

# State of Connecticut



## STATE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (SRF)

May 2025

**Prepared by**

**Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)  
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)**

*In partnership with other CT State Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations involved in  
Emergency Preparedness and Response Activities in the State of Connecticut*



# Connecticut State Response Framework

May 2025



## Promulgation of Version 5.0

The State Response Framework has been approved in accordance with Section 28-S(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Version 4.2 is an updated version of the framework or initially approved in accordance with Section 28-S(b). This Framework should be read in conjunction with other state emergency management and response plans.

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## Record of Changes

Revision	Date Entered	Posted by
Minor grammatical and label/title corrections	September 2025	Ian Alexander Michael Paradis



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Record of Distribution

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## Section 1: Introduction and Overview

As the coordinating agency for state-level emergency management under CGS Title 28, the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) has developed this State Response Framework (hereby referred to as the Framework or the SRF) as part of the State's overall emergency management program, to provide a structure for the integration and coordination of state-level emergency management activities and to provide guidance on how state government interfaces with other emergency management stakeholders, including local and tribal governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), other states, the Federal government, and the private sector.

The SRF provides a flexible framework for state response to potential and actual hazards identified in the State's Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) that may or may not have impacted the state. The SRF is a component of the Connecticut all-hazards emergency management program through which the State prevents, protects, mitigates, responds to, and recovers from emergencies and disasters, whether natural or human caused.

The SRF provides the structure and general organization for emergency operations that normally apply in all disasters and emergencies requiring a state level response. The SRF also outlines the general responsibilities of the various emergency management partners at the local, state, and federal government level, as well as the private sector.

Section 1 of the SRF provides an overview of the framework, including the purpose, objective, scope, and goals for the document as the base foundation for emergency management and disaster response by the State of Connecticut. Additionally, it introduces the State of Connecticut and general information about the threats and hazards that could impact the state while addressing some of the agreed conditions that may be in place during the implementation of this framework and its components.

Section 2 of this document summarizes the state of preparedness and coordination in Connecticut and the holistic emergency management system that DEMHS, as the lead agency for statewide coordination during emergencies, implements. The section details the coordination of emergency management and homeland security activities before an incident necessitating the use of the SRF and supporting annexes.

Section 3 describes the operations and response activities of the state, including the activation and use of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

Section 4 of the SRF provides an outline of the maintenance and administration of the document, including the authorities DEMHS has as the lead agency for emergency management activities, but also the training and plan update schedule for the framework, to ensure it is evolving as the base document for a coordinated statewide response to disasters and emergencies. Throughout this framework, there are references to additional standard operating procedures (SOPs), functional annexes, or other plans and procedures, which provide more detailed and specific procedures for various functions or roles under the SRF. This document provides the overarching concepts for an integrated and coordinated response from the State of Connecticut during emergencies and disasters. It does not usurp local, state, or other departmental emergency plans and policies.



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### Purpose

The purpose of the State Response Framework (SRF) is to define how the State of Connecticut and its partners will work together to coordinate and support all consequence management activities during disasters and emergencies impacting the State of Connecticut.

### Mission

The mission of DEMHS/DESPP 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.

### Goals and Objectives

The goal of this SRF is to create an integrated and coordinated framework to manage, coordinate, and respond to emergencies and disasters impacting the State of Connecticut.

The primary objective of this document and supporting appendices is to establish and maintain a document that can serve as a foundation to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. A secondary objective is to standardize the way that state agencies support and coordinate with local governments to manage and respond to emergencies and disasters.

### Scope

The SRF guides coordination activities with local, state, tribal, federal, non-governmental organizations and private-sector partners involved in the state emergency management program. The SRF applies to all hazards, including natural disasters, technological hazards, and human-caused threats (e.g., terrorism).

The SRF does not replace established procedures used for normal agency response to smaller scale emergencies. The SRF will be used under these conditions to coordinate a flexible and scalable response and mobilize the resources of state agencies and partner organizations. The SRF is a response document to be read, understood, and exercised regularly. Functional annexes and/or specific incident response plans are aligned with this framework and updated regularly.

### Situation Overview

Connecticut is the third smallest state in land mass, and the fourth most densely populated state, with a population of about 3.6 million residents in the United States. Connecticut has 169 municipalities and two tribal nations. Connecticut has eight counties, but they serve as geographic entities only; there is no county government in the State of Connecticut. Connecticut has nine Regional Council of Governments created by CSG 8-31. Connecticut is broken into five emergency preparedness planning regions; each DEMHS Regional office provides administrative planning and a direct line of communication of State emergency management operations to local governments within their jurisdictions. The Connecticut River bisects the state, which is also bisected by major interstate highways, including I-84, I-91, and I-95. The state is situated between two major metropolitan areas, Boston and New York City. Three of the eight counties are statistically included in the New York City combined statistical area.

Connecticut experiences a diverse range of weather throughout the year due to its temperate climate. Winters can be cold and snowy, with temperatures often dipping below freezing, while summers are



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typically warm and humid, with temperatures reaching into the 80s and 90s. Spring and fall offer milder conditions, with vibrant foliage in autumn and blooming landscapes in spring. The state's weather can be quite variable, influenced by its proximity to both the Atlantic Ocean and New England's varied topography. Additionally, Connecticut is occasionally impacted by tropical weather events, such as hurricanes or tropical storms, which can bring heavy rains and strong winds. Severe weather, including tornadoes, is less common but can occur, with the potential to cause significant damage and localized flooding during intense storms. The major natural hazards facing the State are severe weather in the form of flooding, hurricanes, tropical storms, snow and ice.

In January of 2011, Connecticut received a Presidential major disaster declaration for a record-breaking snowstorm that occurred between January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of 2011. Within the next two years, Connecticut experienced Tropical Storm Irene (August 2011), the October Nor'easter, (October 2011) and Super Storm Sandy (October 2012), resulting in four Presidential major disaster declarations. In December 2012 the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting occurred in Newtown, Connecticut. A record-breaking blizzard in February of 2013 represented Connecticut's fifth major natural disaster and fifth Presidential major disaster declaration in two years. In January of 2015, the State received a Presidential major disaster declaration for severe winter weather. In 2018, the State of Connecticut would receive two more Presidential major disaster declarations for severe storms, tornados and straight-line winds in May of 2018 and severe storms and flooding in September of 2018. Since 2018, the State has received five additional major disaster declarations:

- COVID-19 Pandemic from January of 2020 to May of 2023.
- Tropical Storm Isaias in August of 2020.
- Remnants of Hurricane Ida from September 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2021.
- Severe Flooding Disaster, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Hawthorne Wildfire Incident and Response, October 2024.

Connecticut's hazards are described in more detail in the State's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and in its Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA).

### Planning Assumptions

The following are some, but not all, of the planning assumptions that may result in the need to begin processes and procedures outlined in this State Response Framework:

- Local governments will use the Connecticut Intrastate Mutual Aid system, Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 28-22a, to seek mutual aid from other municipalities not necessarily within their DEMHS regions, before requesting state assistance.
- Local governments have the responsibility of meeting needs of all people within their communities during times of emergencies, including persons who anticipate needing special care or requirements in emergency situations
- Local governments coordinate together through the five DEMHS Regional Emergency Planning Teams and will utilize their Regional Emergency Support Plans (RESP) to seek mutual aid among municipalities.
- When state resources and capabilities are exhausted, additional resources are available



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through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the International Emergency Management Compact (IEMC), and the federal government.

- DEMHS, state agencies, and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) utilize the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) when coordinating or involved in a state-level response to or supporting recovery in an incident.
- The SEOC serves as a physical or virtual location from which State, local, federal, voluntary organizations, and private sector leaders coordinate information and resources to support incident management activities.
- Government actions at local, state, judicial, legislative, and executive levels are executed according to statute and based on continuity of government planning to ensure stability of leadership in preparing for and responding to all hazards.

Planning assumptions provided are not meant to be an exhaustive list of the events or situations that would result in an activation of the SEOC or implementation of concepts in this plan, but to serve as a background and general set of conditions that may be in place or expected during incidents impacting the State of Connecticut and its municipalities and partners.



## Section 2: Concept of Coordination and Preparedness

The Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) leads and coordinates the state's multiagency response to natural, manmade, and technological hazards, under the Command and Management component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Connecticut has formally adopted NIMS as our incident management system and has incorporated the nine elements of NIMS into its preparedness and response operations. DEMHS has primary responsibility for development and implementation of the state's emergency management program. DEMHS is a division within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), an agency of the Executive Branch of Connecticut State government. Under Connecticut General Statutes Section 29-1b(b), jurisdiction of DEMHS is delegated by the DESPP Commissioner to the DESPP Deputy Commissioner of DEMHS.

Connecticut DEMHS participates in emergency management activities across all levels of government, spanning from serving on international and national associations down to supporting local jurisdictions individually with all cycles of emergency management from mitigation and planning, to response and recovery.

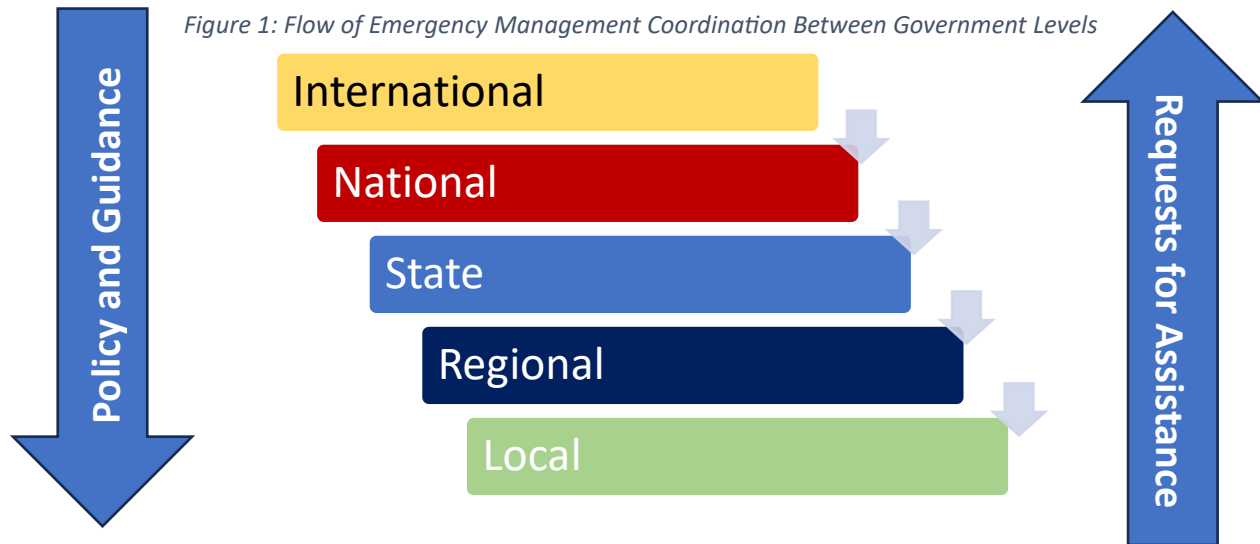
### National Incident Management System Integration

The State of Connecticut operates under Executive Order No. 34 which directs State Agencies to utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides for a common language description of all activities related to our mission. DEMHS, state agencies, and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) utilize the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) when coordinating or involved in a state-level response to or supporting recovery in an incident.

NIMS provides stakeholders across the whole community with the shared vocabulary, systems and processes to successfully deliver the capabilities described in the National Preparedness System. NIMS defines operational systems that guide how personnel work together during incidents. As Connecticut has formally adopted NIMS as its incident management system, the elements of NIMS implementation are addressed throughout this framework, as well as through other DEMHS plans, procedures, and activities.



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### International Coordination

#### **International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)**

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is an international non-profit organization of emergency managers. IAEM's mission is to advance the profession by promoting the principals of emergency management; and to serve its members by providing information, networking and development opportunities.

#### **International Emergency Management Group (IEMG)**

International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) comprised of the New England States and the Eastern Provinces of Canada provide for the possibility of mutual assistance in managing an emergency or disaster among participating jurisdictions. The International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC) is a mutual aid system among participating jurisdictions of the IEMG. (§Sec. 28-22d. International Emergency Management Assistance Compact).

### National Coordination

#### **Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC)**

The NESEC is a non-profit all-hazards emergency management organization. NESEC is comprised of the state emergency management directors and other personnel from the six New England states, New York and New Jersey. DEMHS participates in regular monthly coordination calls take place between the state Emergency Management Directors through the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC). As the situation warrants, the frequency of these calls may increase, and/or information may be shared among states via daily email reports. The NESEC Public Information Officers (PIO) group currently shares public information releases among the six New England States and each PIO has expressed their willingness to assist other states' PIOs if needed.

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

The FEMA Region 1 office — located in Cambridge, MA, with a Regional Response Coordination Center in Maynard, MA — partners with federal emergency management for the 10 Tribal Nations of New England and six states (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The Region 1 Administrator and



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Region 1 Deputy Administrators are Connecticut's primary points of contact. The FEMA Integration Team (FIT) will provide technical and training assistance on FEMA's programs and continuous on-site support to the state. The FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs) are full-time, rapid-response teams with dedicated staff able to deploy within two hours and arrive at an incident within 12 hours to support the local incident commander.

### **National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)**

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) is a nonpartisan, non-profit association dedicated to enhancing public safety by improving the nation's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all emergencies, disasters, and threats to our nation's security. NEMA administers Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a nationally adopted mutual aid agreement that is law in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Island, Puerto Rico, Guam and the North Mariana Islands. (Connecticut General Statutes §28-23a). EMAC requests by the State of Connecticut for mutual aid from other states or countries are made through DEMHS, at the direction of the Governor. Emergency Management Compacts to which Connecticut belongs include the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a mutual aid system among all of the states (Connecticut General Statutes §28-23a) and the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (Connecticut General Statutes §28-22d). Under EMAC requests by the State of Connecticut for mutual aid from other states or countries are made through DEMHS, at the direction of the Governor.

For more information on the EMAC procedures and NEMA coordination and how Connecticut interacts with the EMAC, see the DEMHS EMAC standard operating procedures.

### **State Level Coordination**

As written above, DEMHS has primary responsibility for development and implementation of the state's emergency management program under Connecticut General Statutes Section 29-1b(b). This is made possible through integrated coordination with state agencies and departments. In addition to coordinating with State of Connecticut agencies, departments, and offices. The lead state agency, if other than DESPP/DEMHS, is predicated by the situation and/or by the Governor. Information sharing and situational awareness between agencies is critical to the successful management of the emergency. The DESPP/DEMHS Public Information Officer will act as a liaison with any other agencies to collect data that may be included in the State of Connecticut Situation Report.

### **DEMHS Advisory Council**

During times of non-emergency, all state agencies are expected to participate as directed by DEMHS in planning, training, and exercise activities. The DEMHS Advisory Council, made up of state agencies as well as participating local, federal and non-governmental organizations, operate as the DEMHS advisory board, as established by the Deputy Commissioner under Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-8 and 29-1b(b). The Advisory Council's authority also derives from Connecticut General Statutes Titles 28 and 29. Its mission is to protect the people and protect in the State of Connecticut from all types of natural and humanmade disasters, fostering regional collaboration and mutual aid through research, collaborative plan development, resource and



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information sharing, and coordination. Additional information regarding the DEMHS Advisory Council can be found in its bylaws, as amended.

### Emergency Support Function Working Groups

DEMHS has established several work groups and committees under the DEMHS Advisory Council. The purpose of these groups is to facilitate collaborative emergency planning and preparedness activities, and to promote coordinated and integrated programs and policies. The work groups/committees are composed of state, local, federal, and private sector partners. These work groups are convened regularly as established by the workgroup and referred to using NIMS terminology - Emergency Support Functions (ESF). The ESF Working Groups are established to assist in fulfilling the mission of DEMHS and the Advisory Council.

