



## Vol. 3 Issue 11

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### WHAT'S NEW:

**National Influenza  
Vaccination Week  
Nov. 26 - Dec. 2, 2007**

### UPCOMING TRAINING and EXERCISES

**Region 1 Pandemic  
Workshop**

**IS 700 NIMS**

**Annual Citizen Corps  
Conference**

## Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

Our staff at DEMHS has long recognized the outstanding public safety teams that exist in all of the 169 communities and two tribal nations in Connecticut. We realize that everyday, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of emergencies that occur in the communities that are routinely handled by the thousands of professionals in the field.

There will be times when, despite our best efforts, assistance is requested by the various municipalities to deal with an unusual event. We are fortunate in Connecticut, where the concept of mutual aid has been so strong for decades, that we know we can count on assistance from our neighboring communities, as well as state and federal resources if necessary.

DEMHS has been stressing the need to think as a region in our collective efforts of dealing with emergencies and disasters. We believe, and I think that experience has shown, that working together both in preplanning and the execution of emergency plans at a regional level has been extremely beneficial to everyone involved. So this month we are putting a strong focus on the topic of "Regional Collaboration." We believe it is the most effective cost efficient way of helping each other in those times that we, as public safety officials, might need assistance and resources from outside of our own jurisdiction.

In addition, we are highlighting the flooding that occurred in the communities of Darien, New Canaan, and Stamford on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Serious damage occurred in these communities, and through the quick response of FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA), assistance was made available quickly to both the individual homeowners and businesses through the SBA. Information concerning the location and times of the SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers is in this issue. We at DEMHS want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the local emergency teams in these communities, as well as our Region 1 office, in dealing with this disaster. Again, FEMA and SBA came to Connecticut immediately when requested and we thank them for their very quick and professional response.

We at DEMHS hope that everyone is able to enjoy this coming "Thanksgiving Season" and that you enjoy this month's newsletter.

## REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Neighbor helping neighbor is an enduring New England tradition. Here in Connecticut, many communities demonstrate that long-standing custom with formalized Mutual Aid Compacts (MACs) shared among neighboring municipalities. As long as there are sufficient resources - i.e., personnel, equipment and supplies - to deal with the emergency, MACs work well, whether they're written or simply an informal, jointly understood agreement. But what happens during an event lasting for many days or even weeks?

A Category 3 hurricane may be of relatively short duration, but its effects can last for months: sustained flooding of homes and streets, sewage back-ups, loss of water and power for weeks, homelessness, lack of food, looting, growth of infectious diseases, etc. As infrastructures fail, unexpected fires, release of hazardous materials, bursting of dams and other unanticipated catastrophes may occur. And in today's geo-political environment, mass destruction events are an increasing threat.



The resources of any one town, or cluster of towns, will be quickly depleted. Requests for assistance must extend beyond familiar borders to more remote locations, and at this point, the response becomes regional. Regional Collaboration that assures effective response, preparedness, recovery, as well as ready access to region-wide resources is vital to Connecticut. It is also a national priority.

The National Response Framework guides states in developing policies, procedures, and programs that will prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from man-made or natural disasters. One of its seven major priorities is the expansion of regional collaboration, which is echoed in Connecticut's State Homeland Security Strategy.

### REGIONAL STRATEGIES IN CONNECTICUT

Connecticut has been pursuing this regional collaboration goal since 2005. At that time, DEMHS, with the support of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council (EMHSCC) launched the Regional Planning Model to enhance regional collaboration by capitalizing on the five recently established DEMHS Regional Planning and Preparedness Regions. The Model articulates the process of developing regional emergency operations plans in collaboration with municipal chief executive officers, local first responders, and emergency management communities. The Model anticipates the establishment of Regional Emergency Planning Teams (REPTs) structured to correspond to the National Response Framework emergency support functions. In 2006, additional DEMHS staff was hired to serve in the regions to facilitate this work.

The Regional Emergency Support Implementation Plan (2007) was developed by DEMHS staff to further enhance the Regional Planning Model. The Implementation Plan was reviewed and revised by the Regional Collaboration Subcommittee of the EMHSCC in January 2007. The Plan clarifies the vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures of the regionalization initiative and highlights the important role of chief executive officers in achieving the overarching goal of creating an efficient and coordinated emergency management and homeland security system.

