shared by the general public. This heightened community awareness, as well as the possibility that they may encounter terrorists unknowingly while conducting patrol functions, provides law enforcement officers with a unique opportunity to prevent or deter potential WMD terrorist incidents. This class will provide police officers with competency in the following areas:

Adult learning techniques

Intelligence gathering through the utilization of open and covert source information in conjunction with other public agencies to prevent and deter terrorist operations

Recognition of the threat posed by suicide bombers and potential counter measures

Reinforcing the importance of community-oriented policing, field interviews/contact cards, parking tickets, traffic stops, and criminal reports to assist in preventing and deterring terrorist acts

Identifying state and international drivers' licenses, passports, visas, along with other diplomatic documents that have been altered or counterfeited to avoid detection by law enforcement officers

Understanding the materials that can be procured either legitimately or illegally to produce chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) agents or materials

Understanding the necessity of collection and sharing terrorist information with various agencies

The Academy for Counter-Terrorist Education has established the following pre-requisites for personnel attending the course:

1. Successful completion of an instructor training course.
2. Significant experience as a classroom instructor.
3. Assignment to a supervisory position or trainer position responsible for development and delivery of training focused on law enforcement first response during WMD incidents or assignment to a supervisory or management position responsible for the development of departmental policies and procedures governing the actions of law enforcement first responders during WMD incidents.
4. Sufficient tenure remaining in their current or future position to allow for the application of the course material upon their return.
5. Submission of a signed agreement to conduct a minimum of 16 hours of training per year (the indirect instructor application).
6. Submission of a brief resume.

Presentation of a picture ID (preferably one issued by their department) at the start of class.

Enrollment in this course is limited to thirty (30) personnel. Please register through POSTC (<http://www.ct.gov/post/site/default.asp>) no later than October 4, 2006. The application issued by L.S.U. must be signed by the chief or agency head.

Personnel who successfully complete this course will receive (12) hours of Review Training Credit in Curriculum Area VI: Patrol Procedures. Attendees must pass the course final examination with a minimum score of 80%.

The Academy Dress Code, General Notice #90-03, will be in effect for this class. Please advise your personnel accordingly.

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