The following definitions and assumptions apply to ESFs in Connecticut:

- An ESF is defined as a discipline-oriented working group. ESFs at both the state and local level are intended to foster collaborative planning within a particular discipline, and not to alter existing incident management coordination.
- The DEMHS regional emergency planning teams, including any ESF subcommittees, are intended to develop regional resource coordination. During an incident, these regional emergency planning teams are not intended to provide a command-and-control mechanism—they are intended to provide resource information, through the DEMHS regional coordinator, both down to the appropriate local communities and up to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as applicable.

### Emergency Support Function Taskforces

The DEMHS Deputy Commissioner may also establish mission-oriented ESF Taskforces as part of the DEMHS Advisory Council as are necessary to address specific emergency management or homeland security issues as they arise. Members of the Taskforces may include one or more members of related ESF Working Groups. Some of these taskforces may be operationalized as part of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activation, which is defined later in this framework.

**Table 1: Emergency Support Functions - Agency and Scope**

<b>DEMHS Advisory Council</b> <b>Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Working Groups and Scope</b>			
<b><u>ESF Working Group</u></b>	<b><u>Coordinating Agency</u></b>	<b><u>Primary Scope</u></b>	<b><u>Subcommittee or SEOC Taskforce</u> <i>(if applicable)</i></b>
ESF 1: Transportation & Transportation Security	Department of Transportation (DOT)	ESF 1 scope includes planning for and provision of transportation to support emergency-related needs, and; coordination of evacuation support, traffic control, movement restrictions, transportation safety, infrastructure restoration, and damage/impact assessment	Statewide Evacuation Taskforce
ESF 2: Communications, Public Alert & Warning	DESPP <i>Division of Statewide Telecommunications (DSET)</i> DEMHS	ESF 2 scope includes coordination and planning to ensure provision of communications support to support emergency response, and; coordination of communication assets, response and recovery activities involving local, state, federal, private sector and volunteer resources or entities; protection, restoration, sustainment of state cyber and information technology resources; coordination with telecommunications and information technology industries	Statewide Interoperable Communications Executive Committee
			Telecommunications Restoration Taskforce
ESF 3: Public Works, Critical Infrastructure	UConn Training and Technical Assistance Center CT Transportation Institute	ESF 3 scope includes coordination and planning of local and state public works/engineering in response to and recovery from a disaster, including debris removal and management, damage assessment and repair of critical infrastructure, and temporary and permanent construction.	Interagency Debris Management Taskforce
	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)		
ESF 4: Fire Prevention and Control	<i>DESPP Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC)</i> <i>DEEP Wildfire</i>	ESF 4 scope includes coordination of firefighting resources and mobilization through the activation of the CT Statewide Fire-Rescue Disaster Response Plan as well as public messaging on fire safety, fire service training and exercise.	Fire Coordination Taskforce
ESF 5: Emergency Management	DESPP/DEMHS	ESF 5 scope includes coordination and planning for management of emergency resources to protect lives and property, including volunteer civil preparedness groups (e.g., Community Emergency Response and Incident Management Teams), local, state, federal,	Citizen Corps Advisory Council
			Child Emergency Preparedness Committee

## DEMHS Advisory Council

### Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Working Groups and Scope

<u>ESF Working Group</u>	<u>Coordinating Agency</u>	<u>Primary Scope</u>	<u>Subcommittee or SEOC Taskforce</u> <i>(if applicable)</i>
		tribal, private sector collaboration and coordination, school security. ESF 5 includes training for emergency management officials.	Regional Collaboration Committee (REPTs)
			Incident Management Committee
			School Security Working Group
ESF 6: Mass Care	DESPP/DEMHS	ESF 6 scope includes coordination and planning for immediate needs resources in response to an emergency, including food, water, shelter, sanitation, human services	Statewide Mass Care Taskforce CT Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOA)
ESF 7: Logistics, Resource Support, and Private Sector	DESPP/DEMHS	ESF 7 scope is comprehensive state incident logistics planning, management and capability sustainment, including coordination and planning of response to resource requests from municipalities, tribal nations, state agencies; procurement, acceptance, management, and distribution of resources, materials, services, etc.; coordination of logistical support for commodities distribution; resource support (facility space, equipment, supplies, contracting services)	Fuel and Generator Taskforce
	Department of Correction (DOC)		
	Department of Administrative Services (DAS)		Commodities Taskforce Donations Management Task Force
	Office of Policy and Management (OPM)		
ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services	Department of Public Health (DPH)	ESF 8 scope includes planning, strategies, and coordination of medical assistance in emergency; implementation of the Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP) and/or Strategic National Stockpile and/or long term care plan; tracking the extent of public health problems associated with a disaster; public messaging; coordinating interventions and the distribution of medical supplies; laboratory testing; regulation of and assistance to health care facilities; mass fatality management planning and operations; behavioral health	Medical Reserve Corps
			Local Public Health

## DEMHS Advisory Council

### Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Working Groups and Scope

<u>ESF Working Group</u>	<u>Coordinating Agency</u>	<u>Primary Scope</u>	<u>Subcommittee or SEOC Taskforce</u> <i>(if applicable)</i>
ESF 9: Search and Rescue	DESPP/DEMHS	ESF-9 scope involves planning for and coordination of the location, recovery, and/or extrication of individuals who are lost, entrapped or in danger as the result of an emergency; may include collapsed structure, swift water or other life-threatening emergencies.	CT Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Taskforce
ESF 10: Hazardous Material Response	DEEP	ESF 10 scope involves planning for and coordinating response to hazardous materials spills, leaks, or other exposure including as the result of an accident or fire. Response includes monitoring air, ground and water potential contamination levels as well as cleanup.	Statewide Emergency Response Commission
	Regional Hazmat Teams		Regional Hazmat Teams
ESF 11: Agriculture, Animal, and Natural Resources	Department of Agriculture (DoAG)	ESF 11 scope includes coordinating assistance to agricultural and aquacultural businesses affected by emergency; tracking reportable animal and avian diseases and planning and coordinating response to outbreaks; enforcing laws related to domestic animals; may assist ESF 6 on pet sheltering guidelines; DEEP coordinates planning and coordination of assistance related to dams.	
	DEEP		
ESF 12: Energy and Utilities Restoration	DESPP/DEMHS	The scope of ESF 12 is the planning for and coordination of energy and other utilities restoration, including implementation of the ESF 12 Annex to the State Response Framework for the restoration of electrical, telecommunications, gas, wastewater and drinking water utilities. The Annex includes the Make Safe Protocol, designed to prioritize restoration in order to maintain life saving capabilities.	ESF 12 Energy and Utilities Working Group Energy and Utilities Restoration Taskforce
	DEEP <i>Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA)</i>		
ESF 13: Law Enforcement & Homeland Security	DESPP <i>Connecticut State Police</i>	The scope of ESF 13 includes all aspects of law enforcement during an emergency, as well as access, traffic and crowd control, facility and resource security, activation of specialized emergency services units, intelligence analysis to identify areas of risk, rumor control,	
	<i>Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC)</i>		

## DEMHS Advisory Council

### Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Working Groups and Scope

<u>ESF Working Group</u>	<u>Coordinating Agency</u>	<u>Primary Scope</u>	<u>Subcommittee or SEOC Taskforce</u> <i>(if applicable)</i>
	<i>Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC)</i>	etc., ESF 13 includes training of both state and local law enforcement officials.	
ESF 14: Long Term Recovery and Mitigation	DESPP/DEMHS (coordination of local and state partners including DECD, Insurance, Dept of Housing, etc.,)	The scope of ESF 14 is described in the State Disaster Recovery Framework and involves short-term recovery activities begun in the response phase and focusing on immediate needs of individuals and communities and long-term recovery which focuses on meeting continuing unmet needs and helping the community build back to at least pre-disaster conditions, through activities related to community planning and capacity building, economic recovery, cultural and natural resources, housing, infrastructure, health and social services.	Long Term Recovery Branch ESF 14 Long Term Recovery Committee
ESF 15: External Affairs and Public Information	DESPP/DEMHS Office of the Governor	The scope of ESF 15 is the coordination of consistent public messaging to diverse communities of CT residents and visitors in anticipation of, in response to, and during recovery from emergencies. At the State Emergency Operations Center, this might take the form of an ESF 15 Taskforce led by the OTG.	ESF-15 Diverse Communities Working Group and Taskforce
ESF 17: Cybersecurity	DAS/Bureau of Information Technology Services (BITS)	The scope of ESF 17 is to plan for, respond to, and recover from cyber incidents, either intentional, accidental or as part of a larger emergency. When activated, the ESF 17 Cyber Disruption Taskforce operates under a Cyber Disruption Response Plan. The ESF 17 group also shares information related to cybersecurity.	Statewide Cybersecurity Committee Cyber Disruption Taskforce
ESF 20: Port Security	US Coast Guard DESPP/DEMHS	The scope of ESF 20 is to plan for and support port security in the three DEMHS regions with a coastline—Regions 1, 2, and 4. The US Coast Guard leads the ESF with DEMHS support.	DEMHS Regions 1, 2, and 4 have RESF 20 groups. The Coast Guard convenes the Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Committee



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### DEMHS Regional Coordination

Connecticut's municipalities and two tribal nations are divided into five emergency preparedness planning regions. The five DEMHS Regional Offices, located in Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Colchester and Waterbury, provide administrative support and planning assistance to local governments within their jurisdictions. During emergencies, the Regional Offices serve as resource coordinators and liaisons between towns and the SEOC. The staff of the Regional Offices may be augmented during emergencies and activated to support municipalities and partners in the applicable DEMHS Regions.

Each DEMHS Region has a Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) and a Regional Emergency Support Plan (RESP). The REPT maintains and uses a RESP to support mutual aid among regional communities in emergencies. The REPTs include CEOs and representatives from the RESFs (Regional Emergency Support Functions). The REPT in each Region operates under bylaws which address their mission, membership and procedures. The RESFs are discipline oriented workgroups that provide collaborative planning and resource support within each discipline. The RESP does not usurp local Incident Command or operational aspects of existing plans. Like traditional mutual aid, the RESP is another support tool for the local CEO and Incident Commander and does not interfere with local management of an emergency. The responsibilities of these regional partners include but are not limited to:

- Fostering collaborative planning.
- Providing assistance to the local Incident Commander and the Emergency Management Director.
- Providing for expanded mutual aid through the activation of the Regional Emergency Support Plan (RESP).
- Providing collaborative resource development and allocation of available funds. (See Connecticut General Statutes §28-22a for the Intrastate Mutual Aid System, which provides the guidelines for each municipality in Connecticut to provide mutual aid assistance to any other municipality in the state.)

All 5 DEMHS Regions support their local respective municipalities throughout all phases of emergency management. This includes providing guidance and assistance, as well as conducting reviews of required Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOP), school security plans, and supporting training efforts. coordinates and participates in local and regional preparedness drills and exercises and provides guidance and assistance to local and regional partners with regard to multiple grant programs. Each DEMHS Region is unique in its geography, hazards, municipal structure, and disaster response capabilities. The following sections provide additional information about each DEMHS Region. Detailed response operations by region can be found in the applicable RESP.

### DEMHS Region 1 Overview

DEMHS Region 1 is a coastal region which includes 14 municipalities in lower Fairfield County bordering the New York metropolitan area. Region 1 is approximately 371 square miles and has an approximate population of 714,024 (2020). Region 1 includes three major cities: Bridgeport, Stamford, and Norwalk. Region 1 has two Council of Governments (COGs): MetroCOG and WestCOG. Region 1 is densely populated and gateway to the New York Metropolitan area from New England. Region 1 is considered one of the busiest transportation corridors in the country with I-95, Rt. 15, Rt. 8, Metro-North & Amtrak, Bridgeport & Port Jefferson Ferry. The Stamford Hurricane Barrier provides protection to about 600



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acres, which includes principal manufacturing plants, a portion of the main commercial district and residential sections.

### **DEMHS Region 2 Overview**

DEMHS Region 2 covers the Greater New Haven area with 30 towns in the south-central portion of Connecticut. Region 2 is approximately 671 square miles and has an approximate population of 760,453 (2017). New Haven, the #3 most populated city in CT, is in DEMHS Region 2. There are three different counties that touch Region 2: Fairfield, New Haven, and Middlesex counties. Region 2 has three councils of government (COGs): Lower CT River Valley COG, South Central COG, and Naugatuck Valley COG. Region 2 is home to higher education institutes such as Yale University, University of New Haven, Quinnipiac University, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), Albertus Magnus, and Gateway Community College. Region 2 has major highways/roadways such as I95, I91, rt 15, rt 8, rt 1, rt 10, and rt 5. There are multiple rail lines and stations, Tweed New Haven Airport, Meriden airport, and New Haven Port. Region 2 is on the CT coastline and the Connecticut River and Housatonic River also run through the Region.

### **DEMHS Region 3 Overview**

DEMHS Region 3 encompasses 41 municipalities in north-central Connecticut, including the Capitol Region. This diverse region features both densely populated urban centers such as the Capitol City of Hartford, Middletown, and East Hartford, as well as more rural communities like Granby, Bolton, and Stafford. The region covers a land area of approximately 1,078 square miles and is home to a population of around 1,085,939 reflecting a mix of urban density and rural expansiveness. .

### **DEMHS Region 4 Overview**

The DEMHS Region 4 footprint encompasses the eastern third of Connecticut. The region extends from the Massachusetts line to Long Island Sound with Rhode Island bordering on the east. Its membership includes forty-two (42) municipalities and two tribal nations (Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nations). U.S. Census 2020 population estimate was 434,960. The total land area of all municipalities within the region is 1,264 sq. Miles. Region 4 is a mix of suburban and rural areas with smaller urban clusters. Although there are no large cities in the region, there are several regionally significant population clusters having more diverse needs relating to income deficits and vulnerability as a result of aging, disability, or other special needs. The area is served by several major limited access highways but primarily secondary and local roads. There are both freight and passenger rail as well as ferry, bus, and paratransit services.

### **DEMHS Region 5 Overview**

DEMHS Region 5 is comprised of 43 municipalities located in the northwestern quadrant of Connecticut bordering the State of New York to the west and Massachusetts to the north. Region 5 includes densely populated Danbury and Waterbury while a majority of the other municipalities maintain suburban and rural demographic. Region 5 maintains an approximate population of 600,000 covering 1,418 square miles.



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### Local

Each of the State's 169 municipalities and two tribal nations has an emergency management director appointed by the local chief executive official of the municipality or tribe. Local emergency management directors are full-time, part time, or volunteer. The Local Emergency Management Director (EMD) has the day-to-day authority and responsibility for overseeing emergency management programs and activities. The Local EMD works with the Chief Executive Officer, appointed officials, and first responders to ensure that there are unified objectives with regard to the municipality's emergency plans and activities. The local EMD is assisted by, and coordinates the efforts of, employees in departments and agencies that perform emergency management functions. Department and agency heads collaborate with the local EMD during development of the Local Emergency Operations Plan and provide key response resources as needed during emergencies and incidents impacting the locality. Participation in the planning process ensures that specific capabilities within the locality are integrated into a workable plan to safeguard the community. Each Local Emergency Management Director also has key responsibilities, including:

- Coordinating the planning process and working cooperatively with other local agencies and private- sector organizations.
- Developing mutual aid and assistance agreements.
- Coordinating damage assessments during and after an incident.
- Advising and informing local officials about emergency management activities before, during, and after an incident.
- Developing and executing public awareness and education programs.
- Conducting exercises to test plans and systems and obtain lessons learned.
- Involving the public, governmental partners, private sector and non-governmental organizations in planning, training and exercises.
- Maintaining the local emergency operations center and emergency management program.
- Operating as the point of contact with the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DESPP/DEMHS).

