

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND
SECURITY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO GOVERNOR M. JODI RELL
AND THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

January 1, 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public Act 04-219, *An Act Enhancing the Protection and Security of the Citizens of Connecticut by Establishing the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security*, now codified in Title 28 of the Connecticut General Statutes, created a new state agency -- the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security ("DEMHS"), which has been in existence now for three years. The mission of the Department is to "direct and coordinate all available resources to protect the life and property of the citizens of Connecticut in the event of a disaster or crisis, through a collaborative program of prevention, planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and public education."

The agency's now 27-member advisory council, the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council ("Council"), has a broad membership that includes all stakeholders—federal, state, local and regional—and advises DEMHS on a wide range of issues.

Specifically, under Conn. Gen. Stat. section 28-1b, the Council is charged with advising DEMHS on:

- 1) applying for and distributing federal or state funds for emergency management and homeland security;
- 2) planning, designing, implementing, and coordinating statewide emergency response systems;
- 3) assessing the state's overall emergency management and homeland security preparedness, policies and communications;
- 4) recommending strategies for improving emergency response and incident management, including training and exercise, volunteer management, communications and use of technology, intelligence gathering, compilation and dissemination, the development, coordination and implementation of state and federally required emergency response plans, and the assessment of the state's use of regional management structures; and
- 5) strengthening consultation, planning, cooperation and communication among federal, state and local governments, the Connecticut National Guard, police, fire, emergency medical and other first responders, emergency managers, public health officials, private industry, and community organizations.

In September of 2005, the Council reviewed and approved the State Homeland Security Strategy, required by the federal Department of Homeland Security in order to secure funding for the state. The purpose of the strategy is to identify and mitigate Connecticut's risks and shortfalls as they pertain to the prevention of, protection against, response to, and recovery from a major, potentially catastrophic natural or human-made incident. The Strategy was updated in

2007, with modifications which included the refining of timelines, acknowledging the completion of some objectives, and introducing new objectives. The ten fundamental goals remain the same. The Council approved the revised Strategy on September 13, 2007. Together with the statutory mandates, these goals continue to serve as the foundation for DEMHS' work as a state agency and the work of the Coordinating Council. They are as follows:

1. Improve the abilities of emergency responders to identify and respond to an all hazards incident, man-made or natural.
2. Develop a comprehensive CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives) incident response and contingency plan.
3. Improve critical incident management and response through the implementation and use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS.)
4. Maximize utilization of all available funding through coordinated leveraging, pooling, and disbursement of budgetary resources.
5. Enhance the existing statewide communications systems.
6. Enhance public safety through hardening of critical infrastructure sectors.
7. Develop a self-sustaining training program for all hazard preparedness.
8. Enhance capabilities to conduct proactive interdictions and investigations to prevent and mitigate terrorism incidents.
9. Develop a comprehensive all hazard recovery plan.
10. Engage the general public, educational systems and private sector in all hazard prevention, planning, response and recovery.

This report is intended to highlight the Coordinating Council's accomplishments during 2007. For a complete description of DEMHS accomplishments in 2007, see *"DEMHS Report to the Public Safety Committee of the General Assembly"*, filed in compliance with Conn. Gen. Stat. section 28-1i and dated January 1, 2008.

COORDINATING COUNCIL COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007

Over the last three years, the Coordinating Council has found that the most effective way to conduct business is through the establishment of small working committees that are comprised of subject matter experts who can tackle specific issue or problem areas and bring recommendations and work products back to the full Council for review and/or approval.

Currently the Coordinating Council Committees include:

1. Aviation Safety
2. Child Safety & Crisis Response
3. Citizens Corps Advisory Council/CERT
4. Credentialing
5. Incident Management Teams
6. Interoperable Communications
7. Medical Reserve Corps
8. NIMS Implementation and Training
9. Regional Collaboration

What follows is a description of the work of each of the above referenced committees, including their accomplishments to date and expectations for 2008.