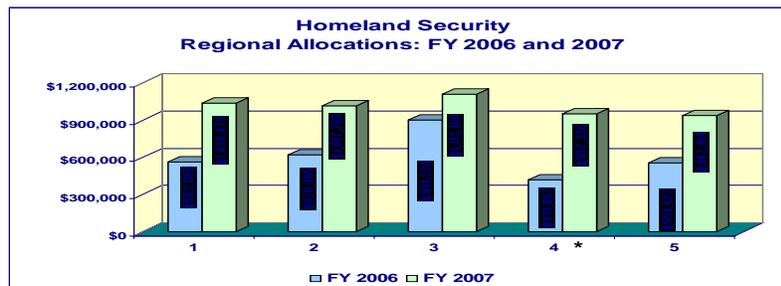
The Implementation Plan acknowledges and reinforces that “bottom up” collaborative regional planning is inherently stronger than “top down” state-centric planning because response capabilities are predominantly municipal assets available through mutual aid.

## REGIONAL FUNDING APPROACH

To promote this bottom-up planning approach, DEMHS created opportunities for municipalities to pool grant resources to support regional programming. This regional funding approach began with the Fiscal Year 2004 and 2005 funds. Fiscal Year 2006 funds further emphasized regional collaboration by establishing incentive funding for those towns that pooled their grant resources to pursue regional projects.

Fiscal Year 2007 funding distributes all funds previously reserved for municipal allocations to the five (5) DEMHS Regions, including a portion based on relative risk and vulnerability.

This bold approach was endorsed by DEMHS, the EMHSCC, and the Regional Collaboration Subcommittee of the EMHSCC. This chart compares FY06 and FY07 grant allocations, demonstrating that financial support improves across all regions with the FY 07 regional funding approach.



\* Region 4 also receives \$462,800 annually from the Nuclear Safety Grant Program for the 12 towns within the Emergency Planning Zone surrounding the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant.

## REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Simultaneous with the development of the FY 07 regional funding approach, DEMHS began the process of formalizing the REPTs through the creation of bylaws. The REPTs are multi-disciplinary regional groups that are intended to facilitate regional planning and resource coordination.

Initially, the REPT was the formal representative body and, in some regions, it still is. In other regions, a Steering Committee has been established to help guide the work of the RPOs while reserving the critical CEO involvement to those few instances when their presence is truly needed (e.g., voting on funding proposals).

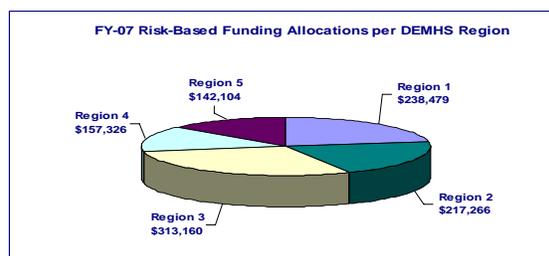
Establishment of bylaws in each region assures that the planning process is a local cooperative effort, with the state providing a certain element of standardized governance tools (e.g., bylaws).

## REGIONAL FUNDING FORMULA, RISK ASSESSMENT COMPONENT

As a central part of the FY 2007 State Homeland Security Grant Program, DEMHS has allocated a base level of \$800,000 of available funds to each of Connecticut's five Emergency Planning and Preparedness Regions. Additional funds have also been provided to those regions in accordance with an assessment of its critical infrastructure and key assets, determining which is the most vulnerable to terrorism or natural disaster and which is at the greatest risk of destruction.

Approximately 3,000 sites were assessed and ranked according to the likelihood of the site becoming a target of an individual or group. The sum of the target rankings within each municipality represents the town's risk assessment. Similarly, the assessment for each region was calculated by adding the scores of its constituent towns.

The risk assessment funding formula has resulted in the following regional allocations of the total Critical Infrastructure Grant of \$1,068,335 as reflected in this chart. Over the past eight months, DEMHS staff met with local representatives to explain, clarify and in all ways encourage regionalization as the most efficient, expedient and cost-effective measure for emergency response and recovery in Connecticut.



