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Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

Welcome to the New Year. We all hope that as we proceed into 2007, we will be better prepared to deal with any adversity that might come our way, whether it be a natural disaster or a human induced terrorism related event. Obviously we are all hoping that we are not exposed to either a natural disaster or a man made tragedy, however, we also know that it is only a matter of time before we experience some serious natural weather related emergencies.

This month we will focus on natural disasters that we, as the residents of the State of Connecticut, are most likely to face. The month of December 2006 was very unusual, and as of this writing we have not had a major snow storm, yet we all know that it is coming. I was pleased to see that the utility companies in this months bills enclosed storm related information that was intended to reinforce the need to be prepared for any type of winter storm including an ice storm, major snow storm and the loss of electrical power.

We all need to periodically to take a personal inventory for our families to make sure that we have the necessary supplies on hand to sustain ourselves for at least a three day period. If there was a sustained loss of power for several days are we prepared to move in with relatives or to a public shelter? Do we know where the shelters are for our individual communities? What can we do together to be better informed and better prepared?

I think that you will find this months' newsletter extremely informative, and as we go forth into the New Year, we at DEMHS believe that by working together we can and will make 2007 a very good year. We will resolve to become better informed and better prepared than we have been in the past.

What are Connecticut's Most Dangerous Natural Hazards?

A wide range of hazards and threats may occur in our State, including natural hazards, human-induced hazards, or terrorism incidents. In this article we would like to concentrate on those Natural hazards that we are all faced with. As a starting point it is important to get an accurate picture of our state. There are approximately 8,400 miles of rivers and streams, 6,000 lakes and ponds, 4,300 dams, and 253 miles of shoreline in Connecticut. Because shoreline and riverine areas are relatively flat and easy to build upon, and because waterpower was a major source of industrialization during the 19th century, Connecticut's shoreline and riverine areas have been heavily developed for commercial, residential and industrial uses during the past 200 years.

The climate of Connecticut is moderate with annual rainfall averaging between 44 - 52 inches, and snowfall averaging between 30 inches at the coast of Long Island Sound up to 100 inches in the northwest hills. Temperatures range from highs in the 80's and 90's during the summer months, down to lows in the teens during the winter months. Transcontinental storms (low pressure systems), and storms that form near the Gulf of Mexico and along the East Coast deliver most of the annual rain and snowfall to the State. Heavy short-duration rains are also caused by thunderstorm activity in all but the winter season. Occasional hurricanes, which typically occur between June 1st to December 1st, deliver heavy rains of longer duration.

Based upon what natural weather occurs here, we intend to discuss the following naturally occurring weather emergencies:

- Earthquakes
- Flooding
- Hurricanes
- Winter Storms
- Ice Flows
- Ice Storms
- Torrnados

Earthquakes:

Believe it or not Connecticut has the oldest record of earthquakes in the United States. The earliest settlers learned of seismic activity in this area, dating back to 1568 in Moodus. This area is still very active today. We are located near the middle of the North American Tectonic Plate which is subject to intra-plate earthquakes,
as opposed to inter-plate earthquakes which afflict California. While we are not near a plate boundry, there are numerous fault lines formed hundreds of millions of years ago when the area was at a boundry.

The magnitude of an earthquake is a measure of the amount of energy released. Each earthquake has a unique magnitude assigned to it. This is based on the amplitude of seismic waves measured at a number of seismograph sites, after being corrected for distance from the earthquake. Magnitude estimates often change by up to 0.2 units, as additional data are included in the estimate.

The USGS has determined that Connecticut has a 1 in 10 chance that at some point during a 50-year period an earthquake would cause ground shaking of 4 to 8 percent of the force of gravity. This amount of shaking may cause minor damage resulting from items falling from shelves and very minor damage to buildings (broken windows, doors jamming shut).