More information about the Local EMD roles and responsibilities can be found in the Local EMD Handbook (v. 2019) and other [general resources on the DEMHS website](#). The Local EMD is supported at all times by the DEMHS Regional Office staff and may reach out with questions, information, requests for resources, or other matters across the entire emergency management mission areas of Mitigation, Prevention, Protection, Response, and Recovery.

*Figure 2: Five Phases of Emergency Management*





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### Private Sector and VOAD / NGO

DESPP/DEMHS may work with its Private Sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to facilitate additional preparedness and coordination to the whole community. The Regional Coordinators may reach out to their established REPTs and RESF Working Groups and ask them to provide additional contact information to further develop the distribution lists for the Private Sector and NGOs. Certain REPTs have a separate private sector working group while others include these organizations under other headings (i.e. private transportation groups under ESF 1, utilities under ESF 12, etc.). Volunteer Organizations are also be a primary link to the community and they may be called upon to assist during the preparedness, coordination, and disaster operations. Regular contact with these groups already occurs on multiple levels. DESPP/DEMHS works with the CT Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (VOAD) on a state level along with the Citizens Corp, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). Other volunteer groups and NGOs, such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and United Way 211, play a large role in disaster response, and are valuable partners in emergency preparedness, planning and response.



## Section 3: Concept of Operations and Response

### Overview

The mission of Connecticut DESPP/DEMHS 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. This section defines and outlines the roles and responsibilities of DEMHS and its partners, while summarizing the standard tasks and activities that DEMHS and its partners engage in to coordinate disaster response operations in Connecticut.

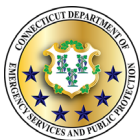
All disasters begin and end locally, it is anticipated and expected that local jurisdictions will respond to incidents impacting their locality on a routine basis, using local or regional resources through established plans and procedures. However, during times of increased effects of emergencies or disasters statewide, DEMHS may at the direction of the Governor, through the recommendation from the Commissioner of DESPP, activate the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to support incidents impacting one or more local jurisdictions. The SEOC will monitor and coordinate the disaster response activities statewide and will coordinate and support the allocation of assistance to state and local authorities as necessary and appropriate.

For more direct and operational procedures regarding the SEOC, DEMHS has created the following supplemental plans and publications to be referenced during SEOC activations, including but not limited to:

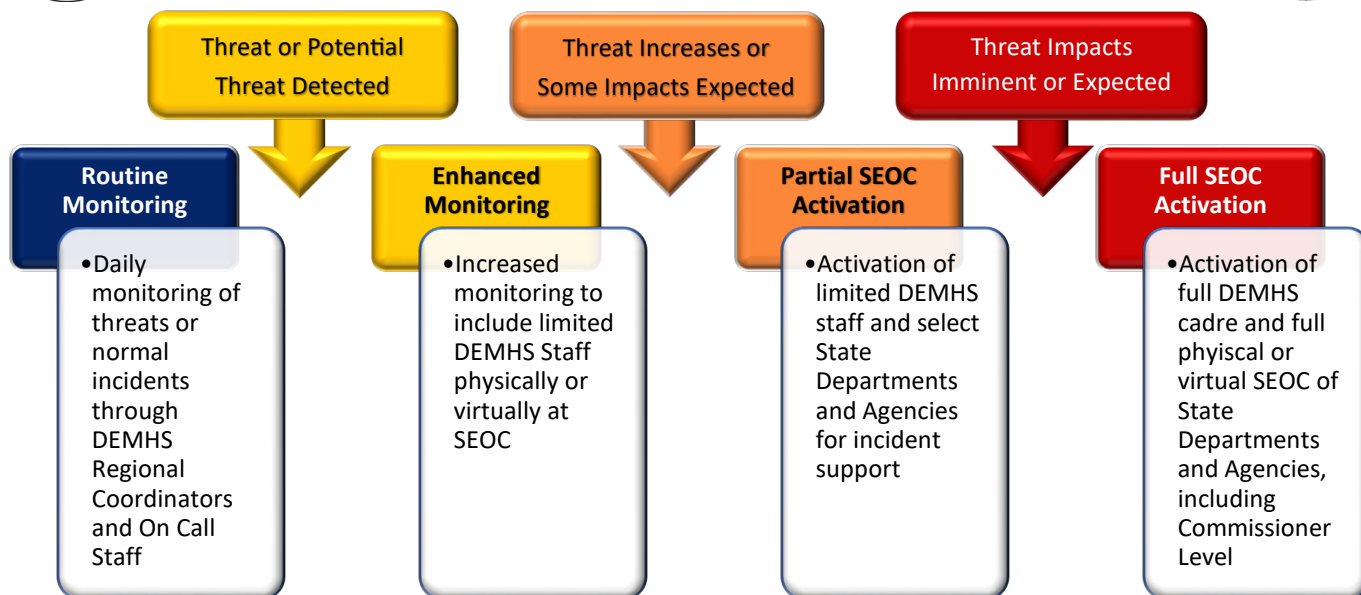
- SEOC Activation SOP
- SEOC Crisis Communications Manual
- SEOC Operations Section SOP
- SEOC Resource Support Section SOP
- SEOC Planning Unit SOP
- SEPC Support Services Unit SOP
- SEOC Deactivation SOP
- SEOC Demobilization SOP
- Alternate SEOC SOP

### Connecticut Response Activation Level (CRAL)

The following section details the Connecticut Response Activation Levels (CRAL) and the role of DEMHS as the lead state agency for statewide coordination and response, as well as the primary purpose and scope of each level. The CRAL is a reference to the level of activity and the posture assumed by DEMHS and the SEOC and may extend to other State Departments and Agencies in coordination of disaster management activities. The CRAL is not tied to a specific FEMA Mission Area; rather, it is used to implement expected and/or necessary actions that the State is taking to support response to the impacts from a threat/hazard. The SRAL levels with descriptions are below.



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### Routine

Each DEMHS Regional Office, through its daily operations, is constantly in monitoring mode. Any reported situation, threat, or unusual event warrants observation, verification of appropriate actions and possible follow-up by the DEMHS Regional Coordinator. Additionally, DEMHS maintains a cadre of on-call staff who are engaged in monitoring potential impacts of threats and hazards, such as inclement weather or planned large-scale events, who work in conjunction with the DEMHS Regional Offices. State Agencies monitor and respond to threats and hazards daily that could or do cause impacts to their regular duties and responsibilities as a Connecticut state department or agency.

### Enhanced Monitoring

In this phase, DEMHS may increase its monitoring footprint to include stationing some staff physically at the SEOC or activating a virtual component for continued enhanced monitoring by select staff. The DEMHS Regional Office will continue through its daily operations, to monitor the potential impact or threat, and may have additional actions such as coordinated conference calls, meetings, or other communications with those who the threat or hazard would impact the most. DEMHS may also coordinate communications with state agencies to put them on a heightened alert for potential increase in SEOC posture and duties surrounding implementation of components in this document. State Agencies may continue to monitor and respond to threats and hazards daily that could or do cause impacts to their regular duties and responsibilities as a Connecticut state department or agency, and may be asked by DEMHS for information pertaining to their actions during this phase.



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### Partial

The Partial Activation Level of the SEOC is activated as a result of increased threat or anticipated or actual impacts that warrants state-level response and support, either through resource management of state assets, or information coordination for officials. This could be due to the need for increased statewide situational awareness of potential or limited impact/damage from incidents that has occurred. A partial SEOC activation will include Commissioner-approved DEMHS staff and appropriate state agency liaisons. As the situation warrants, representatives of select Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) groups may also be asked to report to the DEMHS Regional Office, if applicable to the incident.

### Full

At the Full Activation Level, an incident is expected to or has had a significant impact to one or multiple local jurisdictions in the state. Impacts warranting a full response may include widespread damage and disruption to communities, increased requests for state resource assistance, increased state coordination to support state partners and local jurisdictions, and direction from the Governor. This operational phase requires the coordination and support of many State and possibly federal resources to support local jurisdictions and state operations for an extended period of time. The SEOC will serve as the central point of statewide coordination, and state departments and agencies will be expected to staff the SEOC physically with an SEOC Liaison for an extended duration, until the situation or incident begins to stabilize.

### Triggers to Transition from Operational Phase

The transition between CRAL levels above may follow two defined paths; either a need to increase the state's response level rapidly due to a rapidly increasing incident or threat, or gradually over time as a threat begins to materialize into a more severe incident with expected widespread impacts. As a threat or hazard is detected and/or identified, the state's response level is expected to transition to an appropriate phase depending on recommendation from subject matter experts and direction from the Governor.

The transition between phases of SEOC posture will occur as the impact increases and the need for resources to support local jurisdictions increases or decreases. As requests for resources increase, the need for coordinating information management among senior officials and local jurisdictions, and/or the coordination of the mobilization of state support and capabilities to protect state assets and support local jurisdictions in response, so too does the operational phase increase. The following actions or triggers may occur which can influence the state's activation posture to response to threats or hazards that are expected to have or already have had, any impact on the state.

- Identification of a perceived, possible, or directly imminent threat or hazard;
- Identification and detection of an active threat or hazard with impacts expected or occurring; and;
- Issuance of a severe weather watch or warning or expected issuance and impacts to the state and its municipalities.

If the threat/hazard is such that it requires an increase in the CRAL, the SEOC pre-activation process begins.



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### Pre-SEOC Activation and Operations

As described in this framework and under Title 28, Chapter 517 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Connecticut DESPP/DEMHS is responsible for emergency management and homeland security for the state. These activities are dependent upon the current situation status and may be scaled up or down at the discretion of the DESPP Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner of DEMHS, and the State Emergency Management Director. Management of the pre-activation activities have been delegated by the DESPP Commissioner to the DESPP Deputy Commissioner of DEMHS and the State Director of Emergency Management. The DESPP Deputy Commissioner for DEMHS may, under Connecticut General Statutes §28-5(c), take all preparatory steps, including the full or partial mobilization of civil preparedness forces in advance of an actual disaster, as may be necessary for the prompt and effective operation of the state emergency management (emergency response/emergency operations) plan. See also Conn. Gen. Stat. §§28-6, 28-7(f).

In an instance that warrants an SEOC activation or change in SEOC activation level as defined above, the following pre-activation tasks are to be undertaken by DEMHS. These pre-SEOC activation steps include but are not limited to:

- Monitoring of the potential threat/hazard and providing appropriate reporting to senior officials of the incident;
- Coordinate staffing levels of DEMHS Staff and SEOC Liaisons for the potential increase in SEOC posture;
- Pre-incident preparations and coordination, to include resource coordination and pre-positioning of assets if applicable.

### Pre-Activation Activities

Within each SEOC Section SOP, there are recommended activation procedures for staff serving in those sections to follow. It is the responsibility of the staff assigned and trained to those SEOC sections to implement pre-activation activities as appropriate and directed by the State Emergency Management Director.

Depending on the nature of the incident and if the incident is expected to warrant an SEOC posture increase, DESPP/DEMHS will prepare and distribute situational awareness advisories or bulletins to appropriate partners. For a weather-related incident, this will include weather advisories issued to all municipalities and to state agencies detailing the severity of the incident. This may be coordinated by the State Emergency Management Director and/or on-call staff. Depending on the type and severity of the weather system, these weather reports might begin as soon as 3-5 days prior to the event (in the case of a potential hurricane) or might begin just a few hours prior to the event (in the case of a rapidly developing severe weather system). In the case of homeland security-related incidents, situational awareness reports would typically be drafted and distributed via CTIC. The distribution of these reports would be based on the type and sensitivity of information contained in the report. The State Director of Emergency Management will direct and coordinate monitoring of situational awareness activities, through the DEMHS Regional Offices and DEMHS staff who may serve in the SEOC. In the case of Homeland Security related incidents, the monitoring and situational awareness activities will be coordinated by the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) Director with the assistance of the State Director of Emergency Management, as necessary.



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### Situational Awareness and Initial Coordination

Situational awareness often includes conference calls among the members of the state Executive Policy Group, formerly known as the Governor's Unified Command, or with other entities, depending on the type and extent of the incident. These conference calls provide the necessary collaboration and coordination in advance of the activation of the state EOC. As the situation warrants, the Executive Policy Group will assemble via conference call to advise the Governor on preparations being made, and recommended actions to be taken. Depending on the nature of the incident, the state Executive Policy Group may meet with the Governor, usually in the state EOC, as part of the pre-activation coordination activities.

Conference calls are also held with partners beyond the state Executive Policy Group, depending on the nature of the incident. For example, in the case of a severe approaching weather system, the Executive Policy Group may host a state-wide conference call with municipalities across the state to review and share information and discuss preparations being made. These conference calls also provide an opportunity for the Governor and/or the Executive Policy Group to provide a consistent message to the first responder community.

The timing and organization of these conference calls or meetings are coordinated by DESPP/DEMHS, on behalf of the Governor's Office in the role as coordinator and integrator of the state-wide response to an incident. Examples of events for which these calls or meetings might be necessary include severe weather events such as approaching snowstorms or tropical storms/hurricanes.

### SEOC Readiness Preparations

Pre-incident preparations are typically initiated as a result of recommendations from the State Emergency Management Director and DESPP Deputy Commissioner, based on an assessment of the incident. DEMHS staff responsible for SEOC Sections and/or SEOC logistics, will begin preparing for an operational shift of the SEOC as directed and if the situation warrants escalation. More information can be found in the SEOC Activation SOP. Additionally, all appropriate state agencies, including those within the Executive Policy Group, should take such steps as each agency deems necessary to prepare for the event. State agency preparations normally fall within two areas:

- Preparations necessary to protect and preserve agency staff, functions and assets (this might include COOP actions if certain agency locations are no longer viable, depending on the incident);
- Preparations necessary to sustain services to the agency constituency; and,
- Preparations to support the SEOC as requested with staff augmentation and pre-positioning of assets if applicable and requested.

### Levels of Emergency Declarations

A local municipality or the State may declare a state of emergency in anticipation of a threat or impact to the municipality or state or after a significant incident occurs. In Connecticut, the power to declare such an emergency rests with the Chief Elected Official of a municipality and the Governor of the State.



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### Local State of Emergency/Civil Preparedness Emergency

A local jurisdiction declares a local state of emergency when a threat/hazard is/will impact their community. Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-22a, “In the event of a serious disaster affecting any political subdivision of the state, the chief executive officer of that political subdivision may declare a local civil preparedness emergency.” Once a local emergency has been declared, the affected jurisdiction is authorized to request aid and assistance from any other municipality within the state under the intrastate mutual aid system described in the Act. A municipal CEO may declare an emergency in anticipation of an event, in order to expedite and support the planning and preparation process. When declaring a local emergency, municipalities must immediately advise the DEMHS Regional Office, who will then notify the SEOC. The municipal charter or ordinances may contain additional information on the powers of the CEO or other municipal official in an emergency.

### State of Civil Preparedness

As defined by Connecticut General Statutes, “In the event of serious disaster, enemy attack, sabotage or other hostile action or in the event of the imminence thereof, the Governor may proclaim that a state of civil preparedness emergency exists, in which event the Governor may personally take direct operational control of any or all parts of the civil preparedness forces and functions in the state. Any such proclamation shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of the State.”<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, the following actions are some, but not all, that may occur during a state of civil preparedness:

- Declare a state of emergency (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(a));
- Designate such vehicles and persons as can be permitted to move, and the routes to be followed (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(b)(2));
- Control, commit and/or regulate resources (for example, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§28-7(f), 28-11);
- Order evacuations (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(f));
- Modify or suspend state statutes, regulations or requirements (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(b));
- Request federal assistance (Conn. Gen. Stat. §§28-9a, 28-9b, 28-9c).