AVIATION SAFETY

The Aviation Safety Committee met four times in the past year. As is the case for all Coordinating Council working Committees, the minutes of all meetings are posted on the DEMHS web site. The Committee continued to promote use of the Security Self Assessment tool to the 400 plus airports in the state. To further promote its use, the Committee assembled an intergovernmental team including representatives from the Connecticut (CT) State Police, the Transportation Security Administration and the State Department of Transportation to begin visiting airports across the state. While this has been a slow process, site visits have occurred in over ten airports (including Danbury and Oxford) and safety and security measures were reviewed with the airport managers. These site visits will continue into 2008.

CHILD SAFETY & CRISIS RESPONSE

This year, the Committee focused on promoting school safety planning and preparedness. This was accomplished by hosting two state seminars, and speaking to numerous Board of Education associations and regional education councils. The committee also promoted the Federal Board of Education grant program to school districts.

In June a special sub-committee was created to review safety preparedness for child care and pre-school programs. This sub-committee met every two weeks for three months. Much work was accomplished over the summer of 2007 which is now being implemented. A seven page safety guidebook was developed in partnership with the Department of Public Health and DEMHS. This booklet is written in both English and Spanish, and is being printed and distributed to pre-school programs and child care providers. In addition, a training program has been developed that will be offered in the coming year.

For the second year in a row DEMHS sponsored educational programs on developing and exercising school safety plans. This year's seminars were run in the eastern and western sections of the state, and both were filled to capacity with 75 attendees each. DEMHS hopes to have its own trainers prepared to deliver this seminar in 2008.

The committee also continued to promote the usage of the REDI school security planning tool. This web-based system operationalizes the plans that a District may have formulated in advance of any incident and allows even the most recent employee/teacher/volunteer to be able to respond. It allows for the creation of a data base and hard copy of the management plan where variables, such as names and telephone numbers can easily be changed and automatically changes them throughout the plan. It also has an "Aftermath" feature which provides guidance on actions to take after the incident has occurred.

CITIZEN CORPS

During the period of this report the Connecticut Citizen Corps Council's achievements enhanced the capability of citizen preparedness and emergency response in the State. Currently there are 11 regional councils and 7 local councils in Connecticut. This year, the Council focused its activities on grant-making, training, exercises and deployments, and special events. The Connecticut Citizen Corps Program was reviewed by the federal Department of Homeland Security on May 10, 2007 and was evaluated as fully compliant with federal regulations.

Grant Activities

- This year, program funding and grant application guidelines were developed and the Citizen Corps Council funded 44 programs for a total of \$61,473.
- The Citizen Corps Strategy was drafted and finalized for the period of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, containing the vision, mission, and objectives of Citizen Corps, along with a budget for \$278,563.
- A Medical Reserve Corps program was established under the guidance of the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Training Activities

- 855 persons were trained in the basic Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program, increasing the trained cadre of volunteers by 60%.
- All four Connecticut State Militia Companies are now trained for Medical Reserve Corps and Animal Protection support.
- The state CERT instructor course was conducted in March, May and September of 2007.
- The campus CERT train-the-trainer program was conducted at the University of Connecticut from August 14-16, 2007 by instructors from Michigan State University.
- Council representatives attended the 2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness in Washington, D.C. and the Annual National Emergency Preparedness Conference in Sacramento, California.

Exercises and Deployments

- A CERT field day exercise was conducted at Ocean Beach Park in New London on May 19, 2007.
- The Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) conducted a regional shelter exercise in West Hartford on May 26-27, 2007, involving over 60 CERT volunteers from across the state.
- The Central Naugatuck Valley Emergency Planning Committee and Northwest Public Safety Task Force conducted a search and rescue exercise on June 2, 2007.
- Manchester conducted a field exercise on June 24-25, 2007 involving the Ham radio operators and the Canine Search and Rescue Team (CERT).
- The East Lyme CERT team participated in an American Legion/CERT activity on July 2, 2007.
- The Medical Reserve Corps and 1st Company Governors Foot Guard were activated for a National Guard Exercise at Camp Rell on August 9, 2007.
- The Manchester Canine CERT team was activated for a search and rescue mission on August 8, 2007 on Case Mountain for a missing teenager.
- The Enfield CERT and Manchester Canine CERT teams were activated for a May 21, 2007 missing person search.