If the state should be struck by a 5.0 quake, it is assumed the damage caused would be similar to the 5.1 quake that occurred in upstate New York in 2002. "In upstate New York, items were tossed off shelves, plaster was cracked, windows broken and chimneys were also cracked, with a few chimneys collapsing. Minor landslides also occurred which closed one state road, and a power substation suffered minor damage temporarily cutting power to 3,500 customers."[1]

Table 2-3: Richter Earthquake

Magnitude	Description
M = 1 to 3	Recorded on local seismographs, but generally not felt.
M = 3 to 4	Often felt, no damage.
M = 5	Felt widely, slight damage near epicenter.
M = 6	Damage to poorly constructed buildings and other structures within 10's km.
M = 7	*"Major"* earthquake, causes serious damage up to ~100 km (recent Taiwan, Turkey, Kobe, Japan, and California earthquakes).
M = 8	*"Great"* earthquake, great destruction, loss of life over several 100 km (1906 San Francisco).
M = 9	*"Rare"* great earthquake, major damage over a large region over 1000 km (Chile 1960, Alaska 1964.)
M = 10	Very rare in the world. Complete destruction.

The chances of a tsunami affecting Connecticut directly are extremely low because of the protection provided by Long Island.

1 Seismo-Watch, Inc. - Report: April 24, 2002 P.O. Box 18012 , Reno, NV 89511-8012 http://www.seismo-watch.com

Flooding: Will be reviewed in more detail in the February issue of the DEMHS Advisor

Hurricanes:

The Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1st and ends on December 1st each year. A hurricane is a warm-core (having warmer air at its center) tropical cyclone. Hurricanes that affect Connecticut normally form in the tropical Atlantic, Caribbean, or Gulf of Mexico, typically between 15 - 30 degrees north latitude.

The most intense hurricane to strike Connecticut occurred on September 21, 1938. Flooding, 130 MPH hurricane force winds and a coastal storm surge up to 12 feet high combined to cause the greatest disaster (in terms of lives lost) in the State's history. The hurricane tracked northward up the Connecticut River Valley with the greatest devastation occurring along the coast and east of the center of the hurricane. Shoreline railroad and highway traffic were inoperative for 3 weeks. Along the eastern seaboard the storm killed 600 persons (125 in Connecticut) and injured another 1,700. It destroyed over 9,000 structures, damaged more than 90,000, and resulted in extensive agricultural losses. The damages in southern New England were estimated to be $306 million (1938 dollars), and the damages in Connecticut were estimated to be $53 million (1938 dollars).

Another severe hurricane affected Connecticut on September 14 - 15, 1944. The next hurricane to strike Connecticut occurred on August 31, 1954. Hurricane "Carol" (naming of hurricanes began in 1950) tracked across the southeastern corner of the State. Three counties were declared disaster areas. Damages in the remainder of the state were relatively minor. Although Connecticut suffered no fatalities, property damage exceeded $53 million (1954 dollars).

In 1955 torrential rains fell from August 12 - 19, as the result of Hurricanes "Connie" and "Diane". Flood damage was extreme with multiple road/bridge washouts, loss of drinking water, destruction of power lines and loss of communication networks.

Fourteen out of 39 towns affected by the flooding in 1955 were declared health hazards. Seventy persons were killed and 4,700 were injured. The State was declared a disaster area. Two months later, on October 15 - 17, heavy rains again brought flooding to the state. Although the entire State was affected, 28 towns in the southwestern part of the State were the hardest hit. Over 4,200 families were evacuated because of the flooding and 23 persons died. The two flooding events in 1955 totaled an estimated 350 million (1955 dollars) in damage.

During the 1960's Connecticut was indirectly affected by several tropical storms and hurricanes. In 1976, Connecticut was hit by Hurricane Belle. Belle was a Category I hurricane, but still caused 5 fatalities, and some minor shoreline damage.