On November 2, 2007, DEMHS issued FY2007 Homeland Security grant awards for Regional Collaboration to Coordinating Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs) in three of the DEMHS Regions. Over the grant period, they will work with DEMHS staff and the Regional Emergency Planning Teams (REPTs) to develop and enhance viable regional emergency preparedness and response throughout Connecticut.

In conformance with grant requirements, each participating Coordinating RPO will work with the DEMHS Regional Office staff, their Partner RPOs and the REPT to enhance communication with CEOs, conduct resource typing (inventory), develop a regional spending plan based on a needs analysis of each emergency support function (ESF) for their region, execute the approved spending plan, and develop the Regional Emergency Operations Plan (REOP).

The Regional Planning Organizations play a pivotal role in representing the interests of their constituent municipalities. Through their efforts, common interests of member towns and cities are represented at the multi-jurisdictional level, as well as to state funding agencies for supporting programs and services. In the context of emergency preparedness and response activities, the RPOs provide a vital link to municipal chief executive officers. This important linkage creates direct access to municipal decision-making and assists CEOs in fulfilling statutory responsibilities for emergency preparedness.

Neighbor helping neighbor is strengthened through regional collaboration. We will be ready.

DEMHS is the process of moving many of our people into the main office at Sigourney Street now that we have been given additional space. As a result, some phone numbers have changed. We will attempt to keep you advised of these changes as they occur.

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Unit (REP) new phone numbers are as follows:

Deborah Ferrari	860-256-0873
Cynthia Tangney	860-256-0874
Peter Sandgren	860-256-0875
MaryRose Duberek	860-256-0879

Please note these new numbers. Thank you.

### **WELCOME! - Emergency Preparedness Program Specialist - Thomas A. Vannini**

Please join us in welcoming Tom Vannini to our Strategic Planning and Grants Management Unit. Tom will be working on the administration of the School Security Grant under the direction of Libby Graham. Tom served as a member of the Torrington Police Department for 27 years serving in various assignments including School Resource Officer, Community Relations Officer, and Computer Systems Officer. Since leaving the Torrington P.D., Tom has served as Emergency Management Director for the City of Torrington and as a consultant to the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments. Tom holds an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Northwestern Community College. Below please find his contact information:

#### Contact Information

Thomas Vannini  
25 Sigourney Street – 6<sup>th</sup> FL  
Hartford, CT 06106-5042  
Phone: 860-256-0825  
E-Mail: [thomas.vannini@po.state.ct.us](mailto:thomas.vannini@po.state.ct.us)

### **CONGRATULATIONS! – Emergency Preparedness Program Specialist – Mary Rose Duberek**

Please join us in congratulating MaryRose Duberek on her recent transfer to the Emergency Preparedness Program Specialist position within the Radiological Planning and Preparedness Unit. MaryRose will be reporting to Deborah Ferrari and helping with the coordination of events taking place with Millstone. She will certainly be missed as the Region 2 Coordinator, but her knowledge and background within the radiological field is an asset to the REP Unit. Below please find her contact information:

#### Contact Information

MaryRose Duberek  
25 Sigourney Street – 6<sup>th</sup> FL  
Hartford, CT 06106-5042  
Phone: 860-256-0879  
E-Mail: [maryrose.duberek@po.state.ct.us](mailto:maryrose.duberek@po.state.ct.us)

**VSEMA AND CHC'S EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP  
"EQUINE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS"**

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DAVID W. ROBERGE  
TRAINING COORDINATOR, VSEMA

On Saturday, July 14, 2007, an educational workshop was presented to share emergency awareness and preparedness information to the Connecticut horse owner community and local emergency responders. Hosted at the Lyme Old Lyme Middle School auditorium and High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center, the program was developed and delivered in conjunction by the Valley Shore Emergency Management Association (VSEMA) and the Connecticut Horse Council (CHC).

Over 75 attendees participated in the daylong program, representing horse and large animal barn owners and 27 various state and local emergency response agencies. In addition, representatives from the Travelers Insurance Co, the Massachusetts State Animal Response Team (MassSART) and the Central Massachusetts Disaster Animal Response Team (CMDART) also attended the program.