Special Events

- The 3rd Annual CERT Weekend Program was held at the Connecticut Fire Academy on September 8-9, 2006, with approximately 150 attendees.
- The 2nd Annual Connecticut Citizen Corps Council Conference took place on November 20, 2007, at Mohegan Sun Conference Center with over 200 people attending from all emergency disciplines.
- Volunteer training activities involving persons with disabilities and the elderly have continued for first responders and CERT team members.

- Several special events were conducted throughout the State in support of the September National Preparedness Month and the Ready Campaign.
- The Statewide Council participated in the Connecticut Statewide Emergency Management Conference on May 1, 2007.

Neighborhood Watch, Police Services and Fire Corps

- The oldest Citizen Corps Program, Neighborhood Watch, is actively carried out through law enforcement agencies in about one-third of the municipalities in Connecticut. Approximately 1,200 citizens participate in this program.
- The Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) offers the opportunity for individual citizens to volunteer in support of their local law enforcement agencies throughout the State. Approximately 300 citizens participate in this program statewide.
- The Fire Corps is the newest program established under the Citizens Corps concept, having been formalized in 2004. Five Fire Corps Units have been established in the State with a total of approximately 200 members.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

- A Large Animal Rescue training was developed and is supported by a Capitol Region CERT team, the 1st Company Governor's Horse Guard, and the Connecticut State Militia.
- A new CERT team was established this year at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Naugatuck, CT.
- As of November 30, 2007, sixty-seven (67) CERT teams have been trained for a total of 2,200 volunteers. This represents an increase of 60% over the past year in trained volunteers. In addition, 835 persons are awaiting a training class.
- A new initiative in the Capitol Region involves the formation of Shelter CERT Teams to support faith-based organizations. This program began with 5 churches and has expanded to 7 in the past year.

Corporate Support and Partnerships

- Major corporate supporters include ESPN Sports Network of Bristol and the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Connecticut.
- The 25th CASD – Connecticut United States National Defense Force Support Command and its representative Major Daniel C. Thurston, the Operations and Training Officer, are active participants in the Citizen Corps Council.
- The Council receives tremendous support from the American Legion and its representatives are active members of the Citizen Corps Council.
- Special mention is given to the Connecticut National Guard and to the Adjutant General, MG Thaddeus J. Martin, for the support and use of the Connecticut State Militia in local and regional emergencies.

CREDENTIALING

The State-wide Credentialing Committee has been monitoring legislative changes at the federal level and, through the NIMS implementation process, has been assessing how these changes will affect Connecticut's first responders. As a means to move forward DEMHS supported the purchase of five Salamander accountability systems which have been deployed through the regional Haz Mat Teams. These systems produce personal identifications at an incident for accountability purposes and to allow appropriate individual access to the scene. A sub-committee was established to create a state-wide numbering system. Codes were created that identify each person by region, municipality, and function. That system has been adopted and is being deployed across all five regions. Currently over 1,000 cards have been issued to first responders within each region. The Committee is monitoring the progress and usefulness of this system. If deemed successful, additional efforts will be made to incorporate all first responders in Connecticut.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

The Incident Management Committee was established to make recommendations to the DEMHS Coordinating Council and the Commissioner of DEMHS for the establishment of *five* Type-IV (regional) and *one* Type-III (statewide team that is federally recognized) Incident Management Teams. Minimum training requirements were recently redrafted in order to comply with changes in federal guidelines.