On September 27, 1985, Hurricane Gloria struck Connecticut, felling thousands of trees and causing minor structural damage. Gloria was a category II hurricane when it made landfall in the Westport area, however, Gloria did not cause flooding due to relatively light rain accompanying the storm. Debris cleanup and restoration of power were the major factors that lead to a disaster declaration for this "dry" hurricane. On August 19, 1991 Hurricane "Bob" struck Rhode Island. Bob was a category III hurricane that formed in the Bahamas and moved up the eastern seaboard. Bob was a fast moving hurricane that weakened somewhat as it moved over the cooler waters north of the Carolina's. Bob made landfall as a strong category II hurricane in Newport, R.I. at 2:00 PM, on August 19th. Bob moved quickly through Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Tree damage in Connecticut was very light in western areas and light to moderate in eastern and central areas of the State. Flooding was also minor due to the fast forward speed of Bob and the short duration of the heavy rainfall.

On October 30th, 1991, a rare late season Hurricane "Grace" combined with a large non-tropical low-pressure system east of Maine to produce what has become known as the "perfect storm". Damage in Connecticut was light due to the protection of Long Island. However, moderate to heavy damage resulting from 30 – 50 foot seas occurred along the exposed coastlines from New Jersey to Maine. Another factor that made this storm very destructive was its six day duration.

On September 15th, 1999, Connecticut was affected by the remnants of Hurricane Floyd (by then a tropical storm). Damage from Floyd was greatest in the Danbury area of western Connecticut.

Hurricanes have the greatest destructive potential of all natural disasters in Connecticut. A moderate Category II hurricane can be expected to make landfall in Connecticut once every ten years. Based on the past frequency and intensity of hurricanes in the twentieth century, at least one major hurricane of Category III or IV may occur before 2040. Although winter storms cause more frequent coastal flooding and more annual damage, a single major hurricane (Category III or above) can cause 3 - 10 times that amount of damage.

Ice Jambs:

An ice jam is an accumulation of ice in a river that restricts water flow and may cause backwater that floods low-lying areas upstream from the jam. Areas below the ice jam can also be affected when the jam releases, sending water and ice downstream. Ice jam damages can affect homes, buildings, roads, bridges and the environment (e.g., through erosion, sedimentation, bank scour or tree scarring, etc.)

The US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) maintains a database of ice jam history, which draws largely from USGS river gauge information. This database includes 132 records of jams in Connecticut dating back to 1902. The database indicates that Connecticut experiences both freezeup and breakup type events. Other sources of information include historical accounts, newspapers, personal interviews and CRREL files. However these sources of data while providing important narrative information about ice events and related damage often lacks quantitative information of the type found in USGS sources.

Table

No.	Rivers Susceptible to Ice Jams	Location
1	Shetucket River	Baltic
2	Salmon River	East Haddam
3	Pomperaug River	Southbury
4	Yantic River	Norwich
5	Moosup River	Plainfield
6	Quanduck River	Sterling
7	Blackledge River	Marlborough
8	Willimantic River	Mansfield
9	Limekilm Brook	Bethel
10	Shepaug River	Roxbury
11	Blackberry River	North Canaan
12	Connecticut River	Hartford

Although limited data exists regarding historic damages associated with ice jams, the twelve well-documented ice jams since 1961indicate that typical damages include road closures, bridge damages, evacuation, residential and commercial damage. Rivers in Connecticut susceptible to ice jam formation based on historic events are listed in the Table.

Ice Storms:

Ice storms occur when warm air overrides cold air (32° F or colder) at the surface during a winter storm. The warmer air typically above 1,000 feet changes the precipitation to rain. However, the rain freezes on contact when it reaches the ground because the surfaces are below freezing. Ice storms occur every year in Connecticut. Major ice storms are more rare because they require three factors: 1) temperatures well below freezing (28°F or colder), 2) cold temperatures for an extended duration (over 12 hours), and 3) greater than 1/2 inch of rain. The warmer waters of Long Island Sound and the waters south of Long Island mitigate these factors.

Connecticut's most severe ice storm occurred on December 18, 1973. Ice storm "Felix" resulted in two deaths and caused widespread power outages, which lasted several days. In January 1998, Connecticut narrowly missed the worst ice storm ever recorded in New England. A slow moving low-pressure system pushed into cold air over northern New England on January 7. Freezing rain developed and continued for 4 days.

In November of 2002 an ice storm occurred primarily in Litchfield and western Hartford Counties. The storm resulted in 2.5 million dollars in public sector damages for removal of debris and protective measures. The state's request for a disaster declaration was denied.

