



THE DEMHS ADVISOR

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July 8 — ICS-100, Avon

July 11—Region 1
Executive Level Table Top
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July 18/19 & 25/26—
Combined ICS-100/200
(2 day) Windsor Locks

Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

This month we are highlighting the Emergency Management Operations Unit of DEMHS. Emergency Management Operations is a 24 hour a day/7 days a week responsibility. There is always someone within the DEMHS organization assigned to be on call and be available to help any municipality that needs assistance, in any emergency situation, at anytime time of the day or night.

The Emergency Management Unit is without a doubt one of the key elements of the organization, so that when an emergency unfolds, there will be a very quick and well thought out response. This is truly where "The rubber meets the road".

The personnel assigned to the Emergency Management Operations Unit are an especially dedicated group of individuals, who have an exceptional ability to work very closely with other local, private and state agencies. Everyone in the Emergency Management Operations Unit must be a team player. They have to be committed to working together with everyone in order to achieve the desired results in any emergency situation. We are very fortunate to have the staff that we do, whose years of experience continue to be a tremendous asset for all of the citizens of the State of Connecticut.

The 24 hour number for the Emergency Management Operations Unit is **860-566-3180**.

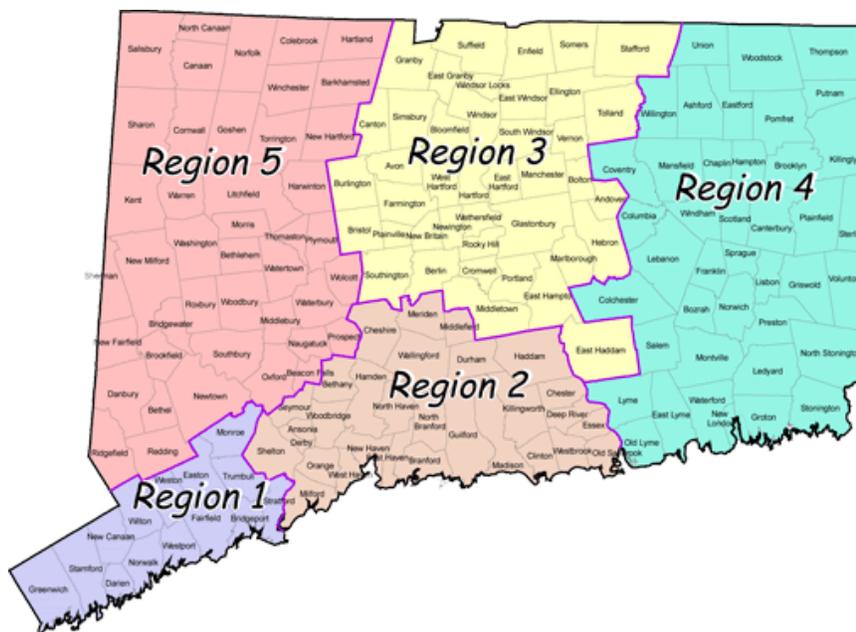
We hope that you enjoy this issue of the DEMHS Newsletter!

The Operations Division

The Operations Division is what the military would call “the sharp end of the stick”. The first line of defense for our state is a small group of people with eyes and ears open to catch information and trends that may threaten the lives and property of citizens of Connecticut. Someone is always scanning the news sites, weather radar and listening to the radio traffic to monitor the pulse of the state and the world. When the weather is closing in, Operations is watching and warning the communities of Connecticut to ensure they are prepared for the worst. When a fast breaking or unexpected event triggers problems, the experience, training, and knowledge of the staff becomes vital in formulating a response to the situation.

What does Operations do? It’s the “*Emergency Management*” part of our organization. They coordinate the response of all federal, state, and local agencies, public, private and volunteer organizations to bring all the resources necessary to bear on the crisis.

What does that mean? Well, when there is a problem, Operations people go to work and call the agencies and staff needed to handle the problem to come to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Governor would come, with staff, to the office adjacent to the EOC. The EOC is the room where all the agencies gather and use state-of-the-art computers, telephones, satellite and cable television, and radio communications systems to gather situation updates for the Governor to make informed decisions. After the Governor has been briefed with current information, agency capabilities, and recommended protective actions, the media is informed with a detailed briefing in the Media Center next door to the EOC.



CT DEMHS Regions



Connecticut does not have a county government structure. To serve over 169 cities and towns effectively, the state is divided into five regions that serve smaller portions of the population and allow faster communication with state staff.

The local emergency management directors can contact the regional staffs who then call the state headquarters with any requests or situation reports. These Regional Coordinator/Secretary teams form the backbone of the communications and warning network that covers the state 24 hours a day/7 days a week:

Region

The teams are supplemented by an Emergency Preparedness Program Specialist (EPPS) in each office to facilitate emergency and evacuation planning and become vital parts of the response effort in each region.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Coordinator</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>EPPS</i>
1	Richard Fournier	Brenda Westphal	William Tessier
2	MaryRose Duberek	Mary Reeves Brooks	Peter Carbone
3	Thomas Gavaghan	Jean Terwilliger	
4	Anthony Scalora	Darlene Richards	Pamela Daniels
5	Roy Piper	Barbara Juliano	Anthony Paquette

You can read more about the regions and their locations at the [Area section in the EMHS website](http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?a=1903&q=295316&demhsNav=|). (<http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?a=1903&q=295316&demhsNav=|>)

Weather is always a concern in this state. Every season brings its unique challenges and hazards. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), New England has some of the most unpredictable weather patterns in the country. Connecticut is served by three separate NWS offices. Their reports and observations must be scrutinized and the details gleaned for distribution to the effected towns so that they can prepare for severe conditions. DEMHS also operates a weather station as part of the WeatherNet network. This effort involves schools and businesses that collect and share information from hundreds of stations across the country to create a comprehensive, community-supported complex of data, including real-time camera images from their locations. You read more about our WeatherNet program on [the website dedicated to our station](#).