Type IV Teams will be established in each of the 5 DEMHS Regions during 2008. The DEMHS Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and senior management within the agency have held a series of meetings with local emergency management directors across the state this fall to discuss the establishment of the Teams, along with other emergency preparedness and response issues.

Over the last year the Incident Management Committee has worked closely with emergency responders from all disciplines to reach consensus on how best to utilize the National Incident Management System for command and control within each Team.

As the Teams are established, training costs and the need for funding will become important issues. Each of the Regional Teams will be staffed with approximately 48 people, for a total of 240 members. The cost of the training is \$1,000 per person, and there are only two vendors who are authorized by the federal Department of Homeland Security to provide the training. Approximately \$240,000 will be needed to complete all of the training. (Note: training for the Statewide Team will be minimal as most of its members will already be serving

on one of the Regional Teams.) The Committee is currently developing the minimum equipment needs for each Regional Team, and future funding will be needed to cover equipment purchases, as well.

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS

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 important members of the emergency management and public safety community. That information includes, but is not limited to:

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

The Interoperability Executive Committee held 12 regular monthly meetings throughout the year. The Interoperability Committee is responsible for approving and overseeing the implementation of a number of projects, which are outlined below.

Training and Exercising

Updated ICALL/ITAC Training Program by CT Fire Academy Staff

The ICALL/ITAC "Train the Trainer" training program was updated by the Committee and was delivered by CT Fire Academy Instructors. These instructors were given updated information and a training curriculum to teach throughout Connecticut. Training dates were published on the CT Fire Academy 2007 calendar and twelve programs were delivered throughout the state, attended by a diverse community of emergency services personnel. In addition to providing training materials, each attendee who presented their ICALL/ITAC portable radio received an updated battery as part of an ongoing maintenance program.

Communication Unit Leader Training Program

As part of the readiness for the tactical Interoperable Communications Exercise, a Communication Unit Leader Program was designed to provide participants with the skills and knowledge needed to perform in the role of Communications Unit Leader (COML). This five-day program includes: 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. Plans are underway to replicate this program across Connecticut. It has been shared with several other states and offered to the NIMS Integration Center for use as a national model.

Operational 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 existing communication systems for use, with several operational successes during this past year. This system provided interoperable communications at the emergency scene where such capability had previously not existed. Mobile low-power cross band multi-band devices were designed and purchased through a DHS grant. 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, Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Connecticut Association of Police Chiefs to design and install 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 using sites throughout Connecticut. This project enables simulcast capability and is integrated into DPS's microwave network allowing communications between multiple mobile and/or stationary communication facility locations. This network provides improved public safety mutual aid communications, response, coordination, and enhanced officer safety.

DEMHS High Band Radio System

The Interoperability Committee assisted DEMHS in developing guidance for municipal adoption and use of a very high frequency (VHF) radio telecommunications system. This system is used 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 emergency management director will be allowed to operate mobile and portable radios on these frequencies. In 2007, significant improvements to the system architecture were implemented in addition to the implementation of a regular testing program to test the operability of each of the municipal systems. A significant improvement of coverage and clarity was achieved in 2007 by the municipalities.

Grants Contracts and Plans

DOIT Master Contract Awards

In 2007 the a master radio catalog contract, created by the Department of Information and Technology (DOIT) was updated to reflect newly available equipment and technology to better serve the state and local agencies and organizations covered under the Department of Homeland Security grant programs, which are administered by DEMHS. The catalog is available on the DOIT website. It includes 14 Connecticut vendors on contract with the State of Connecticut to offer radio communication equipment, such as mobile, portable and control station radios and accessories. This catalog contract allows for the expeditious procurement and pricing of communications equipment available through the grant programs.

Grant Review and Guidance

During 2007 a team of Committee members continued to review all homeland security funding requests for communications equipment. The review process was implemented to ensure interoperability by providing guidelines and recommendations to the grantees. Review and guidance was provided to 20 municipalities and organizations seeking funds for communications equipment.