This declaration gives the Governor the authority to take necessary action to protect life and property, including acquiring out-of-state resources through EMAC.

### Federal Emergency Declaration

If the scale and impacts of an incident is expected to exceed or does exceed the municipal and State’s ability to respond, the Governor may request a Presidential disaster declaration. Additionally, the President may provide federal assistance if it is necessary to save lives or prevent severe damage through an Emergency Declaration. This can include supplemental federal assistance that is anticipated or necessitated to support response activities. Following the incident, and based on the impacts of an incident, additional financial assistance for disaster recovery may be available through FEMA to assist state and local governments, and

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<sup>1</sup> Connecticut General Statutes, Title 28, Chapter 517, Sec. 28-9. Civil preparedness or public health emergency; Governor’s powers. Modification or suspension of statutes, regulations or other requirements [Chapter 517 - Civil Preparedness, Emergency Management and Homeland Security](#)



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certain private nonprofit organizations with response and recovery efforts. For more information on the Federal Disaster Declaration process, please see the [State Disaster Recovery Framework](#).

### SEOC Activation and Operations

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is the State's primary coordination center for emergency services during any major emergency affecting the State of Connecticut. The SEOC is activated when ordered by the Governor, after advisement by the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the DEMHS Deputy Commissioner, State Emergency Management Director, or one of their designated representatives. The Primary SEOC is located on the ground floor of the State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

As noted previously, DEMHS is always in the Routine Monitoring phase of its operational footprint; day-to-day operations are conducted from DEMHS regional offices that are strategically dispersed throughout the State. When a major emergency or disaster strikes, centralized and coordinated emergency management is needed. The Governor's Executive Policy Group and appropriate state agency liaisons operate from the SEOC, in conjunction with DEMHS.

The SEOC operates under the nationally recognized National Incident Management System (NIMS). An EOC provides a central location of authority and information and allows for face-to-face coordination among personnel who must make emergency decisions. The following functions are some, but not all, of the tasks performed in the SEOC:

- Receiving and disseminating warnings;
- Developing policies;
- Collecting intelligence from and disseminating information to the various SEOC representatives and, as appropriate, to municipal, military and federal agencies;
- Preparing intelligence/information summaries, situation reports, operation reports and other reports as required;
- Maintaining general and specific maps, information display boards and other data pertaining to emergency operations;
- Continuing analysis and evaluation of all data pertaining to emergency operations;
- Controlling and coordinating, within established policy, the operations and logistical support of the fire service resources committed to the emergency operations;
- Maintaining contact with support EOCs, either federal, regional, or local, jurisdictions, and other levels of government; and,
- Providing emergency information and instructions to the public, including making official releases to the media and the scheduling of press conferences as necessary in coordination with the Governor's Press Office.

The State of Connecticut utilizes a hybrid staffing model to support SEOC operations. It uses aspects of the Department model that the SEOC Liaisons from the various agencies staff, and it uses aspects of the Support model that provides support to towns and agencies to respond to and recover from an incident.<sup>2</sup> This hybrid staffing allows CT to operate SEOC operations for operational periods that run 24/7 and can extend longer periods of time.

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<sup>2</sup> Table 1: EOC Organizational Structure in NIMS. *NIMS Emergency Operations Center How-to Quick Reference Guide*" Page 10. [Emergency Operations Center How To Quick Reference Guide](#), October 2022



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### Alert and Notification of SEOC Activation

The Governor of Connecticut has the responsibility to activate the SEOC if a situation warrants. At the recommendation of the DESPP Commissioner, the Governor may activate the SEOC and either the State Emergency Management Director, or designee, at the request of the DESPP Commissioner, will communicate with each pre-designated Section Chiefs or the SEOC Manager to alert SEOC personnel and necessary SEOC Liaisons of a potential or actual the activation of the SEOC. The activation notification method could include Everbridge, text, email, Teams, in-person notification, or phone call. Each Section Chief will assist in determining proper staffing levels for their Section, in consultation with the SEOC Manager and State Emergency Management Director. Once activated, staff will continue with operational duties until released by their Section Chief, Operations Section Chief or the SEOC Manager.

### SEOC Administration, Facility Support, and Logistics Considerations

After receiving notification of the activation of the SEOC, DEMHS staff should communicate with their section chief and prepare for their assigned shift. The SEOC is located on the ground floor of the Hartford Armory, and is restricted to approved personnel. The SEOC is equipped with necessary equipment, software, and audio/visual components to successfully run an extended operation. The SEOC The SEOC Support Section and SEOC Resource Support Section Chiefs meet before the beginning of the operational period of the SEOC to ensure that the SEOC is prepared for the arrival of increased personnel, taking into consideration things such as necessary desk space, communication methods, technological capabilities, necessary meals and accommodations, and other logistical or facility needs.

### Operations within the SEOC During Activations

The SEOC operational period will last for 12 hours unless otherwise directed. During a SEOC operational period, SEOC Liaisons and DEMHS staff should report to their section chief and review the appropriate SEOC Section SOPs for specific information about their assigned position. During an operational period, the Planning Section, in consultation with Command Staff, will develop an operational tempo for the incident period, and SEOC Liaisons and DEMHS staff will coordinate at the SEOC and virtually with other members of their teams and/or local municipalities to support the incident until it is stabilized.

### SEOC Communications and Considerations

The DEMHS Public Information Officer (PIO) may develop and distribute comprehensive, centralized public information and precautionary instructions to the public on a 24-hour basis during times of crisis. The DEMHS PIO may act as Liaison to other state agencies, or other entities as needed.

The Governor's Director of Communications will serve as the head of the Communications Team and may designate operational coordination to a member of his/her staff. Additionally, the PIO of DEMHS serves as the administrative manager and coordinator of the communications team, maintaining all contact information, drafting schedules, and assisting the Governor's Office as required during SEOC activations.

SEOC Communications channels includes but is not limited to:

- Internal DESPP/DEMHS communications measures, either pre-activation or during SEOC operations;



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- Communication with municipalities (EMDs and CEOs) through established plans and policies;
- Communications with private sector and volunteer organizations through established plans and policies; and,
- Communications with public through established social media channels.

For more information, see the SEOC Crisis Communications Plan, which is an appendix to this document.

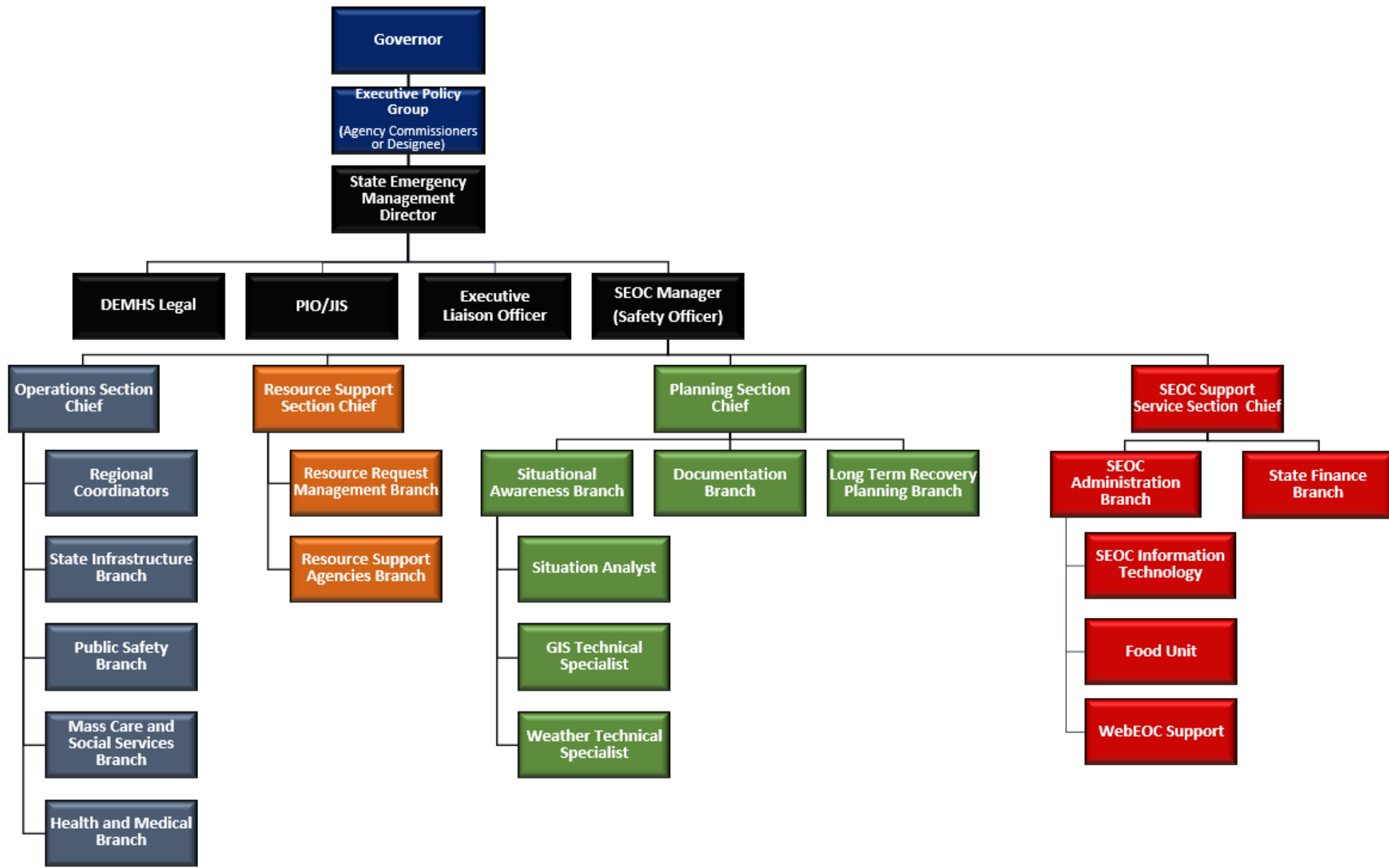
### Alternate SEOC and Activation Procedures

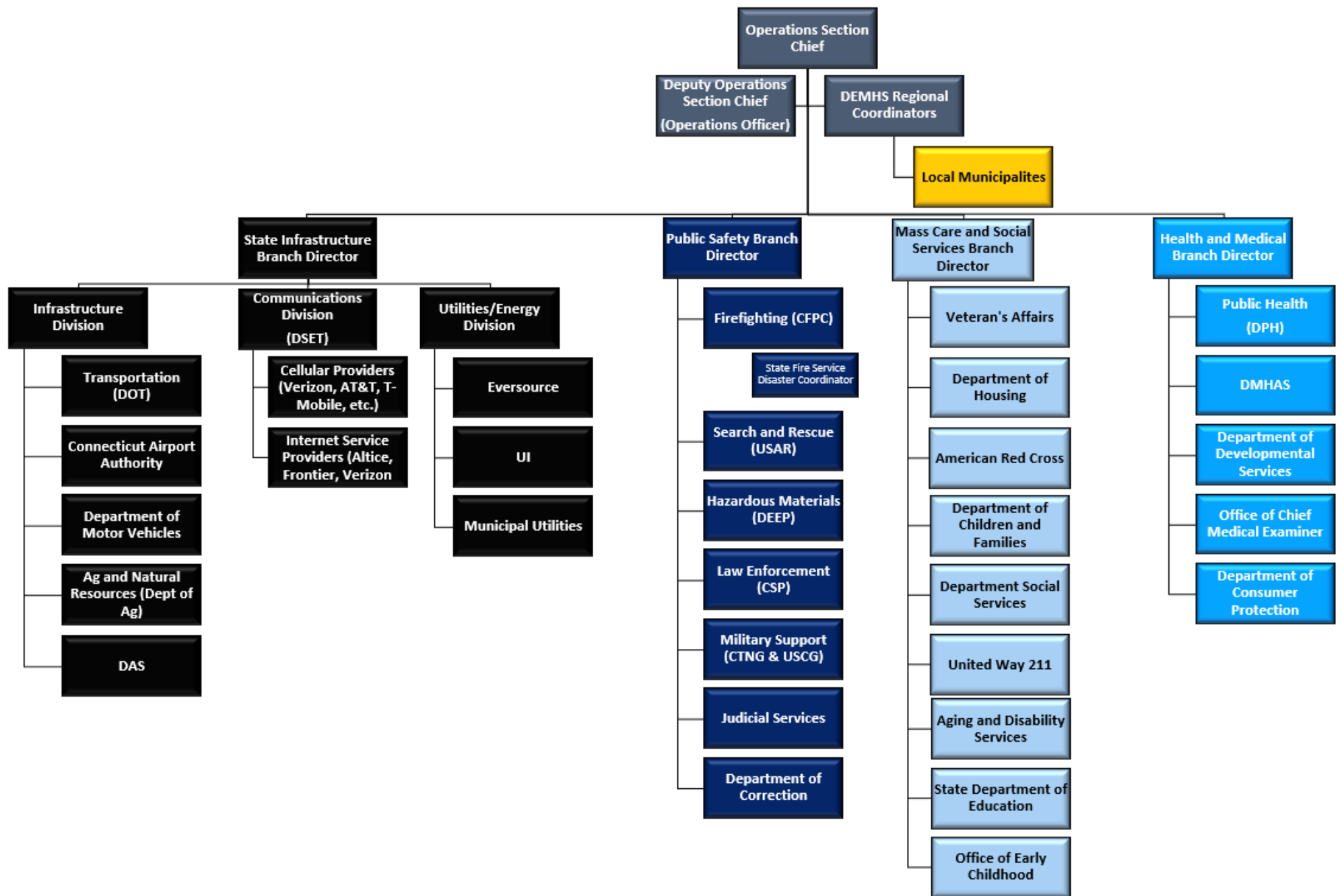
In the event that the primary SEOC facility is unable to be occupied, either due to an issue at the facility or concern for the safety of the supporting DEMHS and state department/agency personnel, DEMHS has identified an alternate SEOC which is located at Hartford/Brainard Airport. For information and procedures to activate the alternate SEOC and move operations to that pre-designated facility, please reference the Alternate SEOC SOP.