An ice storm of the magnitude of the 1998 northern New England storm is not considered possible in southern New England due to the close proximity of the warmer waters of Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. However, repeats of the 1973 ice storm are certainly possible. A return interval was never calculated for the 1973 storm.

Tornadoes:

Connecticut experienced 81 tornado incidents in the period from 1950-2003. These incidents have occurred throughout all of Connecticut in the months from April through October. Tornadoes have caused 590 million dollars in damage, claimed at least 7 lives and injured 700 persons. Connecticut averages approximately three tornadoes every two years.

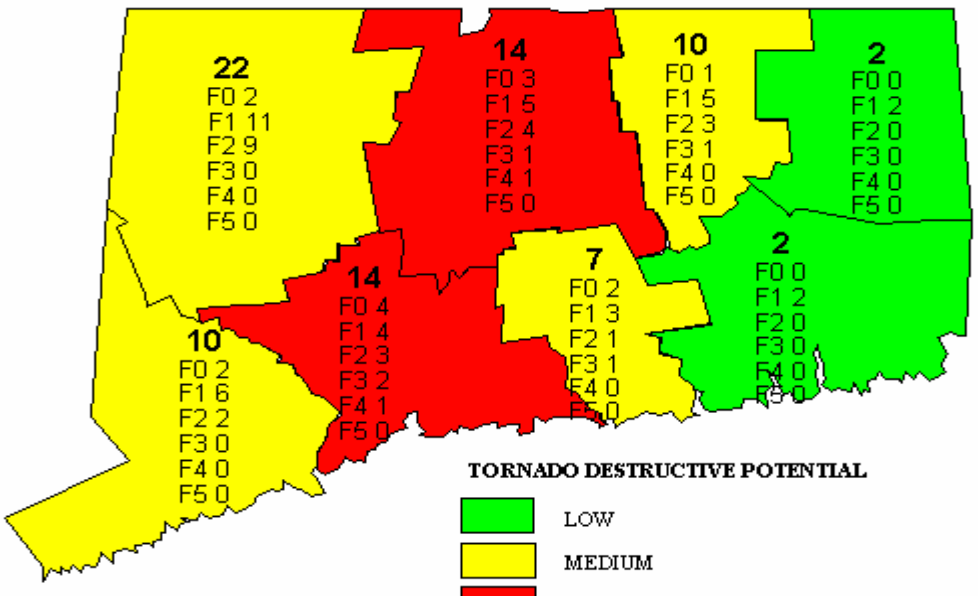
The deadliest tornado on record to strike Connecticut occurred August 9, 1878 in central Connecticut. Although damage along its two-mile path was limited, it left 34 persons dead and injured over 100. Another deadly tornado occurred in Connecticut on May 24, 1962, in which one person was killed and 45 injured. The 1962 tornado destroyed 70 structures and heavily damaged 175 others along its 12-mile path. Total damages exceeded 5 million (2004 dollars).

On October 3, 1979, a tornado ripped a path through Windsor Locks, killing 2 persons, and injuring 10 others. It destroyed 12 homes, left another 40 uninhabitable and caused an estimated 214 million (1979) dollars in damages. As a result of this tornado, two towns were declared Federal disaster areas.

The most recent deadly tornado in Connecticut occurred on July 10, 1989. The tornado cut a path through western Connecticut, from Salisbury to New Haven in less than 1 hour. Two persons were killed and 67 homes were destroyed. Damages totaled 125 million (1989) dollars, and a Presidential Disaster (FEMA-837-DR-CT) was declared.

The pattern of occurrence and locations for tornadoes in Connecticut is expected to remain unchanged in the twenty-first century. The highest risk for tornadoes is expected in New Haven and Hartford counties. The second area of moderate to high risk is in Fairfield and Litchfield counties. The counties of Middlesex, and Tolland have a moderate risk and the counties of New London and Windham can expect a low risk.