Public Safety Interoperable Grant Program (PSIC)

On February 16, 2007, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Grants and Training and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will have DHS administer the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program. The PSIC Grant Program will provide funding to Connecticut in the amount of \$12,999,879 to enhance public safety agencies' interoperable communications capabilities. This program is being implemented by DHS and NTIA in accordance with the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and Call Home Act of 2006. The PSIC grant was approved and will be awarded to Connecticut in early 2008 with a period of performance to be completed by September 30, 2010. These funds will be used for the acquisition of, deployment of, and training for the use of interoperable communications systems.

PSIC Grant Team

In March of 2007, several members of the Interoperability Committee were selected to attend a workshop sponsored by the National Governors Association which

provided guidance on developing and adopting a statewide emergency response communications interoperability plan. Following that meeting a formal team was established to accomplish the requirements of the grant which included writing a State Communications Interoperable Plan and drafting the associated Investment Justifications (outlined below.)

During 2007 many outreach sessions and meetings were held to gather input on the proposed Interoperable Plan and Investment Justifications to ensure that first responder practitioner involvement in the grant application process.

State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

Under the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program, each state was required to submit a plan to the Department of Homeland Security by December 31, 2007. Connecticut's plan was written by the PSIC Grant Team and formulated with input from local and state practitioners. The plan includes:

- Background and preliminary steps
- Strategy
- Methodology
- Governance
- Technology
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Training and Exercises
- Usage
- Funding
- Implementation

The intent is to review and update this plan annually to reflect changes in status and technology.

Investment Justifications (IJs)

Three Investment Justifications were submitted as part of the PSIC Grant Package. They are as follows:

1. *Establishment of interconnectivity of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and communications systems on a proprietary resilient IP network for operability and interoperability during natural or human made disasters and the creation of a PSAP statewide 700 MHz radio system.* This will involve the interconnectivity of identified public safety facilities throughout Connecticut such as fire stations, EMS facilities, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, emergency operations centers, local public health departments, and others. An integrated voice and data network will be created to connect all emergency response services.
2. *Enhancement and integration of first responder practitioner Mobile Field Communications through improved equipment, training and coordination.* The objective of this investment justification is to establish a cache of hardware and radio infrastructure equipment that is readily available to be deployed to a

dispatch center where a catastrophic failure has occurred and to restore radio communications in a quick and efficient manner.

3. *Enhancement and migration of regional communications systems to 700 MHz while maintaining current capabilities.* The completion of this investment will result in the leveraging of existing local and regional radio communication assets; allow for migration of all public safety practitioners to common bandwidth over time; facilitate immediate integration with 700 MHz; and provide a method for interfacing with the proposed statewide Public Safety Voice/Data/Video Network.

In order to capture local and regional stakeholder perspective on the Investments, meetings were held in each of the five DEMHS Regions, and a sixth meeting was conducted for state and federal stakeholders. In addition, feedback was received through questionnaires distributed to the above stakeholders. The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Steering Committee met several times to review all available information, at which time consensus was reached as to the priority and viability of each Investment.

Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP)

The State Interoperable Communications Committee along with DEMHS staff developed a fourteen-town (DEMHS Region 1) Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan in conjunction with the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This is the first of five plans that will be developed for all five of the DEMHS Preparedness Regions and was tested using a full scale exercise conducted in April. 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 was submitted to DHS and upon review the plan received a scorecard which highlighted its strengths and identified areas for improvement.

In 2006 as part of the TICP process a Communications Assets Survey and Mapping Tool was created for the DEMHS Region 1 area. In 2007 a plan to expand the access to organizations beyond Region 1 was initiated. This tool consists of two components: an assets survey (data collection) tool; and a communication assets mapping (interoperability analysis) tool. The tool provides a mechanism for compiling and tracking radio communication assets and allows local, regional and state agency representatives to perform interoperability and compatibility analyses. The 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.

