## The Connecticut Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

## Extreme Hot Weather Emergency Management Protocol



Climate Solutions Webinar August 9, 2021





## Today's DEMHS presenters:



• Brenda Bergeron, Principal Attorney and Planning Coordinator

 Douglas Glowacki, Emergency Management Program Specialist/Weather

William Turley, DEMHS Region 3 Coordinator, School Safety

Eric Scoville, Emergency Management Program Specialist/Public Information



## **Emergency Management Mission:**



Coordinate, Collaborate, Integrate

 Connecticut operates under the State Response

### Framework:

Local

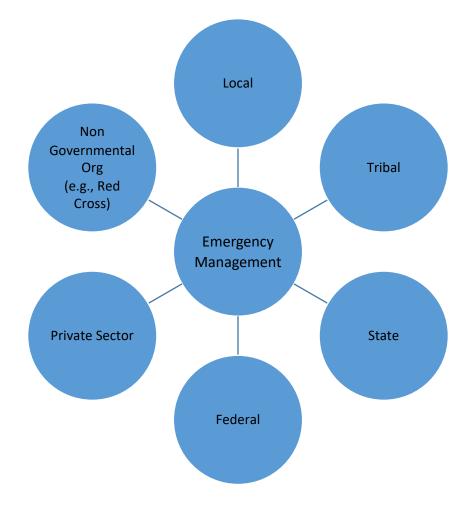
State

Tribal

**Private Sector** 

Non Governmental

Federal





# CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security



- Division of CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
- Deputy Commissioner
- State Emergency Management Director
- State Fusion Center Director
- Units include:
  - Community Preparedness, Strategic Planning and Grants
  - Recovery
  - Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency
  - Operations, Training and Exercise
  - Field Support and Emergency Telecommunications
  - Radiological Emergency Preparedness
  - CT Intelligence Center



## State Response Framework



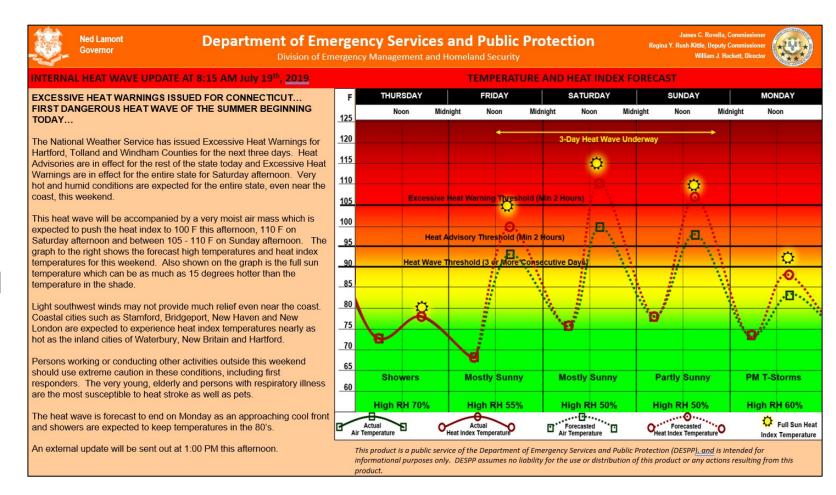
- Enhances coordination of emergency management partners through the development of an umbrella, all-hazards, structure--
- Version 4.2 July 2019 includes:
  - Functional Roles and Responsibilities of Federal, State, Tribal, Local, Regional,
     Non-Governmental, and Private Sector Partners
  - Governor's Emergency Operations Center Standard Operating Procedures
  - All-Hazards Preparedness Checklist
  - EOC Liaisons
  - Annexes, Appendices, and Emergency Support Function Plans



### **Extreme Heat Updates Issued By DEMHS**



The Heat Wave Update shown to the right is sent out internally and then externally when a heat wave is forecast by the National Weather Service. The update contains a temperature and heat index graphical forecast along with a summary of the expected conditions. The update also mentions any warnings issued by the NWS.





#### **Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection**

Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

James C. Rovella, Commissioner
Regina Y. Rush-Kittle, Deputy Commissioner
William J. Hackett, Director

#### INTERNAL HEAT WAVE UPDATE AT 8:15 AM July 19th, 2019

## EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNINGS ISSUED FOR CONNECTICUT... FIRST DANGEROUS HEAT WAVE OF THE SUMMER BEGINNING TODAY...

The National Weather Service has issued Excessive Heat Warnings for Hartford, Tolland and Windham Counties for the next three days. Heat Advisories are in effect for the rest of the state today and Excessive Heat Warnings are in effect for the entire state for Saturday afternoon. Very hot and humid conditions are expected for the entire state, even near the coast, this weekend.