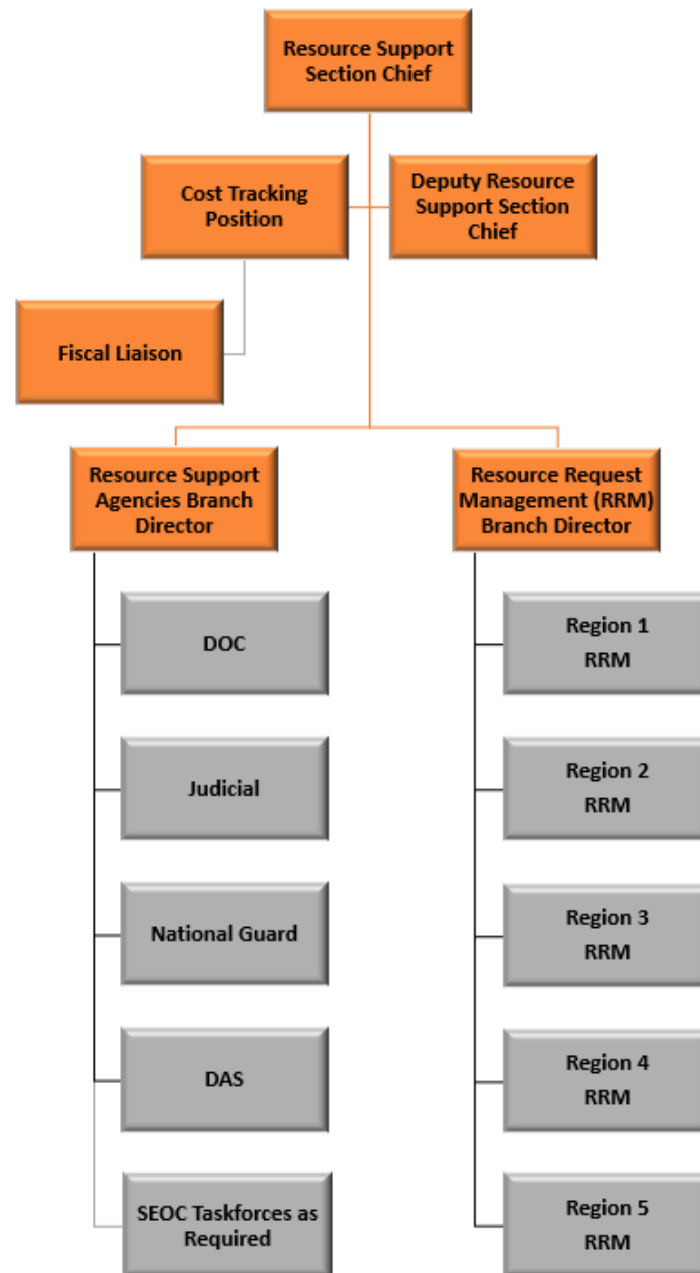
### SEOC Demobilization

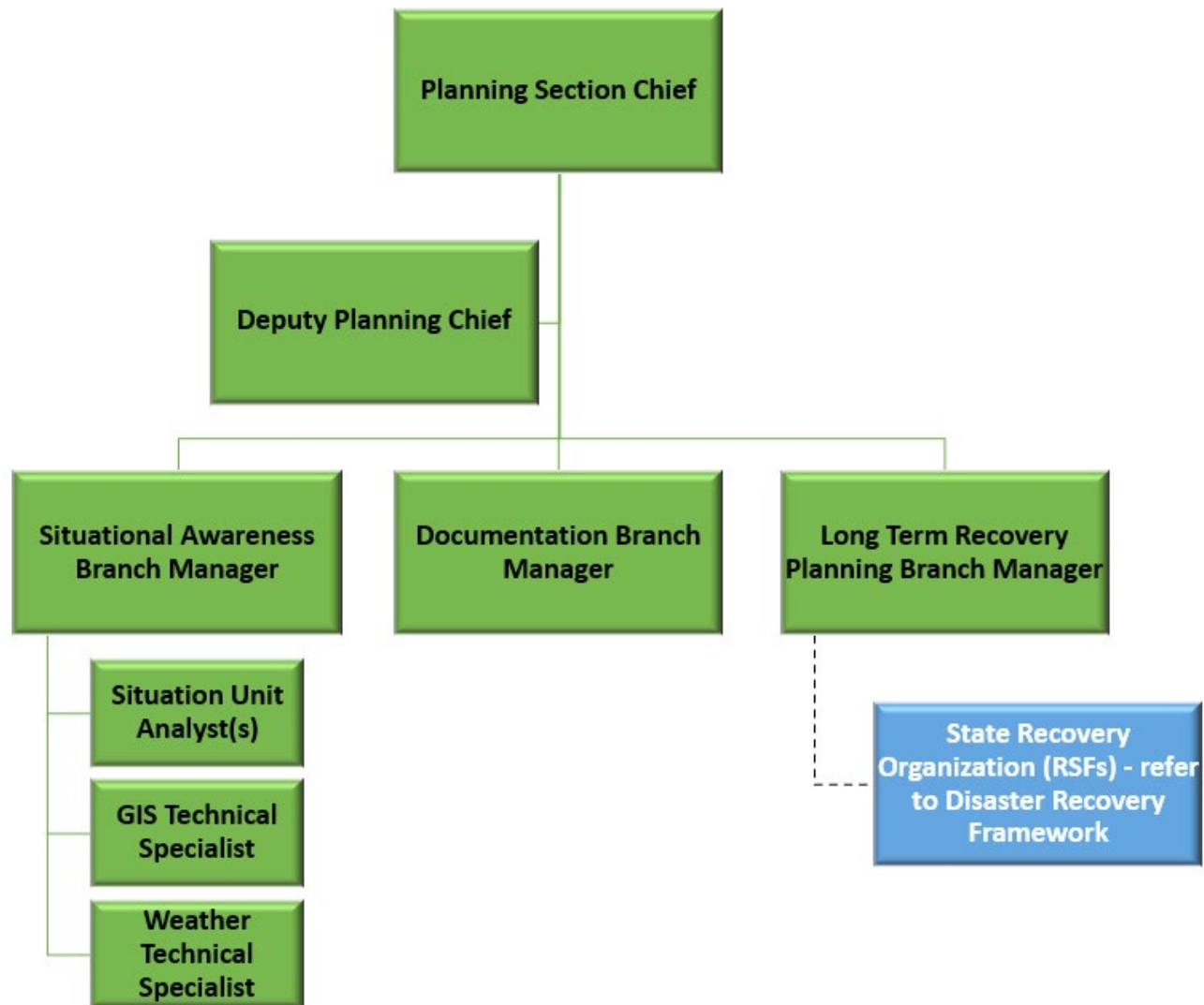
When the threat/hazard stabilizes, the SEOC will begin demobilization of activity. Although the demobilization of the physical SEOC occurs, it may not signify the end of the operation, but rather a de-escalation of state resources and personnel supporting the incident. The purpose of demobilization is to transfer to a long-term recovery construct or return to normal operations defined in the Routine Monitoring phase referenced in the [Connecticut Response Activation Level \(CRAL\)](#) section of this document. SEOC Demobilization is the responsibility of each respective SEOC Section Chief and under the direction of the SEOC Manager with oversight from SEOC Operations Section Chief. More detailed steps for SEOC Demobilization can be found in each SEOC Section SOP, as well as the SEOC Demobilization SOP.

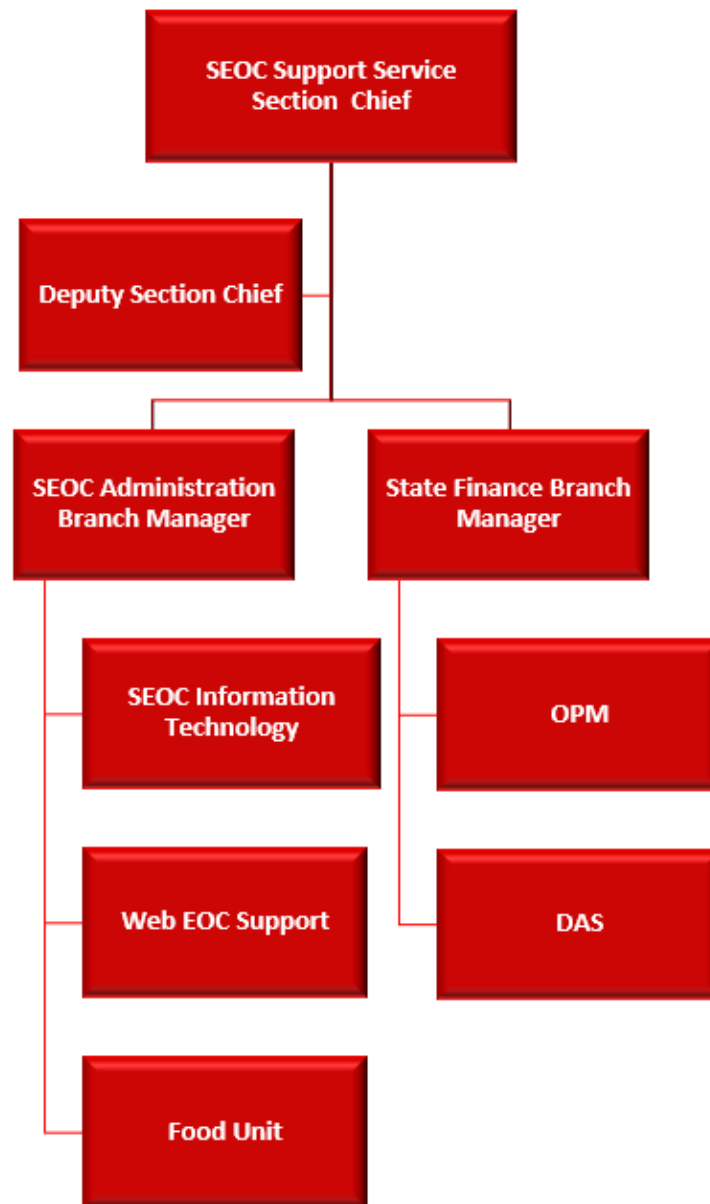
## SEOC Org Charts













## SEOC Roles and Responsibilities and Standard Operating Procedures

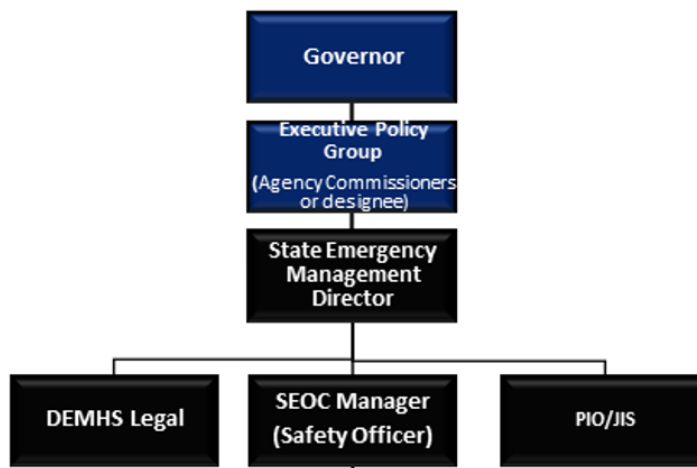
As described in the previous sections, Connecticut utilizes the Emergency Support Function (ESF) model for preparedness and coordination activities between stakeholders with shared, common disciplines and missions. When the SEOC is activated, the ESF coordination model is replaced with a structure that is a combination of Departmental Structure and ICS Structure.

- ICS-like structure- The ICS organizational structure is familiar to those with ICS training. It most closely aligns with the structure used for on-scene incident management.
- Departmental Structure - By operating in the context of their normal relationships, department/agency representatives can function in the EOC with minimal preparation and startup time.

Within the SEOC structure, state departments and agencies, private and non-governmental organizations, and DEMHS staff coordinate together in commonly used ICS Sections: Command, Operations, Planning, Resources, and Finance/Admin. Each SEOC Section has a standard operating procedure or sometimes referred to as a “playbook” that provides more detailed information as to the roles and responsibilities of that Section and how it supports the SEOC during an operational period. The following sections provide an overview of the SEOC Sections and the general roles and responsibilities of that section.

For more information on the procedures and policies of each SEOC section, please reference the SEOC Section SOPs.

### Executive Policy Group and Command Staff



The State Executive Policy Group for a statewide or regional incident would typically be needed for those incidents that go beyond municipal capacity to respond, or those incidents that require assistance from across multiple state agencies (e.g. incident response that requires integration and sustained coordination among and across multiple state agencies). During any activation of any level, there is a need for the Executive Policy Group.

The State Executive Policy Group is populated by the Governor’s Office, DEMHS, and may include various other state or federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector and/or other



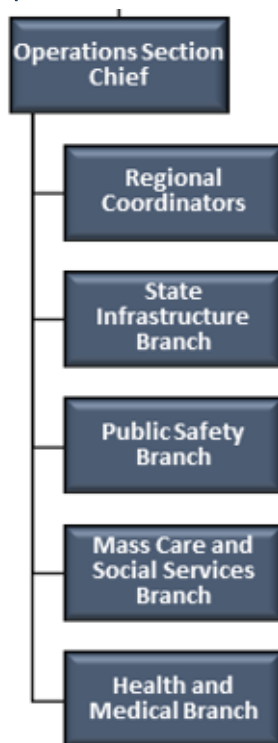
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entities' representatives with decision-making authority whose responsibility it is to provide policy direction and prioritize critical resource allocations. The composition of the state Unified Command may change depending on the event, but in general, would include the Office of the Governor, DESPP (Divisions of EMHS, CSP, and Fire Prevention and Control), DOT, DPH, DEEP, and the Military Department. In some cases, Commissioners from DAS, DOC, DMV, DSS, or DoAg may be included in the Executive Policy Group, among others, depending on the incident. The exact composition and size of the state Executive Policy Group will depend on the type and size of the incident. Within DEMHS, the Executive Policy Group consists of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Management Director and/or management or senior staff members as needed and designated.

For more information on this Section, please refer to the appropriate SEOC Section SOP.

### Operations Section



The Operations Section is responsible for coordinating State support to state agencies, local governments, and tribal nations responding to the emergency. The Operations Section establishes objectives for each operational period and carries out the execution of those objectives. All requests for State support that are directed to the SEOC will be channeled through the EOC Operations Section. The Operations Section Chief reports to the SEOC Manager.

The Operations Section is comprised (at its most expanded) of the Operations Section Chief, the Deputy Operations Section Chief, DEMHS Regional Coordinators, State Infrastructure Branch Director, Public Safety Branch Director, Mass Care and Social Services Branch Director, and Health and Medical Branch Director. Each Operations Section Branch may include several SEOC Liaisons from State, Federal and NGO partners.

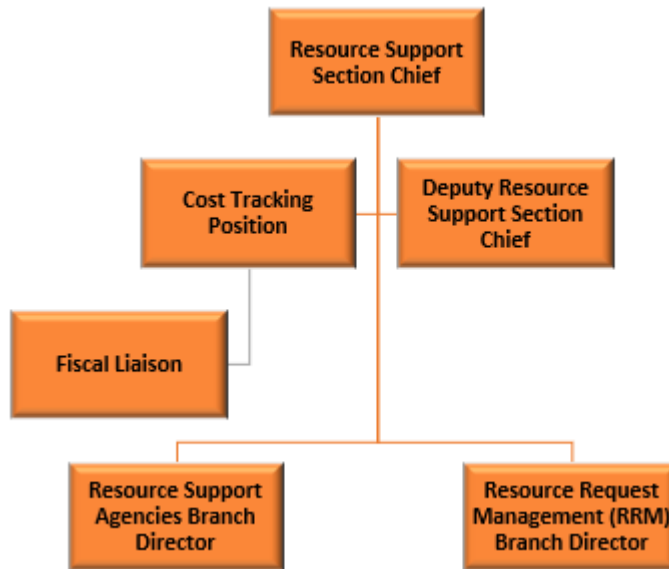
For more information on this Section, please refer to the appropriate SEOC Section SOP.



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### Resource Support Section



The Resource Support Section is responsible for the provision of facilities, services, resources and other support services for state agencies, local governments, and tribal nations responding to the emergency. The Resource Support Section is also responsible for meeting SEOC operating requirements in coordination with the Operations Section. All requests for State support that are directed to the SEOC will be channeled through the EOC Operations Section and filled by the Resource Support Section. The Resource Support Section Chief reports to the SEOC Manager.