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

Consistent with federal preparedness guidance which currently mandates a regional approach to emergency preparedness planning, DEMHS, the State Department of Public Health (DPH), the Citizen Corps Advisory Council, and the Region I office of the Department of Health and Human Services collaborated on a strategic plan for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in Connecticut in the Spring of 2007. The plan is modeled after the five DEMHS regions for organization, planning and regional capacity building and will be financially supported with state and federal dollars in order to assure that Connecticut has a sustainable medical resource during times of need. The primary contact for the Medical Reserve Corps is the DPH State MRC Coordinator.

As of September 2007 there are thirteen (13) local MRC units in Connecticut. The composition of local MRC units within the five (5) DEMHS Regions is as follows:

DEMHS Region 1: Bridgeport MRC, Fairfield-Easton MRC, Stratford-Trumbull-Monroe MRC, and the Westport-Weston-Wilton MRC.

DEMHS Region 2: Naugatuck Valley MRC (also in Region 5), Yale New Haven OEP MRC, West Haven Health Department MRC, Milford Health Department MRC, and the Middletown MRC (also in DEMHS Region 3).

DEMHS Region 3: Capitol Region MRC, and the Middletown MRC (also in DEMHS Region 2).

DEMHS Region 4: Uncas Health District MRC, and the Ledgelight Health District MRC.

DEMHS Region 5: Naugatuck Valley Health District MRC (also in Region 2) and Torrington Area Health District MRC.

Connecticut's intent is for existing MRC units, and any organization wishing to start an MRC, or to become a branch of an already existing unit, to agree to participate in the MRC regional planning process as part of the application and approval process. The goal of this strategic planning process is to ensure that all local MRC units are part of a DEMHS Regional MRC Response Team, while at the same time maintain a local identity. The regionalization of MRCs will enhance each region's collective capacity to share resources, and to respond to public health threats and emergencies, which includes terrorism and outbreaks of infectious diseases.

In June 2007 a Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps Advisory Committee of the State DEMHS Coordinating Council was formed, and its first meeting was held June 29, 2007. The Statewide Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Advisory

Committee is made up of representatives from the 13 local MRC units, the five (5) DEMHS Regional Coordinators, in addition to any other interested agencies or individuals. A great deal of administrative and organizational work has been accomplished over the last 5 months. The groups' By-laws were completed and approved in July 2007, and Standard Operating Procedures were adopted in November of 2007. The following additional activities are currently underway:

- Formation of Regional MRC Councils in each of the five DEMHS regions;
- Development of funding recommendations to support the five Regional MRC Teams; and,
- Development of a regional mutual aid agreement to be used among the local and regional units.

NIMS IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING

During the calendar year, the NIMS Implementation and Training Committee met four times. The Committee is comprised of voting members representing twenty-one (21) public and private sector agencies and organizations with significant representation from all emergency response disciplines. The Committee's primary purpose is to make recommendations to the DEMHS Coordinating Council and the Commissioner of DEMHS with regard to the oversight of standardized statewide emergency management and homeland security-related training and NIMS implementation.

While reductions in federal homeland security grant funding continue, the committee is strongly committed to ensuring that training and exercising continue to be a statewide priority.

Committee activities and achievements during the year include:

- Development of a Plain Language Policy Statement for review by the Interoperable Communications Committee and future presentation to the Coordinating Council;
- A comprehensive review of the state's NIMS Compliance Plan;
- Review of 100% of local emergency operation plans to ensure NIMS compliance; and,
- Passage of state-wide "opt-out" mutual aid legislation.

The state-wide "opt-out" mutual aid legislation, Public Act 07-56 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly, went into effect on October 1, 2007. It is creative, in that it exceeds the NIMS requirements for mutual aid as it goes beyond first responders and covers any asset that a community has and might be willing to share with others during an emergency.