This heat wave will be accompanied by a very moist air mass which is expected to push the heat index to 100 F this afternoon, 110 F on Saturday afternoon and between 105 - 110 F on Sunday afternoon. The graph to the right shows the forecast high temperatures and heat index temperatures for this weekend. Also shown on the graph is the full sun temperature which can be as much as 15 degrees hotter than the temperature in the shade.

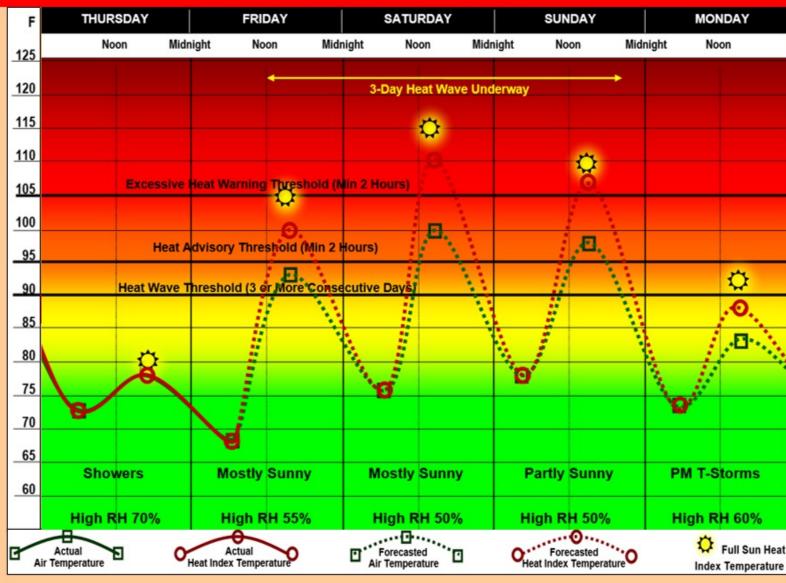
Light southwest winds may not provide much relief even near the coast. Coastal cities such as Stamford, Bridgeport, New Haven and New London are expected to experience heat index temperatures nearly as hot as the inland cities of Waterbury, New Britain and Hartford.

Persons working or conducting other activities outside this weekend should use extreme caution in these conditions, including first responders. The very young, elderly and persons with respiratory illness are the most susceptible to heat stroke as well as pets.

The heat wave is forecast to end on Monday as an approaching cool front and showers are expected to keep temperatures in the 80's.

An external update will be sent out at 1:00 PM this afternoon.

#### TEMPERATURE AND HEAT INDEX FORECAST



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# Extreme Cold Weather and Extreme Hot Weather Protocols



- Standardization of the process used to help protect residents from extreme weather
- Extreme Cold Weather Protocol was developed in 2011, to "write down" a process that was already in place
- Cold Weather Protocol partners have include United Way 211,
   Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of
   Social Services, Department of Housing, CT Coalition to End
   Homelessness, Municipalities....



# Extreme Hot Weather Emergency Management Protocol



- Developed in 2021 in response to growing number of health-threatening heat waves
- DEMHS follows the State Response Framework and also follows the basic structure of the Severe Cold Weather Protocol, although some of the services that become available with the Cold Weather Protocol are not activated for heat.
- Whenever the forecasts show the potential for a heat wave (three consecutive days with highs above 90 F), he prepares an internal update for DEMHS. If the heat wave looks significant and Heat Advisories are issued by the NWS, he also prepares an external update that goes to most state agencies, the Governor's office as well as most towns. Once the planner sends out a forecast, DEMHS reviews for additional actions, which may include:
- Governor's office notified of DEMHS recommendation to follow Extreme Heat Protocol;
  - Governor's office does press release