The Section Chief will assist in determining proper staffing levels for the Resource Support Section. Once activated, staff will continue with operational duties until released by the Resource Support Section Chief, Operations Section Chief or the SEOC Manager. The Resource Support Section Chief, in consultation and input from the applicable Branch Chief, is responsible for monitoring staff to prevent burnout and ensure adequate staffing of the Section. Resource Support Section personnel may be assigned to locations that are not the SEOC, such as regional offices, the alternate SEOC, or another location. Resource Support Section personnel assigned to locations outside of the SEOC may report to the Resource Support Section Chief, the SEOC Manager or other designated DEMHS personnel.

The Resource Support Section is comprised (at its most expanded) of the Resource Support Section Chief, the Deputy Resource Support Section Chief, Logistics Agency Branch director, and Resource Request Management Branch director.

For more information on this Section, please refer to the appropriate SEOC Section SOP.

### Resource Management Process

Through its five regional offices and the SEOC if activated, DEMHS coordinates logistics and resource support for any municipality, tribe or other jurisdiction in the state that is overwhelmed by a disaster or incident. Under NIMS, DEMHS operates the state's Resource Support branch staff dedicated to managing and sourcing resource requests from local municipalities and state departments and agencies. Within the operations of the SEOC, DEMHS follows the principles of ICS while accommodating the five DEMHS regions by managing and monitoring for resources from

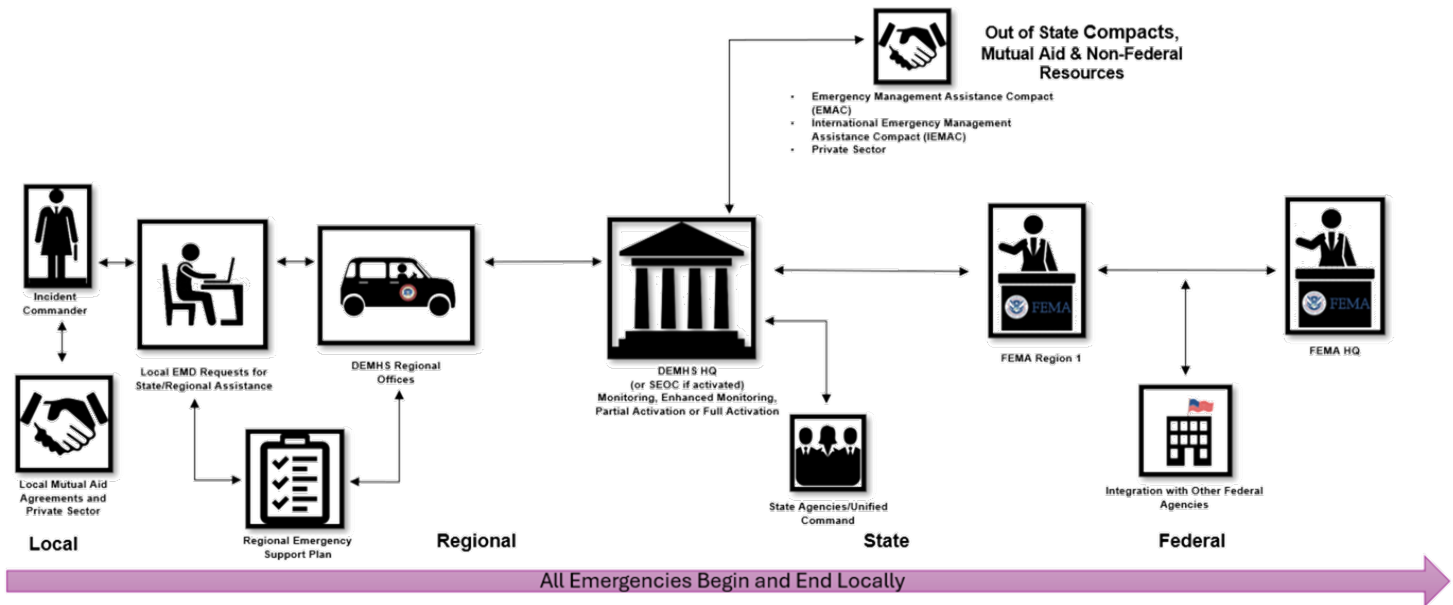


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municipalities, as well as from other state agencies, other states, or from non-governmental sectors. Appropriate taskforces may be activated to address these requests, including Evacuation Support, Commodities Distribution, Mass Care, Utilities and Communications Restoration, and Generators and Fuel. Requests are tracked in WebEOC and resources are sourced as quickly as possible based on the mission that is needing assistance and dependent on availability. The flow of requests is as follows:

*Figure 3: DEMHS Significant Incident Resource Request Flow*

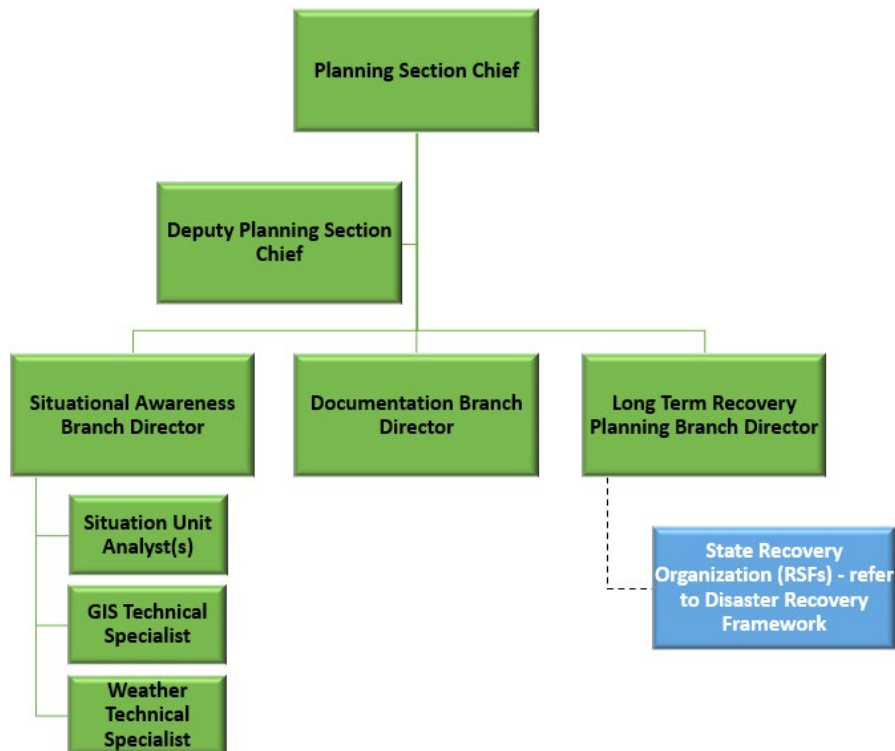




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### Planning Section



The Planning Section's primary responsibility is to review and evaluate incident situation information and develop an Incident Action Plan, issue situation reports, review relevant incident and contingency plans and offer advice to Command Staff. The Planning Section can expand as necessary to include units for Situation Assessment Unit, Demobilization Unit, Resources Unit, etc.

The Planning Section is comprised of the Planning Section Chief, the Deputy Planning Chief, the Situational Awareness Branch Director, the Documentation Branch Director, and the Long-Term Recovery Planning Branch Director. The primary responsibilities of the Planning Section include but are not limited to:

- Gather and review all available pertinent state, local, and private plans.
- Work with SEOC Manager and/or Resource Support Section Chief to determine availability of identified resource needs.
- Determine the possible/probable needs of local governments during the current situation.
- Ensure all referenced documents are in good condition and present at the EOC.
- Establish a Situation Assessment Unit as needed to produce Incident Action Plans and Situation Reports on a regular basis.
- Establish an Information Management/Resources Unit as needed to track and log and resources requested and fulfilled, and/or to produce additional reports as appropriate.

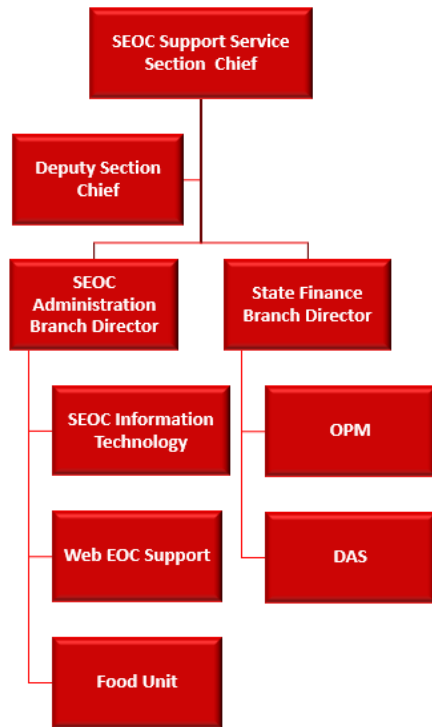
For more information on this Section, please refer to the appropriate SEOC Section SOP.



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### Support Services Section



The Support Services Section is responsible for SEOC Information Technology (IT) support, WebEOC technical support, SEOC food procurement, financial tracking costs for state agencies, local governments, and tribal nations responding to the emergency. The Support Services Section is also responsible for meeting SEOC operating requirements in coordination with the Operations Section. All requests for State support that are directed to the SEOC will be channeled through the EOC Operations Section. The Support Services Section Chief reports to the SEOC Manager.

The Support Services Section is comprised (at its most expanded) of the Support Services Section Chief, the Deputy Support Services Section Chief, SEOC Admin Branch director, State Finance Branch director, SEOC IT, WebEOC Support, Food Unit, CT Office of Personnel Management and CT Department of Administrative Services

For more information on this Section, please refer to the appropriate SEOC Section SOP.



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### SEOC Taskforces

As defined in the Concept of Coordination, in some cases, an ESF working group will assign members to a specific mission or task to develop operational procedures and/or plans. These ESF Taskforces may be activated to support the SEOC and serve in various SEOC Sections during an SEOC Activation or emergency incident impacting the state. These taskforces are any combination of resources assembled to support a specific mission or operational need and members are notified of an SEOC activation by the appropriate Section Chief through established communication channels and SEOC notification procedures.

### SEOC State Agency Partners Roles and Responsibilities

All agencies shall support emergency operations as specifically directed by the Governor's Office or through DEMHS. This may also include staffing the SEOC, Task Forces, and Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) and developing public information as situations warrant. State agencies operate under NIMS, and wherever possible, follow a standardized Incident Command System (ICS), including the convening of Unified Command, agency Incident Management Teams, and creation of Incident Action Plans. During times of non-emergency, all state agencies are expected to participate as directed by DEMHS in planning, training, and exercise activities. See Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 28-5(e). DEMHS has established a number of work groups and committees under the DEMHS Advisory Council. The purpose of these groups is to facilitate collaborative emergency planning and preparedness activities, and to promote coordinated and integrated programs and policies.

The work groups/committees are composed of state, local, federal, and private sector partners.

### SEOC Liaisons

During emergencies, the SEOC is staffed with representatives (liaisons) of key state, NGO, and private sector agencies. The SEOC maintains communications with other single state agency EOCs, federal agencies and facilities, and private agency EOCs. Communications are maintained with the towns, cities and Tribal Nations of the state through the DEMHS Regional Offices.

An SEOC liaison needs to be properly trained to respond to the SEOC during an incident. They should be credentialed through the FEMA independent study platform and received training in IS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System, IS 200 ICS for Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents, IS 700 National Incident Management System –Introduction, IS 800, IS 546, IS 547, IS 2200, and Basic WebEOC training. DEMHS offers an SEOC liaison training that the representative should have attended. The SEOC liaison should have a direct line of communication back to decision makers at their agency.

SEOC shift procedures that should be followed by an agency SEOC liaison are outlined in each SEOC Section SOP and may be coordinated with the appropriate SEOC Section Chief or Branch director depending on the nature and escalation of the incident. For more information related to the SEOC liaisons and the SEOC Section that they support, please see the SEOC Section SOPs, which are appendices to this SRF.



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### Standard Tasks of State Agencies in Emergency Response

All agencies and departments have common tasks as follows during incidents requiring emergency response measures. More detailed roles, responsibilities, and procedures can be found in each SEOC section SOP. The following tasks are some, but not all of the standard tasks that state agencies and other SEOC partners may implement during an emergency that warrants the activation of the SEOC or components of this framework:

- Implement plans and procedures to protect inmates, institutionalized persons, and department personnel;
- Thoroughly document agency emergency operations including maintenance of activity and resource request logs at the SEOC and departmental EOCs;
- Account for disaster-related expenditures for equipment, supplies, material and labor utilized by the agency;
- Render reports to the SEOC as required;
- Follow the succession of leadership as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-8 (see above) and the agency's Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan;
- As requested by DEMHS, and in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 28-5(e), participate in pre-emergency planning, training, and exercises, including serving on, leading or supporting emergency preparedness working groups, committees or task forces convened by DEMHS;
- As requested by DEMHS, participate in, lead, or support Task Forces that are convened by DEMHS or the Governor in response to an emergency; and,
- Following a disaster, the agency will participate in an initial damage assessment as requested by DEMHS. This includes conducting a damage assessment, completing the initial assessment process for State Agencies provided by DEMHS and submitting them within the requested timeframe in the appropriate format that fits the operations and objectives of the SEOC (i.e., damage assessment forms, databases, or online portals).

### Responsibility of State Agencies to Perform Missions Not Specifically Assigned

All State agencies and departments not specifically assigned missions in an emergency operations plan will be expected to respond to emergencies, within their respective capabilities and conduct activities as described below:

- As directed by the Governor, or requested by DESPP Deputy Commissioner for DEMHS/State Emergency Management Director; or
- When, in their judgment, the welfare or safety of the State is threatened.

### Authority of State Agency Heads to Commence Emergency Operations

Department and agency heads, or anyone legally administering their offices, shall activate their departmental standard operating procedures for emergencies under the following circumstances:

- By direct order of the Governor, by request of the DESPP Deputy Commissioner for DEMHS or the State Emergency Management Director, or
- When, in their judgment, the welfare or safety of the state is threatened.

Additionally, State Departments or Agencies will provide copies of their emergency operations plans and procedures to DEMHS and will update those copies as needed. Each state agency and other SEOC liaison partner may have their own emergency action plan for incidents occurring at



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their facilities (Continuity of Operations Plans) and state agency emergency procedures (SEOC or other operational activity plans).

### SEOC Position Task Books and Skillsets

At the direction of FEMA and to establish consistent training requirements and build a strong cadre of SEOC-ready positions, DEMHS has begun the implementation and utilization of Position Task Book (PTBs) for SEOC positions. The PTB sets minimum criteria for certification for a position. The Authority Having Jurisdiction (Connecticut DEMHS) has the authority to add content to the baseline PTB competencies, behaviors and tasks as necessary. The DEMHS Training and Exercise Unit continues to set the criteria for SEOC positions and PTBs as they align with the SEOC structure and roles and responsibilities expected within the Connecticut SEOC. During an SEOC Activation, DEMHS employees and other stakeholders are eligible to use their SEOC operational time toward the completion of their PTBs and EOC Skillsets (as defined below), through appropriate means of evaluation and competency compliance.

### EOC Skillsets

Like PTBs, EOC Skillsets establish minimum performance criteria for positions within the SEOC. However, unlike on-scene positions, which are defined through the Incident Command System (ICS), EOC positions have no standard definitions or PTBs. Instead, EOC leaders can mix and match EOC Skillsets to build custom EOC PTBs that align with the unique roles and responsibilities of positions in their EOC. This allows EOC leaders to qualify their personnel with the combination of skills necessary to perform the EOC's functions. DEMHS has aligned the EOC skillsets with the SEOC structure outlined in the SRF. As the SEOC structure in Connecticut is a hybrid ICS model and not a direct copy of ICS, due to the support level that the state provides local jurisdictions and on scene responders, DEMHS does not utilize the ICS Skillsets as they are different than the SEOC positions. The DEMHS Training and Exercise Unit is in the process of developing SEOC skill sets that are aligned to the SEOC positions within the state, and employees are trained and required to complete skillsets to work in SEOC positions.

