



**Vol. 3  
Issue 3**

Inside This Issue

**March 2007**

*Interoperable  
Communications*

*STOC's Guidance*

# Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

This month the DEMHS Advisor is focusing on the topic of "Interoperability". As we all know, this is and continues to be, a very hot topic within the public safety community. We are very fortunate here in Connecticut that shortly after the tragic events of September 11, 2001 a group of dedicated individuals came together in an effort to suggest improvements in this area.

The group is now formally recognized as a full subcommittee of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council. As a matter of fact, it was the first subcommittee to be suggested as the new coordinating council came into being.

We have come a long way since then but we all know that we still have a lot of work to do. Communications is the backbone of the public safety response system. We all need reliable, timely information in order to access the situation, and then dedicated resources to respond and handle the situation.

We at DEMHS thank the many agencies and individuals that have been working on interoperability for the past several years. Incremental progress has been made and we will continue to work together to ensure that our state and municipal officials have the capability to share information whether it be by voice, internet, data or by video.

We believe that we will need to continue our long term commitment to interoperability and that together we will make significant improvements over time, taking advantage of both the latest technologies and most importantly, of the expertise and the great talents of the public safety community here in Connecticut.

Hope you enjoy the March Issue!

**WHAT'S NEW:**

**March is Red Cross  
Month**

**UPCOMING TRAINING  
and EXERCISES**

**Mar 17 & Mar 24 - 2-Day  
CERT Train the Trainer**

**Mar 27-30—HSEEP Mobile**

**Mar 13-15—1st Responder  
Training-POST**

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**May 1—DEMHS and CCM  
Homeland Security  
Conference**

## CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SAFETY STATE INTEROPERABILITY

### CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SAFETY STATE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATE-WIDE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

The primary purpose of the Connecticut Public Safety State Interoperability Executive Committee is to make recommendations to the Coordinating Council and the Commissioner of DEMHS with regard to sharing real-time voice, data and video information with authorized first responders and other critical components of the emergency management and public safety community, including, but not limited to:

- Channel system policy development and utilization;
- Interoperability policy development;
- Grant guidance;
- Review and approval of proposed local/regional radio interoperability systems.

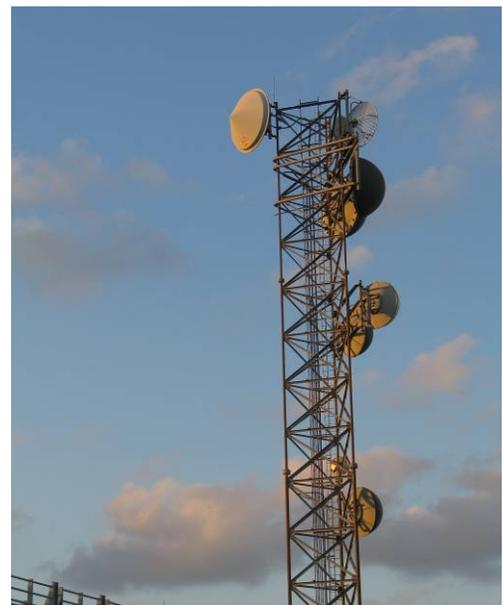
Within this report are the noteworthy accomplishments the Connecticut Public Safety State Interoperability Executive Committee during 2006.

#### GOVERNANCE

During 2006, the ad-hoc public safety statewide interoperability committee that was initially appointed in 2002 adopted formal operating bylaws, which were accepted by the full Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The Committee consists of 20 voting members appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Currently the Committee is Co-Chaired by William Hackett of Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and Michael Varney of the Department of Information Technology.



### Connecticut Public Safety State Interoperability Committee Member List

Department of Public Safety  
 Department of Transportation  
 Department of Corrections  
 Department of Public Health  
 Military Department  
 Department of Information Technology  
 Department of Environmental Protection  
 Judicial Department  
 Dept. of Emergency Management  
 & Homeland Security  
 CT Police Chief's Association  
 CT Fire Chief's Association  
 Commission on Fire Prevention  
 EMS Advisory Board  
 Office of Statewide Communications  
 CT Emergency Manager's Association  
 Region 1 Representative  
 Region 2 Representative  
 Region 3 Representative  
 Region 4 Representative  
 Region 5 Representative

Michael Stemmler  
 George Carbonell  
 Dennis Jones  
 Gordon Shand  
 Major John Warren  
 Michael Varney  
 Dr. Edward Wilds  
 Atty. Richard Terbusch  
 William Hackett

Chief Paul Jakubson  
 Tyler Millix  
 Richard Morris  
 Charlee Tufts  
 George Pohorilak  
 Michael Gardner  
 Jeff Merwin  
 John Gustafson  
 Keith Victor  
 Jeff Otto  
 Tom Vannini



#### ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Committee conducted ten meetings in 2006. All committee agendas, minutes and documents are available on the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's website at [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs).