At the request of the Health and Resources Services Administration of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, the Yale New Haven Center

for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR) EM 103/ NIMS and EM 140/ NIMS courses were reviewed by the NIMS Integration Center. Taken together, these courses provide a solution to address the required NIMS Implementation Activities for Hospitals and Healthcare Systems. These courses meet all of the required objectives defined by the NIMS National Standard Curriculum Training Guidance (March 2007) as demonstrated on the YNH-CEPDR NIMS Competency Crosswalk.¹ The courses have also been approved as being NIMS compliant for healthcare education and training requirements by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Finally, a significant amount of NIMS and Incident Command related training was completed during the year, most delivered on a local or regional level. During this time period, more than 15,800 first responders completed this training.²

The NIMS Implementation and Training Committee has identified the follow goals for the coming year:

- Continue promoting and supporting NIMS adoption and compliance on a local, regional and state level.
- Continue as a priority, funding support for NIMS compliance training.
- Encourage the incorporation of NIMS/ICS into all training and exercises.
- Measure compliance through the use of the federal performance-based metrics.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The Regional Collaboration Committee (Committee) of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council was established in the fall of 2006 to advise the Council on implementation of the Regional Planning Model. The Committee, composed of local representatives, including representatives from the Council of Small Towns and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, regional planning organizations, public health representatives and the respective emergency response disciplines (police, fire, EMS), met regularly over the last twelve months to review and comment on various written documents and plans designed to activate the Regional Planning Model.

¹ The Crosswalk can be accessed at http://www.ynhhs.com/emergency/YNH_CEPDR_NIMS_CompetyCrosswalk.pdf

² This is an estimated number because several different tracking systems are used in Connecticut for recording numbers of students who successfully complete first responder training.

The Regional Planning Model was designed to enhance regional collaboration by capitalizing on the five DEMHS 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 Plan Emergency Support Functions. In 2007, an REPT was established in each DEMHS Region.

Committee members contributed to the development of the Regional Support Implementation Plan; the Regional Funding Formula; and the Regional Collaboration Grant Application.

The Regional Support Implementation Plan (Plan) was developed by DEMHS staff to further enhance the Regional Planning Model. It was reviewed and revised by Committee members in January, 2007. The Plan sets forth the vision, goal, 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.

During this reporting period, the following specific objectives and performance measures in the Implementation Plan were fulfilled:

1. Objective: Propose statewide mutual aid to include identification and inventory of current services, equipment, supplies, personnel and other resources.
 - i. Performance Measure: Intrastate mutual aid passed into law (P.A. 07-56);
 - ii. Performance Measure: Resource typing data collection tool and training program created. Statewide data collection to be complete by June 2008.
2. Objective: Identify critical infrastructure hazards that could affect each of the five DEMHS regions, using a standard identification system.
 - i. Performance Measure: Validated critical infrastructure data and entered into Carver risk assessment software;
 - ii. Performance Measure: Applied assessment results to regional funding formula for federal homeland security grant funding.

3. Objective: Develop joint all-hazards planning and operations protocols (regional emergency operations plans) for mutual aid within each DEMHS region.
 - i. Performance Measure: Chief executive officers adopted bylaws to establish governance for representative Regional Emergency Planning Team and emergency support function discipline oriented working groups;
 - ii. Performance Measure: Regional emergency operations plan outline established; ESF annex developed for ESF 5 (emergency management), remaining annexes to be developed.

4. Objective: Implement components of NIMS (e.g. preparedness, credentialing, resource typing, etc.) related to provision of mutual aid.
 - i. Performance Measure: Resource typing data collection tool and training program created. Statewide data collection to be complete by June 2008.

The Regional Collaboration Grant Program, endorsed by the Committee and the Council, is a two-staged initiative. Stage 1 funds support: enhanced chief executive officer communication and participation in the regional planning process; resource typing (inventorying) of regional emergency support functions (public works, firefighting, public health - emergency medical services only and law enforcement); and a regional spending plan that will, in Stage 2, drive the development of each region's Regional Emergency Operations Plan (REOP).