(http://web.live.weatherbug.com/Common/Page/Default.aspx?no_cookie_zip=&no_cookie_stat=&no_cookie_world_stat=&zcode=06105&)

Dana Conover heads the effort as the Operations Chief. Dana started in Emergency Management in 1987 as an Exercise Training Officer. Dana then served as the State Radiological Officer before moving into the Operations Chief slot. Dana previously started worked for the State of Connecticut in the Department of Mental Health as a Mental Health Worker.

Anthony Dembek, an Emergency Preparedness Program Specialist, started life in Emergency Management in 1994 as a Connecticut Career Trainee as the State Earthquake Program Manager in the newly formed Natural Hazards Section. Prior to coming to state service, Anthony spent 13 years in the US Air Force as a Navigator in C5-A and AC-130H airframes and a Squadron Section Commander in several "interesting" places including Florida, Mississippi, and Panama.

Walter Matthews, a Waterbury native, came to Emergency Management in 2000 as a Clerk. He brings a wealth of experience to the team from his time as a Residential Monitor for NOW Inc., Waterbury AIC. Walter also worked at two area news stations as a production assistant and sports department intern.



ITAC/ICALL Radio System Update

The ITAC/ICALL System was successfully used at the following incidents in the past month:

- 1) The system was used in the Bristol area on 5-25 for a hospital missing aircraft; also used by the Civil Air Patrol to communicate with State Police for this incident;
- 2) On 6-1 it was utilized to help in the search for a lost elderly person (also in the Bristol Area). For this incident the Rocky Hill tower was inadvertently activated instead of the Wolcott tower and the system did not work up to expectations. If the system is not working properly please contact the message center immediately to rectify the situation.
- 3) It was reported that the system was used during a high water rescue from the Quinebaug River. It was used to connect out of range fire personnel to sub commanders and also to the State Police fixed wing aircraft.
- 4) The system was also used to assist with a successful rescue off East Rock and again at a search in New Haven for a possible drowning victim.

DPS would like to advise that the rumor circulating that the control stations are no longer under contract is false. DPS has a contract for service and repairs in place and these services should not be borne by the individual towns.

The Fire Academy instructors have completed the Train the Trainer program and are working on a schedule to offer classes on the portable radios and control stations for anyone who is in need.

Regional Information Meetings Set for Federal Year 2006 Homeland Security Grant Funds

Attention Grant Points of Contact:

The Grants Unit has scheduled five meetings for POC's - one in each of the DEMHS regions - to discuss the FFY 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, July 25—10 a.m. to 12 noon

Region 3: DEMHS Training Room, Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford

Tuesday, July 25—5 to 7 p.m.

Region 5: M. Adela Eads Auditorium, UConn-Torrington Campus, 855 University Drive, Torrington

Wednesday, July 26—10 a.m. to 12 noon

Region 1: The Forum, Norwalk Community College, 188 Richards Avenue, Norwalk

Thursday, July 27—1 to 3 p.m.

Region 2: New Haven Regional Training Center, 230 Ella Grasso Boulevard, New Haven

Thursday, July 27—5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Region 4: Mashantucket Public Safety Building, 101 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket

You are welcome to attend whichever of these meetings is most convenient for you. Please register no later than Thursday, July 20, 2006. For more information please contact Ms. Deanna Chaparro at 860-256-0912 or email her at deanna.chaparro@po.state.ct.us.

Relay for Life Update



On June 24–25, the DEMHS Defenders participated in the West Hartford Relay For Life at Conard High School. Although moved indoors because of the weather, the Relay proved to be fun filled and a great success. At final count there were 550 walkers and 35 survivors who participated. The event raised \$58,133 for Cancer research. Thank you to all the DEMHS Team members for your hard work, and to everyone who contributed their time, money, equipment and hard work to make this a successful fundraising event.



Upcoming Training & Exercise

July 8	ICS-100—Avon Senior Center
July 11	Region 1 Executive Level Table Top Exercise—Norwalk
July 18	Combined ICS-100/200 (2 Day) - Fire Academy, Windsor Locks
July 25	Combined ICS-100/200 (2 Day) - Fire Academy, Windsor Locks
August 17	State & Local Anti-Terrorism Training (SLATT)—POST

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.

*Please note—these are new numbers. 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

Training Facility Contact Information: call to schedule training.

Police Officers Training Council	203-238-6505
Connecticut Fire Academy	860-627-6363
Eastern CT Fireman's Training School	860-487-1105
New Haven Regional Fire Academy	203-946-6215
Wolcott Fire School	203-879-1559
Hartford County Fire School	860-828-3242
Burrville Fire Training School	860-482-7496
Valley Fire Training School	203-736-6222
Middlesex County Fire School	860-663-1308
Fairfield Fireman's Training School	203-254-4709
Stamford Regional Training Fire School	203-977-4673

All State Agencies should contact the Training Unit at DEMHS, 860-706-5519 to arrange training for your employees.