

Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

Well, the month of December though starting out rather mild, surely came to remind us that December is traditionally the first month of winter. We in Connecticut were very lucky compared to our neighbors to the north on the weekend of December 12th when a major ice storm hit and left thousands of customers without power. Even in Connecticut we experienced some 17,000 customers without power, especially in the northwest hills of Connecticut. The communities were very well prepared and with the assistance of the utility companies, power was restored within a couple of days. A significant amount of icy occurred mostly in this area, and to the states north of us. A few states Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, had homes and businesses without power for up to one week or more.

Then came storm Austin and followed immediately by Brooke. Again because of the tremendous cooperation, preparation and a great deal of luck Connecticut did not get the brunt of the storms as did some of the surrounding states.

All of this raises the question, 'How well are we prepared individually for the coming winter and any other natural event that Mother Nature will surely bring to us this winter season?' We have all heard many times of the need to have an emergency kit with a battery or hand-crank radio, along with food and water, to include plans for going without basic services for up to 72 hours. Honestly how many of us are really prepared? This past couple of weekends has certainly caused all of us in the public safety field to reassess and make sure that our families do have the necessary provisions to handle an emergency.

As we go in the New Year, let us all really take the pledge to make sure that individually us, our families and our communities are the best prepared that we can be. You, your family and your community can all feel better if each of us take our responsibilities very seriously and follow through and make sure that we are READY. Visit www.ready.gov, or any of the other popular websites out there, to make the honest assessment of your level of preparedness.

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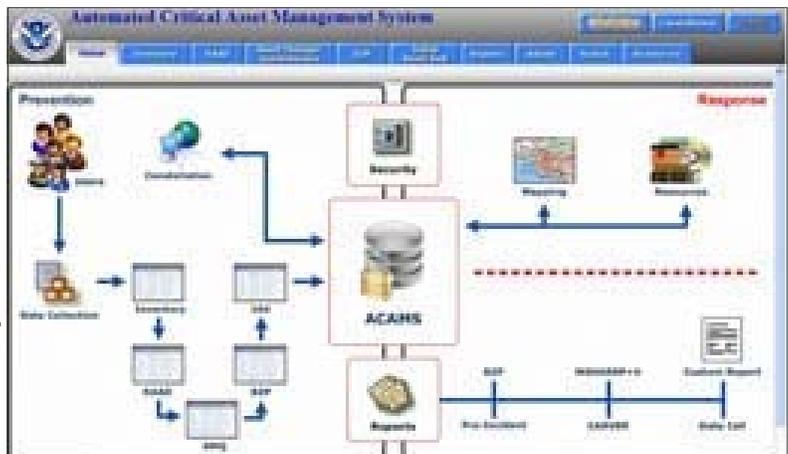
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DEMHS Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit C/ACAMS Program Overview

What is C/ACAMS? (Constellation/Automated Critical Asset Management System) C/ACAMS is a secure, Web-based information services portal used to support infrastructure protection efforts at the state and local level. It provides access to a comprehensive set of tools and resources to develop and implement CIP (Critical Infrastructure Protection) programs. While it focuses on pre-incident prevention and protection it also assists in post-incident response. C/ACAMS leverages the close relationship between local law enforcement, first responders and asset owner/operators. CIKR owners/operators are a key partner in planning and use of C/ACAMS and its success depends on Public/Private Partnerships. State and local personnel interact daily with CIKR (Critical Infrastructure Key Resources) owners and operators to maintain comprehensive and accurate infrastructure data.

Originally developed by L.A.P.D. (Los Angeles Police Department) under the title of Archangel, the program recognizes the need to make an investment in critical infrastructure prevention and protection to support response and recovery. The program's success in LA led to the adoption of Archangel by the federal government and its transformation into the C/ACAMS model.



Essentially, the program allows for the warehousing of critical assets on a protected web based format, easily accessed by those tasked with asset management and protection. All information logged into the ACAMS system is immediately PCII (Protected Critical Infrastructure Information) and is safe from public disclosure or FOI (Freedom of Information) requests.