FIGURE 2-3:- TORNADOES IN CONNECTICUT BY COUNTY FROM 1950 - 2003



Sources: Storm Prediction Center
National Climatic Data Center

Winter Storms:

A major winter storm (a.k.a Nor'easter) is typically an intense low-pressure system that forms either in the Carolinas or just off the mid-Atlantic coastline between November 1st and April 1st. These storms normally move in a north-eastward direction to a position around 70 degrees north latitude, 40 degrees west longitude or about 80 miles south of Cape Cod.

The Nor'easter derives its name from the strong northeast winds that are characteristic during the storm. During the past 25 years there have been six major Nor'easters in Connecticut. These major winter storms can be as intense as a Category II hurricane, both in their low central pressure and the flooding they cause. These storms have claimed nearly a dozen lives during the past 25 years, and injured dozens of persons while causing millions of dollars in damages. Deadly winter storms have struck Connecticut in 1979, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2003.

During the 90's two major storms hit Connecticut. The first and most intense was the December 10-13 Nor'easter of 1992. Three persons were killed as a result of the storm and 26 homes were destroyed. Tides in Long Island Sound were stacked up by the continued strong east/northeast winds reaching 55 mph. This "stacking" of water resulted in the third highest tide (10.16 Feet NGVD as measured at Bridgeport, CT) ever recorded in LIS and caused over 4.3 million dollars (1992) in damages to over six thousand homes. Inland areas received up to 4 feet of snow in Northeastern Connecticut. The heavy wet snow snapped tree limbs and power lines cutting power to 50,000 homes.

The last major winter storm occurred on February 17th, 2003. This storm was a very slow moving low pressure system with ample snowfall that blanketed the northeast U.S. from Washington to Boston with 1 – 3 feet of snow. This storm shut down most air travel for 24 – 36 hours.

During the early winter of 1988, several large snowstorms affected Connecticut at the height of traffic congestion in late afternoon. Traffic was gridlocked for up to 6 hours in some cases. As a result, the City of Hartford, in cooperation with several of the largest corporations in the City, prepared a snow gridlock plan. When heavy snow is anticipated for an afternoon rush hour, each corporation will send a certain number of employees home early to relieve congestion. This plan significantly reduced congestion in similar storm events later that winter.

On February 5th, 2001, a major snowstorm hit Connecticut at noon with very heavy snow. Up to 25 inches of heavy wet snow fell in a 10 hour period causing major traffic jams and gridlock as agencies and businesses shut down at noon. Traffic jams lasted up to 12 hours in some areas.

Due to their more frequent occurrence winter storms cause more annual flood damage along Connecticut's coastline than hurricanes. The high frequency of major winter storms occurring on average once every 5 years means that they will be a continued threat to both the coast and inland areas from flooding and heavy snowfall.

Mitigation:

What is the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
The State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan examines Connecticut's history and risk of natural disasters, evaluates our geographic vulnerability, outlines which hazard mitigation measures merit the greatest priority, and identifies long-term measures to reduce losses from future disasters. Natural hazards, including flooding, hurricanes and winter storms are identified in the plan. The plan also identifies the State's capability to recover from the impact of each hazard.

Why is the Plan Important
Connecticut towns and state agencies cannot receive federal hazard mitigation funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) without having an approved Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The level of funding for this grant is set at 7.5% of the total public (non-insured) disaster damages for Connecticut's standard plan. For example, if disaster damages from a major hurricane in Connecticut totaled 100 million dollars, the state would receive 7.5 million dollars in hazard mitigation assistance with an approved plan. Without a plan, the state would not receive this assistance. This assistance can be used to fund hazard mitigation projects related to the current disaster for which funding is being provided. Assistance can be used to prepare local and state hazard mitigation and debris management plans, structural mitigation (home acquisitions, elevation of buildings) and for small-scale flood prevention projects such as the construction of levees and small flood control dams.

DEP's Role in the Plan
The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) functioned as the lead agency in getting the plan updated. The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the Connecticut office of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Office of the State Building Inspector and the Connecticut Department of Health also participated in the planning process. The state plan must be updated every three years.