The program, a combination of lecture and hands-on exercises included personal and animal emergency awareness and preparedness information along with working demonstrations and exercises relating to animal behavior and horse handling techniques during emergencies. Upon completion, each participant received a digital library on CD including electronic copies of various emergency planning and mitigation reference information.

The program lecture, included risk and threat assessments, personal and large animal preparedness, sample horse evacuation and shelter planning, mitigation techniques for barns and horse owners, emergency response to barn related incidents, horse behavior signs and basic horse handling techniques, planning and responding to barn fires, planning and responding to horse related transportation incidents.





**ATTENDING AGENCIES REPRESENTED**

Ashford Fire Department  
 Old Lyme Emergency Management  
 Westbrook Emergency Management  
 Essex Emergency Management  
 Chester Emergency Management  
 East Haddam Emergency Management  
 Haddam Neck Fire Department  
 Town of Fairfield Animal Control  
 Town of Trumbull Animal Control  
 Killingworth Emergency Management  
 High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center

Connecticut Horse Council  
 CT DEMHS-Region 2 and 3  
 Old Lyme Fire Department  
 Old Lyme Ambulance  
 Colchester Fire Department  
 Town of Columbia  
 Glastonbury Police Department  
 Gardner Lake Fire Department  
 East Haddam Police  
 Lyme Ambulance Association

Milford Fire Department  
 Colchester EMS  
 Lyme Fire Department  
 Town of Chaplin  
 Massachusetts SART  
 North Madison Fire Department  
 Travelers Insurance  
 CMDART  
 American Red Cross  
 Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Center

## SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers

### Fairfield County

**Darien Town Hall**  
2 Renshaw Road  
Darien, CT 06820

Opens: Tuesday, October 30, 2007;  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Hours: Monday-Friday; 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Saturday; November 3, 2007  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
(one Saturday only)  
Closes: **Thursday, November 8, 2007 cob**



**New Canaan Town Hall**  
77 Main Street  
New Canaan, CT 06840

Opens: Tuesday, October 30, 2007;  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Hours: Monday-Friday; 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Saturday; November 3, 2007;  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
(one Saturday only)  
Closes: **Thursday, November 8, 2007 cob**



**Stamford Government Center**  
888 Washington Blvd  
Stamford, CT 06901

Opens: Tuesday, October 30, 2007;  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Hours: Monday-Friday; 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Saturday; November 3, 2007;  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
(one Saturday only)  
Closes: **Thursday, November 8, 2007 cob**





## Severe Flooding Occurred October 11, 2007

### Fairfield County



A tutorial can be found on the SBA website:

<http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/index.html>

It provides education on the disaster program and the types of disaster declarations.



Notice the mud caking  
the wine bottles,  
indicating water height.

### Upcoming Training & Exercise

- Nov 6            Region 1 Pandemic Workshop
- Nov 7            ICS 400 (2 day course) - East Hartford
- Nov 15          ICS 300 (3 day course) - Ellington
- Nov 19          ICS 300 (3 day course) - Bridgeport
- Nov 19          IS 700 NIMS—Enfield
- Nov 20          Annual Citizen Corps Conference—Uncasville  
Ct Winter Storm Exercise—Hartford
- Nov 21          ICS 300 (3 day course) - Middletown
- Nov 27          Critical Incident Management, Command Post Operations—POSTC

For training & exercise questions contact Dave Brown, Bob Christ, Bob Scata, or Sharon Mazzochi at 860-256-0840. fax: 860-706-5539. You may register for these courses at: [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs)

Training is critical for first responders and is readily available through the State Fire Academy, Regional Fire Schools, and the Police Officers Training Academy. First responders include Police, Fire, Public Works, and 911 dispatchers to name but a few.

All of the following organizations have the ability to deliver **NIMS training** to your police officers, fire-fighters, public works employees, 911 dispatchers, health workers, education staff and emergency management personnel. Training can be delivered weekdays, weekends or evenings to meet your needs. The NIMS program can be delivered in four, eight or twelve hour modules depending on the duties assigned to personnel.

You should also know that these programs are available on line at FEMA's web site:  
[http://www.fema.gov/tab\\_education.shtm](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.**