C/ACAMS enables the effective inventory and management of thousands of assets within state and local jurisdictional areas. It was developed as a scalable tool to fit the specific needs of each jurisdiction at the state and local level and will fit the specific needs of the user community and recognizing resource limitations. US/DHS provides C/ACAMS at **no cost** to the state and local community to support infrastructure protection efforts and was developed in alignment with national-level guidance to ensure state and local compliance with this guidance.

Using C/ACAMS also provides state and local jurisdictions with a practical way to implement the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), including the NIPP Risk Management Framework.

The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and supporting Sector-Specific Plans (SSPs) provide a coordinated approach to critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) protection and outlines roles and responsibilities for federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector CIKR partners. The NIPP sets national priorities, goals, and requirements for effective distribution of funding and resources which will help ensure that our government, economy, and public services continue in the event of a terrorist attack or other disaster.

The plan is based on the following:

- Strong public-private partnerships which will foster relationships and facilitate coordination within and across CIKR sectors.
- Robust multi-directional information sharing which will enhance the ability to assess risks, make prudent security investments, and take protective action.
- Risk management framework establishing processes for combining consequence, vulnerability, and threat information to produce a comprehensive, systematic, and rational assessment of national or sector risk.

Additional information on C/ACAMS and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) can be found on the DHS website at:

http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/gc_1190729724456.shtm

Training will be available to first responders (fire/police), emergency managers and those with a stake in asset management. The classes will run four and half days and will be taught by ACAMS certified instructors from the Office of Counter Terrorism-Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit. Each trained person receives a log-in password and access to only their respective assets. Once on the system ACAMS users will have access to the systems other uses including Buffer Zone Management, RAAD (Rapid assessment tool) and in the near future mapping capabilities to name a few of its overall uses.

****For a more comprehensive look into the programs, activities and initiatives of the DEMHS Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit, see an upcoming feature article in a 2009 DEMHS newsletter.***

MASTER TRAINER PROGRAM (MTP)

DEMHS is proud to Congratulate Bob Christ and Sharon Mazzochi, of the Training/Exercise Unit, on their completion of the EMI Master Trainer program. Bob and Sharon have joined the ranks of only a few hundred individuals in the nation who have completed the program.

The Master Trainer Program consists of seven courses that provide participants with the knowledge, skills, and tools to assess performance shortfalls, design effective training, develop training materials, and deliver and evaluate training. During the courses, each participant will be designing and developing training specific to the needs of his or her organization.

The [Management and Supervision of Training](#) course provides an excellent overview of the Instructional Systems Design process and the necessary skills to manage training programs. After the [Performance and Needs Assessment](#) course, participants are asked to conduct a needs assessment to identify a valid training need in their organization. Participants then complete a task analysis that is used in the [Instructional Design](#) course to develop a Plan of Instruction that will be used in [Course Development](#) to develop training materials like instructor guides, student manuals, job aids, and visuals. These materials will be used in the [Instructional Delivery](#) course to present a unit or segment of the designed training. Additional presentations are also required in the delivery course. In [Evaluation of Training](#), participants will develop items to measure the effectiveness of their course materials.

Completion of a practicum is required as the culminating activity. The [practicum](#) requires the design, development, and delivery of training that should approximate 16 classroom hours.



(U) Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) Conference 15 January 2009

(U) **Reminder:** On 15 January 2009 the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) will host the 3rd Annual Intelligence Liaison Officer Conference. It is strongly recommended all state-designated Intelligence Liaison Officers (ILO) attend. This year's ILO Conference will cover the topics of the Terrorist Screening Center and its use of watch lists, gang intelligence, Connecticut based domestic extremism, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and regional criminal trends within Connecticut, as well as provide an opportunity for ILOs to speak with their respective Regional Intelligence Liaison Officer (RILO). Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided at no cost.

What: 3rd Annual CTIC Intelligence Liaison Officer Conference

When: 15 January 2009

Time: 8:00am to 4:30pm

Where: Michael J. Adanti Student Center, Southern Connecticut State University, 345 Fitch Street, New Haven, CT

(U) If you are an ILO and are unable to attend, please provide an alternate to represent your Department. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your RILO, or CTIC at CTIC@NESPIN.RISS.NET or (203)777-6311.