What is the Municipal Role in the Plan
In order to receive post-disaster mitigation funding, municipalities must also have involvement in the planning process through the drafting and approval of local hazard mitigation plans. As of November, 2004 approximately half of Connecticut's cities and towns are drafting local plans. Most municipalities are being assisted by Regional Planning Organizations (RPO) with funding provided by FEMA. As of January 1st, 2005, the following RPO's are currently drafting plans: Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA), Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG), Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SECCOG), South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA), Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA), Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCNV), Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency (GBRPA), and the Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG). Once a community has a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan, the municipality is then eligible to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) or Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) project funds for mitigation activities outlined in the plan. Such activities may include public education, purchasing floodplain property, culvert upgrades, storm shutters for wind mitigation, and dry hydrants in forest fire areas. Currently 84 municipalities are drafting local hazard mitigation plans. These local plans must be updated every 5 years.

What is the Public's Role in Hazard Mitigation
If you own a home or business near a body of water (river, stream, lake, Long Island Sound, or ocean) contact your insurance agent to see if you need flood insurance. Remember, regular homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding. If you live in a coastal area, consider installing hurricane shutters to protect windows and doors, and always follow evacuation orders when they are given. Also, please remember to keep a disaster kit (flashlight, batteries, portable radio, first aid kit, important papers, medications, food and fresh water) handy in the event of an emergency.
This article is based upon information in the state's hazardous mitigation plan the entire plan can be found at:

http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wtr/hazardmitigation/hazardmitigationplan.htm

Figure 2-2: THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale is a 1-5 rating based on the hurricane's intensity at a given time. This is used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall. Wind speed is the determining factor in the scale, as storm surge values are highly dependent on the slope of the continental shelf in the landfall region. Note that all winds are using the U.S. 1-minute average.

Category One Hurricane:

Winds 74-95 mph (64-82 kt or 119-153 kph). Storm surge generally 4-5 ft above normal. No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage. Hurricanes Allison of 1995 and Danny of 1997 were Category One hurricanes at peak intensity.

Category Two Hurricane:

Winds 96-110 mph (83-95 kt or 154-177 kph). Storm surge generally 6-8 feet above normal. Some roofing material, door, and window damage of buildings. Considerable damage to shrubbery and trees with some trees blown down. Considerable damage to mobile homes, poorly constructed signs, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of the hurricane center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings. Hurricane Bonnie of 1998 was a Category Two hurricane when it hit the North Carolina coast, and Hurricane Georges of 1998 was a Category Two Hurricane when it hit the Florida Keys and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Category Three Hurricane:

Winds 111-130 mph (96-113 kt or 178-209 kph). Storm surge generally 9-12 ft above normal. Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Damage to shrubbery and trees with foliage blown off trees and large tress blown down. Mobile homes and poorly constructed signs are destroyed. Low-lying escape routes are cut by rising water 3-5 hours before arrival of the hurricane center. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by battering of floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 ft above mean sea level may be flooded inland 8 miles (13 km) or more. Evacuation of low-lying residences with several blocks of the shoreline may be required. Hurricanes Roxanne of 1995 and Fran of 1996 were Category Three hurricanes at landfall on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and in North Carolina, respectively.

Category Four Hurricane:

Winds 131-155 mph (114-135 kt or 210-249 kph). Storm surge generally 13-18 ft above normal. More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failures on small residences. Shrubs, trees, and all signs are blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Extensive damage to doors and windows. Low-lying escape routes may be cut by rising water 3-5 hours before arrival of the hurricane center. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain lower than 10 ft above sea level may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas as far inland as 6 miles (10 km). Hurricane Luis of 1995 was a Category Four hurricane while moving over the Leeward Islands. Hurricanes Felix and Opal of 1995 also reached Category Four status at peak intensity.