# Extreme Hot Weather Emergency Management Protocol (cont'd)



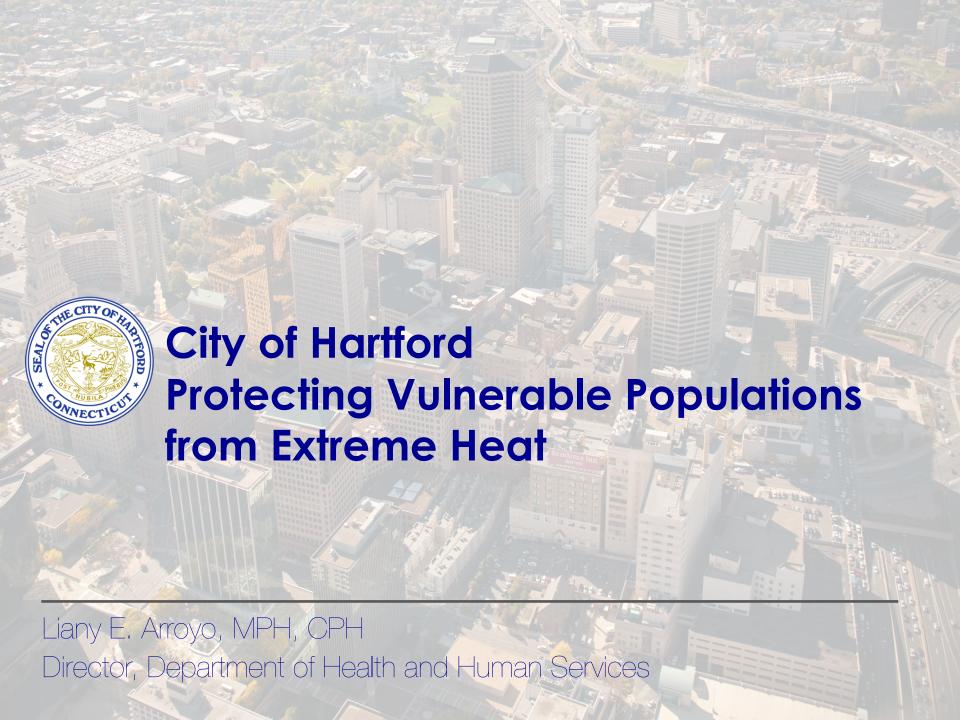
- DEMHS sends email to towns;
- DEMHS opens a Web EOC incident, and requests that towns submit their cooling center information into WebEOC;
- PIO sends out social media alerts and also disseminates information to the ESF 15 Diverse Communities group to share with their contact lists;
- DEMHS contacts 211 to be ready to respond to calls re cooling centers;
- DEMHS Regional Coordinators and duty officer monitor WebEOC in order to respond to any requests from municipalities for assistance;
- DEMHS receives reports and updates from the energy utilities.



## Extreme Hot Weather Public Information



- Collaborate with the Office of the Governor (OTG) on Social Media posting and Press Releases drafting.
  - Send to OTG press list, assist with Press Inquiries as needed.
  - Include public safety tips for public & how to find a cooling center.
- Post on DEMHS Social Media accounts Twitter (@CTDEMHS) and Linked In. Encourage other agencies to also post.
- Post external weather updates on DEMHS website.
- Send press release and talking points to the Diverse Communities
   Distribution List for translation and dissemination.



### MISSION

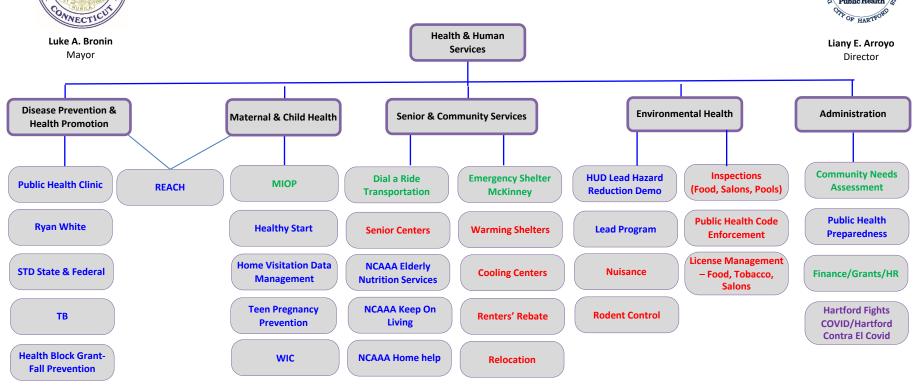


The Department of Health and Human Services aims to protect the well-being of Hartford residents, to promote an environment conducive to healthy lifestyles, and to prevent adverse health outcomes through needs assessment and the provision of quality services.



#### City of Hartford Department of Health & Human Service Programs by Division





#### Legend:

Grants/Gen Fund (5 Programs)

General Funds (10 Programs)

Grants (17 Programs)

Special Projects (1 Program)

### EXTREME HEAT RESPONSE



- Multi-department response
  - HHS
  - Fire
  - Police
  - Families, Youth, Children, and Recreation
  - Mayor's Office

### EXTREME HEAT RESPONSE



- Multi-partner response
  - 211
  - Senior Centers
  - Coordinated Access Network
  - Churches

### **APPROACHES**



- Cooling centers
- Emergency shelters, if necessary
- On-the-ground outreach