RILO	Region	Phone	Email
Andrew Weaver	Capitol Region	(860)250-5593	anweaver@nespin.riss.net
Paul Markette	Western Region	(860)250-5565	pmarkette@leo.gov
John Calka	Fairfield County Region	(860)250-5463	jcalka@wesportct.gov
Ralph Segarra	South Central Region	(860)250-4044	rsegarra@newhavenct.net
Rich Morgan	Eastern Region	(860)250-5518	CTIC.ER@po.state.ct.us
Julie Gasiorek	Department of Corrections Probation and Parole	(860)250-1349	julie.gasiorek@ct.gov



CERT Program Update- What's Coming in 2009 !!!!!

The Cert Program is a training program that prepares citizens to safely assist their families, neighbors, co-workers, or anyone who needs help in the event of a widespread emergency when professional responders may not be able to reach everyone as soon as help is needed. Many of you have been waiting for the details of the revised-CERT program. Nationwide, local CERT Programs have seen a 22% average annual growth over the past four years. Expansion of CERT training for specific groups includes high schools, colleges and universities, and the private sector. In March, 2009, The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will host the Campus CERT TtT at Western Connecticut State University. During the 2009 year, the basic CERT training and materials will be updated and a new CERT Train-the-Trainer Course will be offered. The updated course materials will have a new format. There will also be a version of the participant's manual available for those with low vision. Five new training videos are also planned for distribution. Additional job aids for delivering basic training to target groups and supplemental training modules and materials are also planned. The National CERT program is also developing Job Aids for training target groups of Teen CERT, Campus CERT, Workplace CERT (due 1st Quarter 2009), Tribal CERT (due 3rd Quarter 2009) and All-Abilities CERT (due 3rd Quarter 2009). Supplemental Training Modules anticipated to be released in the 1st quarter of 2009 will include Animal Response 1, Animal Response 11 and CERT Emergency Communications.

Also the National CERT website www.citizencorps.gov/cert/ will be updated. The course entitled "Introduction to CERT" online (IS 317) has been revised.

For CERT training opportunities in Connecticut, check the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's training calendar www.ct.gov/demhs/iCal/calendar. The CERT Program in 2009 will have many updates. Let's embrace them and continue to make the CERT program a great success in Connecticut.

Happy New Year !!!!

APPLEBY—CERTIFIED EMERGENCY MANAGER

Submitted by Richard Fournier, Region 1 Coordinator



The DEMHS Region 1 Office was recently notified by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) that one of its Emergency Management Directors has earned recognition as a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM). Scott Appleby, the Bridgeport Emergency Management Director (EMD), has completed the qualifications for CEM which is the highest professional achievement given by IAEM, a professional association with more than four-thousand members.

Scott qualified as a CEM by submitting an extensive credential package; providing personal and professional background achievements; and successfully completing an Emergency Management Essay and passing a rigorous written examination. In order to keep this certification, he will need to continue a program of professional development on the next five years.

As Bridgeport's EMD, Scott is highly professional and very proactive both within the City of Bridgeport and in all aspects of being a member of the Region 1 Emergency Planning Team (R1EPT). He was also recently named as the State's Emergency Manager of the Year for 2008. From past performance, it is no mystery why Scott is one of only 764 men and women that have achieved the distinction of being designated a CEM.

Commissioner Thomas and the DEMHS staff extend their congratulations to Scott and the City of Bridgeport for this significant achievement.

Southbury Drought Exercise

By Ed Edelson, Executive Director, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition

On December 10th, about 40 people participated in the State's first extreme drought table-top simulation exercise in Southbury, CT. Unlike most emergency situations, a drought evolves over a period of time without a definitive starting point. In addition, it will have different impacts on adjacent towns that have a different water supply infrastructure (public water vs. private wells; interconnected systems, etc). This creates challenges to developing a region-wide response. However, as demonstrated in the simulation, its consequences can be dire and the need for coordinated planning, consistent public messaging and a broad awareness of the impacts on health, safety property, employment and the environment are critical.

The exercise was funded by the University of Connecticut's Institute of Water Resources, which is working to promote watershed or basin approaches to water allocation planning per a directive from the State legislature. The project is being undertaken by the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition (www.pomperaug.org), a non-profit science-driven organization that has stakeholders from the many towns in the Pomperaug watershed including Southbury, Woodbury and Bethlehem. The exercise was run by Gradient Planning of Middletown, CT (www.gradientplanning.com).