**EDUCATION, TRAINING & EXERCISES:****Interoperability Exercise and Battery Exchange at Rentschler Field in East Hartford:**

On March 1<sup>st</sup> a joint training exercise to demonstrate state level communication capabilities and accessibility including the ICALL/ITAC System was conducted. All municipal, state and federal ICALL/ITAC users including the PSAP sites were invited to attend this informational session. Items covered during the presentation were lessons learned from CT assets deployed to Katrina, State Agency Capabilities, Equipment Demonstrations, Technical Question & Answer Session and ICALL/ITAC Radio Battery Distribution. Presenting at this event were

the 14th Civil Support Team - CT National Guard, Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Department of Public Health, Dept. of Public Safety Telecommunications and the statewide radio Interoperability Committee.

Several hundred municipal representatives attended and over 500 ICALL ITAC batteries were distributed as part of the program.

**Update of ICALL/ITAC Training program and Train the Trainer for CT Fire Academy Staff:**

A newly updated ICALL / ITAC training program was written and a Train the Trainer Program was delivered to several CT Fire Academy Instructors. These instructors were given updated information and the training program to teach throughout Connecticut. These programs along with updated battery exchanges will be published on the CT Fire Academy 2007 calendar and offered to any emergency service personnel to attend.

**Communication Unit Leader Training Program:**

As part of the readiness for the tactical Interoperable Communications Exercise conducted in Region 1 a Communication Unit Leader Program was designed to provide skills and knowledge needed to perform in the role of Communications Unit Leader (COML). Topics within this program included: gathering information, organizing the communications unit, designing communications systems, installing, maintaining, and assigning equipment, internal and external coordination, and demobilization. This program developed and delivered by Interoperability Committee members and DEMHS staff was the first such program for a multi-disciplined group within the United States. It is intended to replicate this program in additional areas of the State as well as offer it to the NIMS Integration Center for use as a national model. This program was delivered in Fairfield to twenty identified individuals over the five-day program.

**OPERATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY ENHANCEMENTS:****Connecticut, State Tactical On-Scene Channel System (STOCS):**

The purpose of the STOCS System is to provide an Interoperable Radio System for on scene tactical use. It is intended to allow individuals and groups of responders to communicate when working at the scene of an incident, using their existing portable radio equipment. The STOCS System consists of three (3) VHF frequencies, three (3) UHF frequencies and five (5) 800Mhz frequencies combined into five (5) interoperability channel groups. Final guidance documents for use by agencies, organizations and municipalities were completed. Many municipalities and response organizations have placed these interoperability channels into their exiting communication systems for use, with several operational successes during this past year. At these events this system provided interoperable communications at the emergency scene where such capability had previous not existed. During the year an RFI for the cross-band, multi-band repeaters was advertised and several vendors were asked to participate in field-testing. After these successful tests were conducted to validate the Interoperability Committee's work a bid was advertised. Currently a vendor's equipment is currently being evaluated for acceptance after which approximately 100 of these units will be deployed for immediate use throughout Connecticut.



### Connecticut State-wide Police Emergency Radio Network (C-SPERN):

This year Interoperability Committee members worked with DEMHS and DPS to design and propose a one-channel analog simulcast system for statewide mobile radio communications for law enforcement agencies. The primary design of this system is to use one channel of the Department of Public Safety's 800 MHz radio system at 39 sites throughout Connecticut. The scope of this project is to enable simulcast capability, add ancillary equipment and integrate this system into DPS's microwave network. This mission critical statewide public safety communication network will provide a true interoperate communication network throughout the entire state. This network will improve public safety mutual aid communications, response, and coordination and enhance officer safety. This project is being funded through a partnership between DEMHS, DPS and Grant monies received by the Connecticut Association of Police Chiefs.



ITAC / ICALL Coverage Study: During the year, two propagation coverage studies were done regarding the statewide ICALL/ITAC system. This study included the coverage of the existing and newly proposed Department of Public Safety fixed tower sites. It demonstrated in poor weather conditions their capability for broadcasting out, and receiving transmissions from both portable and mobile radios throughout the entire state of Connecticut. This data is being used for educational and planning purposes.



