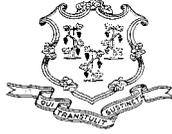


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
410 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

MILITARY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
360 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-3780

April 26, 2004

TO: Regional Planning Organization Executive Directors
Regional Preparedness Planning Workgroups
Local Emergency Management Directors
Local Health District and Department Directors
Hospital Chief Executive Officers and Emergency Coordinators

RE: Regional Emergency Response Planning

As stated in our August correspondence, the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) have been working with the Federal Government and the Governor's Office to assure Connecticut's preparedness for all emergencies, including terrorist threats.

DPH and OEM have partnered with your respective organizations and associations during the past year to develop the required local and institutional preparedness plans. As we move forward to address terrorism and other public health emergencies on a regional level, we are partnering with public safety representatives to prepare coordinated and integrated response plans. An integrated process takes advantage of the emergency response system that is already in place, minimizes the proliferation of emergency protocols for different types of emergency incidents, and provides a common planning design and language that spans the type of incident and multiple layers of governmental jurisdiction.

Enclosed are materials to build the collaborative process that we hope you find useful. The materials include a list of regional preparedness partners and their contact information, preparedness planning guidance designed to serve as a point of discussion for regional workgroup meetings, and a description of the Capitol Region Emergency Preparedness Committee process that can serve as a regional planning model.

We recommend that your first priority be to develop partnerships with your regional responders through existing preparedness workgroups, if established, or to create new workgroups where none exist. The second priority is to prepare an inventory of response assets and limitations currently assessed in your region. This will allow regional partners to determine how best to share necessary resources to ensure an effective and efficient response to any emergency.

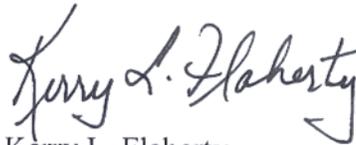
Federal funds are being used to provide local, institutional, and regional planning workgroups with emergency planning models and technical support to develop appropriate preparedness and response plans. In addition, staff facilitators will be made available to assist with the development of coordinated response strategies utilizing the enclosed guidance. This will ensure consistency across the planning regions and compliance with State and Federal guidance.

We appreciate all that you have contributed to Connecticut's preparedness for public health and other emergencies, and look forward to your active participation in continuing the regional planning process. Only through a cooperative and collaborative effort on all of our parts will the State be able to meet the desired goals: the health and safety of the citizens of Connecticut.

Sincerely,



J. Robert Galvin, MD, MPH
Commissioner



Kerry L. Flaherty
State Director