The next steps are: 1) produce a summary of the exercise, which will be available on the website of the Coalition and 2) develop a consensus-based "White Paper" to lay out the road map for evolving a long-term water allocation plan for the watershed.

Think Global, Drink Local

"Water has a voice. It carries a message that tells those downstream who you are and how you care for the land."

- Bernie McGurl Lackawanna River Association

Upcoming Training & Exercise

Jan 21	CREC Public Safety Academy Open House (see page 11)
Jan 27 & 28	ICS 300—Brainard
Feb 3 & 4	Bioterrorism: Mass Prophylaxis Prep & Planning Local Jurisdiction-Brainard
Feb 11	Preparing Communities for Agroterrorism—Southbury
Feb 26	Crisis Leadership & Decision-Making for Elected Officials—Brainard
Mar 3 thru 5	Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents—Southbury
Mar 24-26	Campus CERT TtT— WCSU, Danbury
Mar 23-26	Introduction to CAMEO—Guilford

For training & exercise questions contact the Training Unit at 860-256-0840.

Fax: 860-706-5539 or email: Training.demhs@ct.gov

You may register for these courses as listed at: www.ct.gov/demhs; or through POSTC at www.ct.gov/post; or through the CT Fire Academy (CFA) at www.ct.gov/cfca.

PET SAFETY TIPS FOR THE WINTER MONTHS

“As the harsh winter months settles in, it is important that you think about keeping your pets safe from all of the dangers that the season can present,” stated MEMA Director Don Boyce.



Do not leave your pet outdoors when temperatures drop below freezing.

Dogs need outdoor exercise, but take care not to keep them outdoors for lengthy periods of time during very cold weather. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks. Dogs and cats are safer indoors during all sorts of extreme weather.

Wind-chill is a threat to pets, even those protected by shelters.

Outdoor dogs must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to both sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to retain body heat. The floor should be elevated a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The entrance of the doghouse should be turned to face away from prevailing winds, and the entrance should be covered with a flap of heavy waterproof fabric or heavy plastic.

Pets who spend a greater amount of time outdoors in the winter need more food.

Maintaining warmth depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to ensure the water is fresh and not frozen. To prevent your pet's tongue from freezing to their feeding or drinking bowl, plastic, rather than metal food and water bowls are preferred.

Be leery of frozen bodies of water.

Always keep your pets on a leash when walking them near suspected frozen bodies of water. The ice may not be sturdy enough to support your pet. If a pet falls through the ice, do not attempt to rescue your pet yourself; go for help.

Antifreeze and de-icing chemicals can be hazardous.

Antifreeze has a sweet taste that can attract animals. Always store antifreeze out of reach and clean up spills. Antifreeze made with propylene glycol can actually be swallowed in small amounts and not injure pets, wildlife or humans. De-icing chemicals, including salt, can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe your pet's feet with a damp towel after coming indoors, even if salt on sidewalks is not visible.

Warm automobile engines are dangerous for cats and small wildlife.

Parked vehicles can attract small animals, which may crawl under the hood seeking warmth. To avoid injuring hiding animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them off before starting your engine.

A special Thank You to Don Boyce and our friends at MEMA—Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, for sharing the above information.



**American
Red Cross**

Fact Sheet: Preventing and Thawing Frozen Pipes

Many people have asked the Red Cross for information and suggestions about how to prevent water pipes in the home from freezing, and how to thaw them if they do freeze. The following information is provided to address those questions.

Why pipe freezing is a problem

Water has a unique property in that it expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the “strength” of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break. Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Also, pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Pipe freezing is a particular problem in warmer climates where pipes often run through uninsulated or underinsulated attics or crawl spaces.

Preventing Frozen Pipes

Before the onset of cold weather, prevent freezing of these water supply lines and pipes by following these recommendations:

- Drain water from swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines following manufacturer’s or installer’s directions. Do not put antifreeze in these lines unless directed. Antifreeze is environmentally harmful, and is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, and landscaping.
- Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without cause the pipe to break.
- Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located and are in unheated areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated. A hot water supply line can freeze just as a cold water supply line can freeze if the water is not running through the pipe and the water temperature in the pipe is cold.
- Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a “pipe sleeve” or installing UL-listed “heat tape,” “heat cable,” or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Many products are available at your local building supplies retailer. Pipes should be carefully wrapped, with ends butted tightly and joints wrapped with tape. Follow manufacturer’s recommendations for installing and using these products. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼” of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.