### DEMHS High Band System:

The Interoperability Committee assisted the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) to develop guidance for municipal adoption and use of a very high frequency (VHF) radio telecommunications system.

This system is utilized to communicate with each of the municipalities within Connecticut. The high band radio system contains five (5) radio frequencies, each designated to one of five DEMHS Regions within the state. Each municipality is required by DEMHS to operate one base station on the assigned regional frequency for communications between that municipality and the DEMHS Regional office during emergency situations, when this type of telecommunications becomes necessary. In certain operations, interoperability is required for handling major emergency situations for adjacent municipalities. This radio system may be used as the vehicle for achieving that necessary non-routine interoperability. In addition to the Base Transmitter each the Emergency Management Director (EMD) of each municipality will be allowed to operate mobile and portable radios on these frequencies.



## GRANT REVIEW AND CONSULTATION:

### DOIT master contract awards:

In 2006 to better serve the agencies and organizations covered under the DHS grant programs administered by DEMHS a master radio catalog contract was created. This catalog available on the DOIT website includes 14 Connecticut vendors which are now on contract with the State of Connecticut to offer radio communication equipment, such as mobile, portable and control station radios and accessories. This project worked on by Interoperability Committee members and DEMHS staff allows for the expeditious procurement and pricing of communications equipment available through the grant programs.

### Grant Review and Guidance:

During 2006 a team of committee members followed a process that all funding which was allocated for use on communications interoperability was reviewed. Each of these reviews were conducted to ensure interoperability and the following of any guidelines and recommendations were built into the equipment requests. Municipalities and organizations which grants were reviewed included; Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Easton, Glastonbury, Deep River, Trumbull, Salem, Branford, Goshen, Northwestern Hills (20 towns), Colchester, Capital Region COG, Easton, Newtown, Monroe, Cheshire, Seymour, WCSU, Naugatuck, CT DMV, Civil Air patrol, Wallingford, CCSU, Newington, Haddam, Mansfield, Lebanon, New Haven, Meriden, Stafford, USAR, East Haddam, Montville, Sherman, Stratford, Woodstock, Southbury, Capital Region Medical Reserve Corps., Darien, Durham, Greenwich, Oxford, Plainfield, Shelton, Sharon, Old Saybrook, Eastford, UCONN Health Center, Ansonia, Killingly, Pomfret and North Stonington.

In addition guidance and reviews were conducted for FireAct and CEDAP grant programs.





### TACTICAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (TICP):

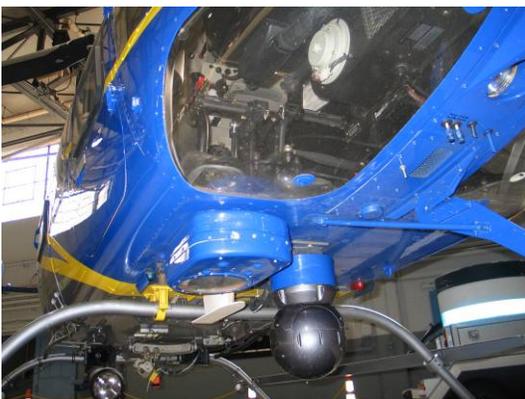
#### Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan:

The State Interoperable Communications Committee along with DEMHS staff developed a fourteen-town Area 1 Regional Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan in conjunction with Federal Department of Homeland Security. This is the first of five plans that will be developed for the five DEMHS Areas/Regions and was tested in an exercise conducted in December this year. As part of this process Emergency Managers, First Responder Managers and Communications Professionals held over twenty workshops, training sessions and exercises to create the plan and ready the region for the validation exercise. This plan that was submitted and approved by DHS included sections dealing with governance, operations, communications equipment inventories, training and technical expertise.



#### Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) Tool:

This Year as part of the TICP process a Communications Assets Survey and Mapping Tool was implemented and used for the DEMHS Region 1 area. Training sessions, and technical assistance and set-up were provided to over sixty agencies within the region for their use. This tool consists of two components provided by a Department of Homeland Security's Interoperability Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP). These components are a Communication Assets Survey (data collection) tool and a Communication Assets Mapping (interoperability analysis) tool. Their uses are to allow agency representatives to enter their own radio communication assets information using the survey forms. Allow State, Regional and Agency representatives to perform interoperability & compatibility analysis. This system also provides information regarding radio systems in use by other agencies, radio system infrastructure and available interoperable resources information. This information allows for the collection and planning for common methods for communication (e.g., Shared Systems, Shared Channels, Gateways, etc.)