The Regional Collaboration Grant Program is implemented through a collaborative partnership between DEMHS and regional planning organizations (RPOs). RPOs were selected for this collaborative role based on their historic and close connection to member chief executive officers. In three of the five DEMHS regions a single RPO has agreed to work with DEMHS to lead the region in fulfilling the requirements of the grant (CEO communications, resource typing, spending plan development and execution, and REOP development). In those areas of the state where no RPO leadership was identified, DEMHS will facilitate the work of the Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) to fulfill grant requirements.

Stage 1 grant awards were issued November 2007 to participating RPOs.

The primary goal of the Committee in the coming year is to offer opportunities for the exchange of ideas and best practices across the five DEMHS regions and to support the Regional Planning Teams (REPTs). Near term activities include:

- Hosting REPT meetings in each DEMHS region to reiterate grant funding parameters and to identify additional resources (e.g. personal protective

- equipment (PPE) replacement program, decontamination vehicle maintenance program and radiation metering support), and
- Sharing best practices for all regional partners across all regions, including REPT chairs, co-chairs and regional emergency support function (RESF) representatives.

Connecticut has made great progress toward fulfilling National Priority #2 (Expanded Regional Collaboration) and Connecticut's Homeland Security Strategic Goal # 3 (Improve critical incident management and response through the implementation and use of the National Incident Management System). Governance is in place (bylaws exist for each region). Funding has been provided for planning and implementation (Regional Collaboration Grant Program). Communication mechanisms are in place to move information up and down the emergency management and homeland security system (through DEMHS and the Coordinating Council), and across each DEMHS region (through the Regional Collaboration Committee) to assure that best practices and standardization are promoted.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Emergency Management Symposium

The Second annual Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM)/DEMHS Emergency Management Symposium was held on May 1, 2007. Approximately 500 local, regional and state officials attended from various preparedness disciplines. The Symposium featured several topical workshops designed to strengthen Connecticut's regional collaboration efforts. Approximately 50 private sector vendors were on hand to assist and discuss planning, response, and recovery needs. The Symposium has become one of Connecticut's premiere events in emergency management and a key example of Connecticut's local-regional-state partnership.

CT State Preparedness Report

The Connecticut State Preparedness Report (SPR) has been drafted in response to a federal requirement within the Post Katrina Emergency Reform Act of 2006. This report replaces the Nationwide Plans Review, Connecticut Enhancement Plan and the Program Evaluation Report previously required by the Department of Homeland Security. Members of the Coordinating Council contributed to the report and endorsed the document for submittal to the Department of Homeland Security at the December, 2007 meeting.

Since 2003, Connecticut's state agencies, regional planning organizations and municipalities have spent over \$100 million dollars to improve Connecticut's ability to protect, prevent, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, accidents and natural disasters. The operational capability of state agencies and municipalities has been significantly enhanced during the past 4 years. Recent responses to major incidents in Avon and Old Lyme have demonstrated this new

capability. Both events, while accidental in nature, required the coordinated response of multiple disciplines from several jurisdictions. Connecticut's preparation for regional emergency management, derived through collaborative planning, training and exercising, resulted in an immediate and effective response. The combination of operational preparedness, accessible resources, and plan execution, reduced casualties, mitigated the spread of hazardous materials, and allowed for the resumption of transportation and commerce in a remarkably short time.

CONCLUSION

DEMHS and the Coordinating Council have been in existence for three years as of January 1, 2007. During this time, the members of the Coordinating Council and the staff and leadership at DEMHS have worked together to enhance and improve emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery on behalf of Connecticut's citizens. The many accomplishments outlined in this report are a testament to that hard work.

Both DEMHS and the Coordinating Council want to recognize the efforts of local emergency management directors, chief elected officials, tribal leaders, fire chiefs, police chiefs, other members of the emergency response community, along with the private and non-profit sectors for their willingness to partner with state government and for their equally hard work to protect the safety and wellbeing of citizens within their communities.