During Cold Weather, Take Preventive Action

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe – even at a trickle – helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it is above freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.

To Thaw Frozen Pipes

If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Locate the suspected frozen area of the water pipe. Likely places include pipes running against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.

- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt more ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, and electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. *Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device.* A blowtorch can make water in a frozen pipe boil and cause the pipe to explode. All open flames in homes present a serious fire danger, as well as a severe risk of exposure to lethal carbon monoxide.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you can not thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

Future Protection

- Consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing. Pipes can be relocated by a professional if the home is remodeled.
- Add insulation added to attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas.

For more information, please contact a licensed plumber or building professional.

For more information on disaster safety, check out: www.redcross.org/disaster/safety

or contact your local American Red Cross Chapter.

Content derived from:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Mississippi State University Extension Service
- MH2 Technologies, Ltd.
- Myplumber.com
- State Farm Insurance Company
- Vancouver, BC, Waterworks Department



Press Release

December 12, 2008

Contact: DHS Press Office, (202) 282-8010

NOW'S THE TIME: THE READY CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES AMERICANS TO RESOLVE TO BE READY IN 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With the new year approaching, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) *Ready* Campaign is reminding Americans to *Resolve to be Ready* in 2009. *Resolve to be Ready* is a nationwide effort designed to encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies in the new year.

"Individual planning is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Since establishing this department and *Ready*, we have come a long way in raising the baseline of preparedness in this country, but we still have a long way to go. As 2009 approaches, I urge all Americans to consider the importance – and real value – of being prepared for all hazards."

Being *Ready* for emergencies can be an easy new year's resolution to keep by following the *Ready* Campaign's three simple steps: 1) Get an emergency supply kit; 2) Make a family emergency plan; and 3) Be informed about the types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses.

By taking these three steps – in particular having an emergency supply kit both at home and in the car – Americans will be prepared for winter mainstays like power outages and icy roads. Each of these kits should include basic necessities such as water, food and first aid supplies to help you survive if you are without power or become stranded in your vehicle. Complete checklists for each kit are available at www.ready.gov.

This year, the *Ready* Campaign is employing new media strategies to promote emergency preparedness. By using Twitter, a social networking tool, *Ready* hopes to not only reach new audiences, but also to open the lines of communication with the public, ensuring emergency preparedness is top of mind year-round. Twitter users can stay up-to-date on the latest *Ready* activities by following their username, "ReadydotGov," on Twitter.

By making the decision to *Resolve to be Ready* in 2009 and following the simple preparedness steps in advance, Americans will minimize the impact of emergencies on themselves, their family and their businesses. By visiting www.ready.gov or calling 1-800-BE-READY, individuals can access free materials that will help them make and keep a new year's resolution that will bring their families peace of mind.

Prepare for Success



Open House

Tuesday, December 16 – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

227 Brainard Road

Enfield, Connecticut 06082

*860.253.0274 * wjaeger@crec.org or wrioux@crec.org*

Special Features:

- College preparatory, rigorous academic curriculum
- Highly structured behavioral and academic expectations
- Opportunities for mentorships, job shadowing, and internships in a wide variety of public safety fields
- Cross training in a diversity of public safety professions
- Spanish as a core requirement
- Daily physical education and training
- Free college-level courses in the upper grades

Public Safety Academy Goal:

To provide an innovative educational environment providing students many unique opportunities to develop the values, self-discipline, academic strength, and life skills necessary to achieve success in the career of their choice.

Grades Served:

The 2009-2010 School Year will serve students in grades 6 through 10. In subsequent years, we will enroll students in grades 6 through 12.

Tuition:

There is no cost to students to attend the Public Safety Academy

Dress Code:

All students are required to wear an assigned uniform

Call for a Tour and/or a Student Shadow Day

CHARACTER PRIDE COURAGE DISCIPLINE HONOR INTEGRITY