**Connecticut, State Tactical On-Scene Channel System (STOCS):**

The purpose of the STOCS System is to provide an Interoperable Radio System for on scene tactical use. It is intended to allow individuals and groups of responders to communicate when working at the scene of an incident, using their existing portable radio equipment. The STOCS System consists of three (3) VHF frequencies, three (3) UHF frequencies and five (5) 800Mhz frequencies combined into five (5) interoperability channel groups. During the past two years, final guidance documents for use by agencies, organizations and municipalities were completed. Many municipalities and response organizations have placed these interoperability channels into their exiting communication systems for use, with several operational successes during this past year. At these events this system provided interoperable communications at the emergency scene where such capability had previous not existed. Municipalities and agencies are encouraged to program their existing radio communications equipment with these available frequencies following the guidance developed.

Currently several of the cross-band, multi-band repeaters are undergoing field-testing. After these successful tests are conducted to validate the Interoperability Committee’s requirements a contact award will be made, after which approximately 100 of these units will be deployed for immediate use throughout Connecticut.

The STOCS System consists of three (3) VHF frequencies, three (3) UHF frequencies and five (5) 800Mhz frequencies combined into five (5) interoperability channel groups as follows:

CHANNEL ID	VHF	UHF	800 MHz	Operational Area By County
STOCS-1	154.4525 MHz	458.4625 MHz	855.9875 MHz	All Counties.
STOCS-2	158.7375 MHz	458.7125 MHz	855.7125 MHz	ALL Counties except Fairfield.
STOCS-3	159.4725 MHz	458.8625 MHz	858.4625 MHz	ALL counties except Fairfield and New London.
STOCS-4	158.7375 MHz	458.7125 MHz	860.2375 MHz	ONLY in FAIRFIELD COUNTY.
STOCS-5	159.4725 MHz	458.8625 MHz	856.2625 MHz	ONLY in FAIRFIELD and NEW LONDON counties.

To insure consistency through out the State, the standard Channel Identification STOCS 1 - 5 is the only authorized identification for these channels.

The FCC License for all frequencies is held by the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for Tactical Radio Interoperability by Local, Fire, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Service, Health Departments, Public Works Departments and Emergency Management as well as appropriate State and Federal Agencies.

These frequencies may be used only in Mobile/Portable Radios with a maximum output power of 5-watts.

The CTCSS (Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System) Tone of 156.7 (5A) will be used in conjunction with these frequencies. Use of these frequencies with any other CTCSS Tone is prohibited.

Questions regarding the use or implementation of STOC’s should be directed to the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

To see entire guidance go to: <http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?a=1923&q=287896>

## Upcoming Training & Exercise

Mar 17-18	G110—Emergency management Operations—Middletown
Mar 17 & Mar 24	2 Day CERT Train the Trainer—Brainard, Hartford
Mar 13-15	First responder training program—POSTC
Mar 20 - Mar 29	Various dates—Critical Incident Training for Emergency Response Dispatchers—POSTC
Mar 27-30	HSEEP (Exercise & Evaluation Program), Brainard, Hartford
Mar28	Anti-Terrorism Training for Patrol & Investigation—POSTC
Mar 29-30	G110—Emergency management Operations— Brainard, Hartford

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>

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, 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.**

**ODP funded training is still available to Connecticut’s Emergency Responders!**

ODP funds a number of programs for Police, Fire, Health and Emergency Management officials. The programs include G&T’s Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT), Louisiana State University (LSU), Texas A&M University (TEEX), and the Department of Energy’s Nevada Test Site (NTS).

An example below is one of the courses that can be attended in Texas. All expenses of the course are provided by TEEX through a homeland security grant. The only local cost is your time. The local expense of backfilling a person while away at training is an allowable expense up to \$200 per day not exceeding 20% of the homeland security grant award to that community.