Category Five Hurricane:

Winds greater than 155 mph (135 kt or 249 kph). Storm surge generally greater than 18 ft above normal. Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. All shrubs, trees, and signs blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Severe and extensive window and door damage. Low-lying escape routes are cut by rising water 3-5 hours before arrival of the hurricane center. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 ft above sea level and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5-10 miles (8-16 km) of the shoreline may be required. Hurricane Mitch of 1998 was a Category Five hurricane at peak intensity over the western Caribbean. Hurricane Gilbert of 1988 was a Category Five hurricane at peak intensity and is the strongest Atlantic tropical cyclone of record.

Upcoming Training & Exercise

Jan 9-Jan 10	ICS-400 Advanced ICS Command - Tolland
Jan 17	Falsified Documents & Identity Theft—POSTC
Jan 23-Jan 25	Response to Active Shooters in Schools and Public Buildings—POSTC
Jan 24	Anti-Terrorism Training-for Patrol Officers—POSTC
Jan 30-Jan31	Terrorism and the Suicide Bomber—POSTC

Save the Date—May 1, 2007— DEMHS/CCM Homeland Security Conference, Cromwell

For training and exercise questions please contact Bob Christ at 860-706-5519, Bob Scata at 860-706-5518, or Sharon Mazzochi at 860-706-5517.

For **POSTC** classes, please go to their website at:
http://www.ct.gov/post/site/default.asp

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, week-ends or evenings to meet your needs. The NIMS program can be delivered in four, eight or twelve hour modules depending on the duties assigned to personnel.

You should also know that these programs are available on line at FEMA's web site: http://www.fema.gov/tab_education.shtm

Training Facility Contact Information:

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).
As 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 $200.00 per day not exceeding 20% of the homeland security grant award to that community.

Texas Engineering Extension Service

MGT314 — Enhanced Incident Management Unified Command Course

Description
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

To check on this and other training opportunities: 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:

MGT312 — Senior Officials Workshop (SOW) for All Hazards Preparedness

Hours 6.00 Hours

Description
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.

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:

- The Quick Reference Guide to the National Response Plan (NRP)
- The Terrorism Incident Annex to the NRP
- 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
- Descriptions of appropriate Federal-level training courses available to community emergency responders and mayor's incident management team
- A synopsis of Federal operational response capabilities
- The American Bar Association (ABA) Checklist for State and Local Attorneys

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&T).

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.

Homeland Security Funding and School Security

The Strategic Planning and Grants Administration Office, within DEMHS, has received several inquiries about Homeland Security funding and school security. Undoubtedly, some of these concerns were initiated by the frightening and tragic school shootings in Pennsylvania and elsewhere around the country. Another source of the interest may have been the coincidental distribution of NOAA public alert radios to public schools throughout the State. While the State Homeland Security Grant Program does not specifically address school security, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program does offer some support.

The COPS Office recently announced $14.8 million in grants to 174 local law enforcement agencies to enhance school safety in 38 states. The grants were awarded under the COPS Secure Our Schools program, which supports local efforts to improve security in schools and on school grounds. Four Connecticut municipalities were among the grant recipients, including Clinton ($30,962), Granby ($206,714), Hartford ($24,185), and Stamford ($16,167).

The Secure Our Schools program will provide up to 50 percent of the total cost for communities to install metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other equipment to help deter and prevent crime and disorder. The grants can also be used to pay half of the cost of security assessments, security training, and any other measure that will provide a significant improvement in security.

"Creating the safest possible learning environment is a responsibility that is shared by law enforcement, educators, students, and the community," said COPS Director Carl R. Peed. "These grants will enable local law enforcement agencies and school districts to work together to implement much needed safety enhancements. We are pleased to assist with local school safety initiatives."

Secure Our Schools is one of several COPS initiatives that enhance school safety. COPS has awarded more than $740 million to law enforcement agencies to hire over 6,400 school resource officers. Additionally, COPS provides school safety training, and offers a *School Safety Package* that includes several resources that assist police, educators, and community organizations with preventing and responding to various school and youth safety issues. The *School Safety Package* can be obtained by contacting COPS Response Center at 800-421-6770 or askcopsrc@usdoj.gov.

For additional information about COPS Secure Our Schools program, or to obtain a list of law enforcement agencies that received grants, visit COPS website at www.cops.usdoj.gov.