Texas Engineering Extension Service

<b>MGT314 – Enhanced Incident Management Unified Command Course</b>
<p><b>Description</b>                  The Enhanced IM/UC course focuses on incident management skills, staff responsibilities and the related situational awareness and decision-making skills using a computer-driven training simulation to offer a challenging decision-making environment in a WMD scenario. The course focuses on the Incident Command Post (ICP) and the key decision-making requirements within that response node. Participants learn from the cause and effects of incident decisions while working in an ICP using a simulated, notional jurisdiction. The course begins with a short overview of WMD emergency response considerations and methodologies of the Incident Command System (ICS) in a unified command structure followed by several rigorous computer-driven emergency response chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) scenarios. The course is delivered (resident) in the world-class NERRTC EOTC in College Station, Texas</p>

**Check on this and other training opportunities at:** [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/training\\_ndpc.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/training_ndpc.htm)

**Don’t want to travel?**

Then here is a course you can request to have delivered in your community or within a region with your mutual aid partners:

<b>MGT312 – Senior Officials Workshop (SOW) for All Hazards Preparedness</b>
<p><b>Hours</b>      6.00 Hours</p>
<p><b>Description</b>                  The Senior Officials Workshop is for local-jurisdiction elected and appointed senior officials. Its purpose is to provide a forum to discuss strategic- and executive-level issues related to disaster preparedness, share proven strategies and best practices, and enhance coordination among officials responsible for emergency response to a disaster.</p> <p>Participants receive an Executive Handbook outlining the Emergency Management framework (protection, preparedness, response, and recovery phases) as well as other key senior-level issues and discussions topics. The handbook contains essential "desktop" resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Quick Reference Guide to the National Response Plan (NRP)</li> <li>● The Terrorism Incident Annex to the NRP</li> <li>● An overview of the current DHS State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy (SHSAS) process for obtaining equipment, training, exercises, and technical assistance as well as other Federal WMD preparedness assistance programs</li> <li>● Descriptions of appropriate Federal-level training courses available to community emergency responders and mayor's incident management team</li> <li>● A synopsis of Federal operational response capabilities</li> <li>● The American Bar Association (ABA) Checklist for State and Local Attorneys</li> </ul> <p>This workshop is typically delivered at a time and place determined by the requesting jurisdiction. Each workshop, including site and curriculum delivery costs, is fully funded by a training grant provided by DHS, Office of Grants and Training (G&amp;T).</p>

**To apply an application must be completed, approved by the local authority, endorsed by the state Training Officer (fax 860-256-0815) then faxed to the program.**



**UNIFIED REGIONS = PREPARED COMMUNITIES**

**TOGETHER WITH REGIONS!**

The 2007 Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium is devoted to strengthening regional collaboration among all local, regional, and state officials.



CONNECTICUT  
CONFERENCE OF  
MUNICIPALITIES



Connecticut Department of  
Emergency Management  
& Homeland Security

Attend this informative day-long event that features a special keynote speaker, new regional workshop format, box lunch, and 50 vendors specializing in emergency management.

**Attendance is limited to 400 registrants,** so register NOW for the premier event on emergency management in Connecticut.

**Advance registration is mandatory.** You will receive a confirmation and other pertinent information prior to May 1.

If you have questions, please contact Beth Sullivan of CCM at [esullivan@ccm-ct.org](mailto:esullivan@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 498-3782.

**5 WAYS TO REGISTER**

- /// **On-line:** [www.ccm-ct.org](http://www.ccm-ct.org)
- /// **E-mail:** [esullivan@ccm-ct.org](mailto:esullivan@ccm-ct.org)
- /// **Phone:** CCM Training Hotline  
203-498-3018
- /// **Fax:** (203) 497-2480  
Attn: Beth Sullivan
- /// **Mail:** CCM — 2007 Emergency  
Management Symposium,  
900 Chapel St., 9th Floor  
New Haven, CT 06510-2807

**REGISTRATION FORM — SIGN UP NOW!**

/// Registration is FREE and REQUIRED for all attendees.

**YES!** I want to register now for the 2007 Emergency Management Symposium and Exhibition on May 1, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Cromwell, Connecticut.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Attendees from your City/Town/Organization:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Attendees from your City/Town/Organization

Each of the 5 DEMHS regions will host comprehensive workshops throughout the day for their respective local and regional officials. You will no longer be forced to choose between one workshop or another. Instead, critical emergency management issues and expert speakers now will come to you!

Following the keynote session, symposium attendees will assemble according to their DEMHS region. This new format is an invaluable opportunity for you to network and interact with officials from all levels of government and all job disciplines within your region.

/// Sample workshop topics include • Debris Management • School Safety • Distribution Point Planning • Public & Private-Sector Partnering.