## Section 4: Plan Administration and Maintenance

DEMHS, as the lead state agency for coordinating consequence management activities and state support to local municipalities during times of disaster, is responsible for ensuring the SRF and all supporting components and appendices remain up to date. DEMHS is also responsible for ensuring that all supporting plans, procedures, protocols, etc. align with the principles of the SRF. The SRF is reviewed annually with key state agencies (SEOC liaisons) as part of the state-wide annual exercise. Training is provided to the State Agency Liaisons on SEOC operations and agency roles in the SRF.

### Plan Maintenance and Updates

The State Emergency Management Director, working through the DEMHS Planning Manager/Coordinator and other key staff, conducts regular reviews of and updates to the SRF. The SRF is reviewed annually with key SEOC liaisons and tested regularly as part of the statewide annual exercise. Training is provided to the State Agency Liaisons on SEOC operations and agency roles in the SRF. Copies of the training can be accessed by request from SEOC Liaisons and other appropriate entities. The SRF and related procedures are reviewed annually and revised due to After Action Reports/Improvement Plans as needed. Full plan updates, conducted in coordination with key state agencies, are completed every five years. State Agencies are sent sections of the SRF that contain their roles in Emergency Support Functions (ESF). The Agencies are asked to review and make any corrections or additions. The revised sections are incorporated into the Plan update. In addition to the base SRF document, supporting annexes and SOPs that are included in the overall SRF umbrella, must be updated at regular intervals. The following table outlines the update interval for all components of SRF.

**Table 2: Plan Update Schedule**

SRF	Review	Update
SRF Base Plan	Annual	Five Years
SRF Appendices/Annexes	Annual	Five Years
Incident-Specific Protocols and Procedures	Annual	Five Years

### Authorities and References

Titles 28 and 29, Chapter 517 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.)<sup>1</sup> are the major sources of authority for the State of Connecticut and its political subdivisions to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies. Connecticut's emergency management program, developed under the authority of Title 28, complies with the federal program established by the Stafford Act.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Stafford Act), PL 100-707, signed into law November 23, 1988, which amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288, is the federal legislation that creates a national program for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The Stafford Act has been amended by the Post-Katrina Emergency Reform Act and Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013, and the Disaster Reford Recovery Act (DRRA) of 2018.

Although there are many federal and state statutes and regulations that have a bearing on emergency management, Title 28 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the federal Stafford Act are the two laws most central to emergency management in Connecticut.

**Mobilization of forces by the DESPP Deputy Commissioner for DEMHS.** The DESPP Deputy Commissioner for DEMHS may, under Connecticut General Statutes §28-5(c), take all preparatory steps, including the full or partial mobilization of civil preparedness forces in advance of an actual disaster, as may be necessary for the prompt and effective operation of the state emergency management (emergency response/emergency operations) plan. See also Conn. Gen. Stat. §§28-6, 28-7(f).

**Governor's Authority to Take Control of Any and All Forces of the State.** In the event the Governor declares a state of civil preparedness emergency, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9, he may personally take direct operational control of any or all parts of the civil preparedness forces and functions in the State. The Governor may also take such actions as are reasonably necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state, to prevent or minimize loss or destruction of property, and to minimize the effects of hostile action. See also Conn. Gen. Stat. §§28-6, 28-7(f). The Governor's possible actions include:

- Mobilize emergency response and emergency management personnel at the municipal level if the state needs them—Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-7(f);
- Declare a state of emergency (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9); the declaration becomes effective upon filing with the Secretary of the State; if the disaster is manmade, the legislature may meet and disapprove within 72 hours of filing with Secretary of the State. Also, if legislature not in session, Governor must meet with legislative leaders as soon as possible after the filing of the proclamation;
- Modify or suspend . . . any statute, regulation, or requirement or part thereof whenever in his opinion it is in conflict with the efficient and expeditious execution of civil preparedness functions. (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(a)); this modification of suspension must be thoroughly explained and its full text must be filed with the Secretary of the State within four days of its declaration;
- Mobilize state or local offices of emergency management to carry out Governor's order (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(b));
- Order and enforce blackouts (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(c));
- Designate vehicles and persons that may move and the routes they will take (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(d));
- Take appropriate measures to protect the health and safety of inmates of state institutions and school children (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(e));
- Evacuate all or part of the population of affected or threatened areas, and take such steps as are necessary for the receipt and care of such evacuees (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(f));
- Take any other steps the Governor thinks necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare and to protect property (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9(g));
- Enter purchase or lease agreements with appropriate federal agencies to provide temporary housing for disaster victims (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9a(a)(1));
- Assist affected municipalities in acquiring sites for temporary housing (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9a(a)(2));
- Advance or lend money from the state's emergency contingency fund or any other source (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-9a(2)(A));
- Take land, real property, vehicles or other property necessary to protect the public (Conn. Gen. Stat. §28- 11).

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## Appendix A: Department Roles and Responsibilities

The following sections provide more specific roles and responsibilities of key state agencies involved in the implementation of the State Response Framework and all play a critical role in supporting emergency management operations, either pre-event or post-impact. The roles and responsibilities are a summary of the tasks these departments and agencies would engage in during times of disaster, but do not necessarily cover all roles and responsibilities of the department or agency. Additionally, these tasks do not usurp any department or agency standard operating procedures or plans in place at that department or agency. More information about the partners involved in the implementation of this document, can be found in additional SOPs previously mentioned.

Responsibilities by state agency include but may not be limited to:

### Chief State Attorney

- Enforcement of laws regarding price fixing and price gouging (Connecticut General Statutes Sections 42-234 and 234A and Section 42-235).

### Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

- Facilitating the acquisition of medical and food supplies.
- Providing vehicles to state employees with disaster or emergency assignments, including support of any joint FEMA-State Preliminary Damage Assessments.
- Requesting, receiving, analyzing and summarizing reports from state agencies regarding the influence of the incident upon absenteeism within the state workforce and the essential functions that may be or are threatened as a result.
- Serving as requested on any SEOC Task Force, including the Resource Support Task Force.
- Issuing state contracts for relief supplies, equipment, and services, as needed.
- Reviewing and updating the Debris Management Contract, as needed.
- Activating the contract at the direction of the Interagency Debris Management Group.
- Requesting that state agencies activate their Incident Management Teams/Unified Commands, monitor directions from the SEOC command staff, report their status and problems through WebEOC, and carrying out their Continuity of Operations plans.

### DAS – Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (BITS)

- Supporting and restoring the communications infrastructure; facilitating the recovery of systems and applications from cyber-attacks; and coordinating Federal communications support to response efforts during incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.
- Addressing cyber security issues that result from or occur in conjunction with incidents.
- Staffing the State EOC and DRCs; may also staff JFOs, JICs, JOCs and other facilities as requested by DEMHS.
- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including leading and/or supporting the State Telecommunications Restoration Task Force.

- Providing telecommunication support in Emergency Management facilities as needed.
- Assisting DESPP with information technology equipment, installation, repair, programming, and troubleshooting at the State EOC and at other locations as needed and requested.
- Facilitating the acquisition of communications and information technology equipment and services.
- Requesting and coordinating activities through the National Communication Service for emergency Telecommunications service priority (TSP) and wireless priority services (WPS).
- Activating the BITS ECC and Communications Center.
- Monitoring and reporting on the condition of the state agency telecommunications infrastructure.
- Coordinating agency business continuity and information technology disaster recovery plans in conjunction with agencies' staff, to include the activation of continuity sites when necessary.

#### **DAS – Real Estate and Construction Services (RECS)**

- Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Office of the State Building Inspector
- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force

#### **DAS – Facilities Management**

- Distributing emergency action checklists to building personnel prior to known impending emergency events such as hurricanes and major snowstorms.
- Monitoring state facilities in impacted areas and reporting on building conditions.
- Initiating and coordinating emergency repairs to mitigate any further damage from occurring.
- Coordinating and overseeing permanent repairs to ensure that facilities are back up and fully operational as quickly as possible.
- Facilitating the relocation of critical functions of state agencies when existing facilities are not accessible for occupancy due to adverse effects of natural or manmade incidents.
- Assisting in identifying locations and opening shelters at state-owned facilities.
- Assisting in identifying open land and space for use during debris management operations.

#### **DAS – Statewide Security Unit (SSU)**

- Disseminating emergency information and notifications to affected tenant agency personnel via the DAS alerts system.
- Remotely locking or unlocking access-controlled doors at the affected facility (location dependent).
- Assessing the need for security resources to the affected sites and coordinating the timely deployment of resources.

- Serving as the liaison to law enforcement and other first responders deploying to DAS-owned and leased facilities.
- Arranging for emergency guard coverage to assist with outer perimeter security and vetting of individuals before granting them access to the site post-incident.
- Deploying a portable identification badging system to credential individuals authorized to enter the site post-incident.
- Deploying a portable visitor management system to maintain records of who is permitted to access the site after an incident.
- Assisting with identifying alternate facilities by assessing security, assuming the location where the incident occurred will not be available for an extended period.
- Providing live video surveillance monitoring and/or footage post-event as part of law enforcement's evidence collection process (location dependent).
- Providing card access records and visitor management records to determine access points, timelines, who was on-site at the time of the incident, etc., as a part of law enforcement's evidence collection process (location dependent)

#### DAS – Statewide Leasing and Property Transfer

- Monitoring statewide leased facilities in impacted areas for security and damage related effects.
- Identifying and report statewide leased facilities that are closed due to the incident.
- Approving leasing of state property.
- Maintaining inventory of statewide leased facilities under DAS authority.
- Monitoring and managing real estate matters on the leased data center in Groton.
- Maintaining direct contact with lessors and user agency contact personnel.
- Overseeing activities to restore leased sites as necessary.
- Serve as co-lead of ESF-3 to acquire property statewide for most state agencies through leases or purchase.

#### Department of Agriculture (DoAG)

- Responsibilities include but may not be limited to:
- Participate in and support/lead ESF #11 Animal and Natural Resources.
- Assessing the agricultural impact of any disaster or emergency and providing DEMHS with such written reports may require for use in developing requests for Presidential disaster or emergency declarations.
- Serving as requested on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force.
- Developing for the Governor formal requests for agricultural assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- Monitoring agricultural products for bacteriological contamination and implementing appropriate controls.

#### Department of Aging and Disability (DAG)

- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including leading or supporting the State Mass Care and Social Services Branch.
- Task Force; a Housing Task Force; the State ESF 14 Long Term Recovery Committee; the ESF-15 Diverse Communities/Functional Needs Committee

- Assisting disaster victims, and particularly elderly disaster victims and those with disabilities in obtaining ongoing agency services including:
  - Chore and handyman services
  - Transportation
  - Nutrition assistance
  - Legal aid
  - Ombudsman services
  - Area Agencies on Aging
  - Assisting elderly disaster survivors in applying for state and federal assistance
  - Communications for Diverse Communities/Functional Needs

#### Department of Banking (DOB)

- Regulating entities and individuals providing financial services to Connecticut consumers and businesses in emergencies declared by the Governor including the following:
  - State-chartered banks and credit unions,
  - Non-depository financial institutions, including mortgage loan originators and servicers, small loan lenders, sales finance companies, money transmitters, check cashing services consumer collection agencies, debt adjusters and negotiators, and student loan servicers, state-registered securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisors, and investment advisor agents.
- Serving as requested on any DEMHS Task Force.
- Providing guidance and support to impacted consumers and businesses in Connecticut.
- As the regulator of state-chartered banks and credit unions: (Recovery, or Finance)
  - Regulating the operations of banks and credit unions, subject to such emergency controls as may be imposed by the Governor;
  - Coordinating with the Conference of State Banking Supervisors (CSBS) and the National Association of Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS);
  - Coordinating with the Connecticut Bankers Association and the Credit Union League of Connecticut;
  - Coordinating with federal banking regulators, including the Federal Reserve Banks of New York and Boston, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); and
  - Responding, in coordination with state and federal banking regulators to threats to the stability of the banking system, including any biological, radiological, cybersecurity, or other major attack impacting the ability of banks and credit unions to provide critical financial services, including capital intermediation and payment processing.
- As the state regulator of non-depository financial institutions:
  - Regulating the operations of licensed entities and individuals subject to such emergency controls as may be imposed by the Governor;

- Coordinating with CSBS and other state regulator associations;
- Coordinating with other state and regulators and related agencies, including the New York Department of Financial Services, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC);
- Responding, in coordination with state and federal banking regulators to threats to the stability of the non-depositor financial services sector including any biological, radiological, cybersecurity, or other major attack impacting the ability of non-depository financial institutions to provide critical financial services.
- As the state investment securities regulator:
  - Regulating the sale of investment securities to Connecticut residents as well as the conduct of brokerage firms and their personnel involved in such sales, subject to such emergency controls as may be imposed by the Governor and/or by federal securities regulators;
  - Coordinating with the Boston and Washington, DC offices of the Securities and Exchange Commission; the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), a self-regulatory organization created under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and major exchanges such as the New York Stock Exchange to respond to major threats;
  - Responding, in coordination with state and federal securities regulators, to threats to the stability of securities markets, including any biological, radiological, cybersecurity, or other major attack impacting the ability of the securities markets to process trades; and
  - Responding to threats to the NASDAQ Exchange, which maintains an Operations Command Center for monitoring NASDAQOMX systems in Shelton, Connecticut.

#### Department of Correction (DOC)

- Assisting other state agencies as requested with the evacuation of institutionalized and/or other persons with disabilities and others with functional needs through the limited provision of vehicles and personnel.
- Providing assistance and support to DEMHS and the SEOC as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding Number 2013CAU-21, dated March of 2013, including leading and/staffing the State Resource Support Task Force and DEMHS Regional Offices.
- Serving on any other DEMHS or SEOC Task Force.
- Assisting with joint FEMA-State Preliminary Damage Assessments.
- Providing mass food or shelter services as possible.
- Providing staff to augment any field offices in direct relation to any DOC facilities.
- Assisting with security and law enforcement as requested by Connecticut State Police (DESPP/CSP) in relation to facility perimeters.

- Providing technical assistance, personnel, and equipment in direct relation to any agency facility or building.
- In consultation with the Incident Commander and the Commanding Officer of CSP Emergency Services, assuming Incident Command of any situation requiring a tactical response to any DOC facility or building.
- Deploying the DOC Tactical Operations Unit to standby for and conduct a Tactical Operation (if necessary) on any DOC facility or building.
- Provide any other specialized services and/or equipment as needed.
- Providing DOC transport buses to assist with evacuation of any DOC facility or building or for other needs as deemed necessary by the Incident Commander.
- If DOC facilities or buildings are involved, providing public information through the JIC regarding status.

#### Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

- Communicating with DDS and DDS Provider facilities to notify of and assess the impacts of incidents and emergencies and provide necessary support as needed.
- Providing the SEOC with a DDS Liaison to provide subject matter expertise on individuals with developmental and intellectual disability.
- Developing public information products for individuals and families supported by DDS to include Incident/ Emergency Preparedness; Emergency Response; and Recovery from Disaster.
- Coordinating emergency and disaster related services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Provide safety review of and support of facilities and shelters for evacuees with intellectual and developmental disability.
- Coordinating transportation resources for DDS and DDS Supported facilities.
- Coordinating response to, monitoring of; and providing support to DDS Provider Facilities affected by labor actions.
- Serving on DEMHS or SEOC Task Forces including, but not limited to:
  - Mass Care Taskforce– Sheltering
  - Health and Medical – Human and Social Services
  - Diverse Communities Task Force
  - Liaison to Host Community Reception Centers

#### Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)

- Assessing the impact of a disaster/ emergency upon businesses, industries and the general economy of CT or affected area and providing DEMHS with such written reports as may be required.
- Providing qualified personnel to serve on joint Federal/State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Teams as requested by DEMHS.
- Serving on any DEM HS or SEOC Task Force, including leading and/or supporting the State Long Term Recovery Committee, State ESF 14.

## Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

- Evacuating and securing all DEEP-owned land as necessary (including public parks and campgrounds).
- Coordinating use of DEEP-owned land for emergency use (e.g. staging areas, shelters, etc.)
- Conducting search and rescue operations on DEEP-owned land and assisting with other search and rescue operations through the provision of rescue boats and crews, and technical information and resources.
- Inspecting municipal water pollution control facilities and advising on protective actions and repairs.
- Inspecting and monitoring flood control reservoirs and State-owned dams. Direct and advise field crews and DEMHS in taking measures necessary to limit hazards to life and damage to property from potential failures of flood control reservoirs and State-owned dams.
- Advising on the condition of private and municipal dams and providing technical advice to private owners, municipalities, and DEMHS on risks, operations, and measures necessary to limit hazards to life and damage to property from potential failures of private and municipal dams and other water control structures.
- Coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding operation of Corps flood control projects in an emergency, ice jams, and other situations with flooding implications that may require involvement by the Corps.
- Issue Emergency Authorizations where response actions would affect wetlands, watercourses, floodplains, or coastal waters where DEEP has jurisdiction.
- Requesting federal wildfire suppression assistance.
- Serving on the Debris Management Task Force and implementing the State Debris Management Plan. Assisting state agencies and local authorities with coordination of emergency debris removal.
- Advising on timber salvage, emergency debris management (storage, recycling, and disposal), and open burning.
- Issuing required Emergency Authorizations to allow for management of solid and hazardous wastes by public agencies and municipalities, including natural disaster-related debris.
- Assisting with the identification of motor vehicles and watercraft in support of the Debris Management Plan.
- Notifying bulk oil terminal storage facilities of anticipated flood conditions and water levels, providing technical assistance to terminal operators
- Implementing the DEEP Oil and Chemical Spill Response Plan.
- Advising DEMHS and the Governor on adoption and implementation of voluntary and mandatory emergency energy measures for the public and state departments in accordance with the State's Energy Emergency Plan.
- Assist in National Resource Damage Assessments including collecting, compiling, and analyzing information, statistics, or data to determine the extent of injuries to natural resources from hazardous substance releases or oil discharges, and to

determine appropriate ways of restoring and compensating for those injuries (e.g. oiled wildlife and hazing to prevent additional impacts when necessary.)

- Respond to nuclear incidents and emergencies involving radiation in accordance with the State's Radiological Emergency Plan.
- Provide technical assistance to law enforcement, responders, and local officials in response to incidents from radiological sources and radioactive material.
- Assess radiation risks from radiological sources and releases of radioactive material and advise local CEOs and the Governor on appropriate responder and public protective measures.
- Lead agency to coordinate with other state agencies (DPH, DPC, DAg) and the federal Advisory Team for Food and Health (A Team), the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assistance Center (FRMAC), US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), US Department of Energy (DOE) and other federal agencies regarding response to and protective measures recommendations for radiological emergencies and actual or potential releases of radioactive material.
- Developing public information, in coordination with the Governor's office and other agencies (DEMHS, DPH), relative to environmental health hazards, including but not limited to, severe storms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and coastal storms and to hazards associated with oil, chemical, and radiological releases.
- Collaborate with state and federal agencies on response to vector-borne diseases (e.g., West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis).
- Investigating, monitoring, and providing technical assistance relative to zoonotic diseases
- Advising on the feasibility of land use for livestock temporary housing sites and mortality management (including Avian Flu response/poultry composting).
- Coordinate with microgrid grant program recipients during weather events with power outages to determine if their microgrids continue to operate in island mode and assess if any of the buildings connected to the microgrid are open to the public for shelter.
- Assisting DEMHS with the development of 15- and 90-day Hazard Mitigation Reports following a Presidential disaster or emergency declaration.
- Assist DEMHS with development of 180-day State Hazard Mitigation Plans following Presidential disaster declaration. Requesting emergency funding from appropriate federal agencies for stream channel restoration, clearing, or other emergency work.
- Coordinating with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), as appropriate, regarding the USCG's National Strike Team and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which may be called upon to react to major incidents of oil pollution or hazardous release and coordinating with the USCG and New York State to implement the Long Island Sound Area Contingency Plan.
- Providing qualified personnel to serve on Joint Federal/State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Teams.
- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including but not limited to leading or supporting the State ESF 10 Hazardous Materials Response Task Force, ESF 12

Energy Restoration Task Force, Water Task Force, and ESF 3 Public Works, Critical Infrastructure including the interagency Debris Management Task Force. Monitoring and reporting to DEMHS on the restoration, maintenance, and operation of utility services. Providing DEMHS with periodic updates on utility company operations and service interruptions throughout the emergency phase.

- Developing and submitting to DEMHS such written reports as it may require regarding the impact of a natural disaster upon utility operations.
- Documenting agency emergency response activities, flood warning operations, and recovery actions.
- DEEP partner organizations include but are not limited to:
  - New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners (NECPUC) which provides regional regulatory assistance on matters of common concern to the six New England states
  - The Independent Systems Operator of New England (ISO-NE) which ensures the day-to-day reliable operation of New England's bulk power generation and transmission system
  - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil,
  - The New England Compact on Radiological Health (NERHC) which provides mutual aid and assistance in radiological health matters including, but not limited to, radiation incidents and preventative radiological/nuclear detection between New England states, and,
  - US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); independent agency providing oversight of nuclear power plants.

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

The DESPP Deputy Commissioner for DEMHS, the State Emergency Management Director and agency/department heads are responsible for advising the Governor in the Unified Command of emergency response actions and orders appropriate to the emergency situation. The Governor is responsible for issuing orders and giving directives to state agencies and other non-state officials as the situation warrants.

#### *Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security*

- Responsibilities include but may not be limited to:
  - Collecting and Situation Assessment
  - Assessing potential impacts to Community Lifelines
  - Incident Priority Determination
  - Coordinating Critical Resource Acquisition and Allocation
  - Supporting Relevant Incident Management Policies and Interagency Activities
  - Coordinating with other MAC systems (Other State EOCs, etc.)
  - Coordinating with the Locals (EMDs, Local Chief Executive Officers, etc.)
  - Supporting and Maintaining the Common Operating Picture (collecting and analyzing and reporting information (Situation Reports), maintaining the JIC

by establishing, with the Governor's Office, a regular communications rhythm.

- Training and assigning personnel to support emergency operations at the SEOC or other areas of operation/management.
- Standing up such Task Forces as are necessary to support the management and operations of the emergency.
- Coordinating Interoperable communications.
- Activating volunteer civil preparedness forces.
- Activating Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) as requested.
- Coordinating and disseminating public information.
- Maintaining and implementing the State Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) for events at Millstone Station in Waterford, CT or Indian Point in Buchanan, NY as appropriate.
- Conducting hazard mitigation activities as appropriate.
- Serving on the Debris Management Task Force and implementing the State Debris Management Plan.
- Coordinating activities of the DEMHS Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) as appropriate.
- Determining the need for, requesting, and coordinating a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) of the disaster-affected areas in conjunction with FEMA.
- Drafting, for the Governor's signature, formal requests for Presidential disaster and emergency declarations under the Stafford Act and for U.S. Small Business Administration disaster declarations.
- Determining number and location of Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in conjunction with FEMA.
- Coordinating the federal/state meeting subsequent to a Presidential declaration.
- Coordinating state agency staffing of DRCs, Disaster Field Offices ( DFOs) and Joint Field Offices (JFOs) as appropriate.
- Disseminating emergency data and information to local governments, state, and federal agencies.
- Documenting DEMHS emergency management activities.
- In times of non-emergency, DEMHS responsibilities include, but are not limited to: Items found in Conn. Gen. Stat. Title 28, including providing the venue and process for collaborative, coordinated and integrated planning, training, and exercise activities.

#### *Division of State Police (CSP)*

- Responsibilities include but may not be limited to:
  - Responsible for conducting both criminal and motor vehicle investigations in 82 of the 169 towns in Connecticut.
  - Responsible for patrolling 600 miles of limited access highways, 7,000 miles of state and local roads.

- Receiving and relaying warnings to local governments as per the State Warning Plan (DESPP Message Center)
- Controlling access to dangerous or impassable sections of state-maintained and/or state- patrolled roads; Controlling traffic and access on State roads and highways traversing or passing near the incident scene.
- Providing assistance, as requested, to local civil preparedness forces primarily for the purposes of search and rescue, route alerting, anti-looting, traffic control, curfew enforcement, and limiting access to a disaster area.
- Providing emergency transportation for state and federal officials.
- Serving on any DEMHS or State EOC Task Force, including but not limited to the SEOC Evacuation Task Force.
- Assisting with victim identification through fingerprint, dental and DNA analysis.
- Exercising Incident Command System (ICS) authority, as available (e.g. agent detection, reconnaissance for living victims, etc.).
- Assisting local law enforcement with perimeter security, access control, and anti-looting patrols of evacuated areas
- Deploying the State Police Emergency Services Unit (ESU) which will provide specialized services and equipment as requested by the Incident Commander such as:
  - Bomb Squad
  - Hazardous Materials Technician Assistance
  - Dive and Marine Unit
  - Tactical Team
  - Civil Disturbance teams for any civil disturbance or riot situation  
Canine assistance is available for Tracking, building search, criminal apprehension, Search and rescue, Body recovery, Searches for explosives, narcotics and evidence of accelerants in suspected arson situation
  - Aviation assistance available for the following types of situations including surveillance, traffic enforcement, search and rescue, aerial photo missions, tactical operations and medical transport
  - Emergency Medical support which available for tactical situations, Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents, mass casualty incidents, and search and rescue

#### *Commission of Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC)*

- Responsibilities include but may not be limited to:
  - Activating and implementing the State of Connecticut Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan.
  - Movement and/or staging of pre-identified Task Forces, Strike Teams or resources for timely response into an affected area.
  - Staffing the State EOC and/or DEMHS Regional Office to assist with mutual aid from the Statewide Fire Service.

- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force.
- Assisting with collection and/or dissemination of information from the Fire Services.

#### *Division of Emergency Telecommunications (DSET)*

- Responsibilities include but may not be limited to:
  - Oversee the Connecticut Telecommunications System (CTS)
  - Oversee the Everbridge Emergency Notification Contract
  - 9-1-1 public safety answering point coordination
  - Public Safety Data Network coordination
  - Operating the State's 700/800 MHz Radio System
  - Telecommunicator certification program (emergency dispatchers)
  - Oversee the Everbridge Emergency Notification Contract
  - Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force.

#### *Division of Scientific Services (DSS)*

- Responsibilities include but may not be limited to:
  - Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force
  - Provide resources as requested and necessary

#### **Department of Housing (DOH)**

- Serving on, leading or supporting any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including, but not limited to the State ESF 6 Mass Care; a Housing Task Force, or; State Long Term Recovery Committee, State ESF 14.

#### **Department of Insurance (DOI)**

- Assisting in the determination of insurance coverage and damage assessment, as requested by DEMHS, through adjusters affiliated with Connecticut insurance companies.
- Providing qualified personnel to serve on Joint Federal/State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Teams.
- Coordinating with DEMHS on insurance disaster recovery issues, including liaison with insurance companies and public messaging.
- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including leading and/or supporting the State Long Term Recovery Committee, State ESF 14.

#### **Department of Labor (DOL)**

- Standing at ready to assist when apprised of safety issues with public sector employees (The Connecticut Department of Labor's (CTDOL) Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CONN-OSHA) operates only a public sector plan for compliance issues. The private sector is under the authority of Federal OSHA.
- Providing the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Program including Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Program.
- At the request of DEMHS, serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force.

- Requesting state agency or municipal resources to assist in recovery efforts, in accordance with CT Department of Labor’s authority under CSG 31-368.

#### Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

- Implement the State of Connecticut Behavioral Health Disaster Plan with partners at the Department of Children and Families through the CT Disaster Behavioral Health Response Network. (CT-DBHRN).
- Coordinate the provision of psychological first aid, emotional support and resource linkage services for victims and their families at a family assistance center if established or at other appropriate location.
- Coordinate and provide behavioral health services to adults affected by disaster or critical event, when appropriate and within resources.
- Coordinate the provision of debriefings for emergency responders at the disaster scene, when appropriate and within resources.
- Serve on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including the State ESF 6 Mass Care Task Force and ESF 8 Public Health and Medical Services.
- Coordinate with Federal and non-governmental partners:
  - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - Crisis Counseling Grant – Immediate Services
  - American Red Cross Behavioral Health
- Act as a conduit for all DMHAS-grant funded providers for necessary supplies and supports when appropriate and within resources.

#### Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

- Assisting other state agencies as requested with the evacuation of institutionalized and/or other special needs persons through the limited provision of vehicles and personnel.
- Assisting the State Police through the provision of uniformed inspectors as requested. Providing communications support as necessary.
- With the Governor's approval, obtaining and/or granting extensions of core business functions such as registrations, licenses, emissions, permits, etc. (CGS §3-6a and §28-9).
- Providing emergency transportation for State and Federal officials.
- Assisting in the transportation of medical personnel to hospitals and medical facilities.
- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including leading and/or supporting the State Fuel and Generator Task Force.
- Assisting with the identification of motor vehicles in support of the Debris Management Plan.

#### Department of Public Health (DPH)

- Implement the Department of Public Health Emergency Response Plan and its associated annexes, as appropriate.

- Serve on DEMHS or SEOC Task Forces applicable to the scope and authority of the Department of Public Health.
- Serve as a supporting agency on the State ESF 6 Mass Care Task Force.
- Assisting local public health in enforcing health codes.
- Support statewide efforts for implementation of medical countermeasures and non-pharmaceutical interventions.
- Assist the Governor's Office and Joint Information System on public health messaging such as, but not limited to:
  - disease surveillance and outbreak response;
  - preventive health messaging;
  - healthcare facility licensure, oversight and response;
  - food safety and outbreak response;
  - non-pharmaceutical interventions;
  - drinking water protection, quality and service;
  - health risks associated with CBRNE incidents
- Coordinate with the federal HHS to prepare requests for materials from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), and for other federal resources and disaster-related health assets and teams.
- Coordinating public health response plans such as medical surge operations. (ESF 8)
- Coordinate activities performed by the community-based Medical Reserve Corps chapters in CT.
- Provide toxicology and health risk assessment consultative services during emergencies and disasters in coordination with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
- Coordinate with law enforcement, private industry laboratories, and other local, state and federal partner organizations for the collection, packaging, shipping, and analysis of biological and chemical substances.
- Conduct analysis of unknown substances delivered to the State Public Health Laboratory by law enforcement officials associated with anthrax-like or other similar events (ESF 8)
- Process and, when applicable, approve requests for activation and deployment of the Otilie Lundgren Mobile Field Hospital.
- Maintaining systems and platforms for disease surveillance, licensing, vital records, EMS, environmental health and drinking water systems, and any other data platforms related to public health.
- Maintaining the health alert network (Everbridge) and other communication platforms such as MedSat.
- Coordinate and provide situational awareness reports in collaboration with the public health system, comprised of healthcare institutions, licensed healthcare practitioners, EMS providers, local public health agencies, and other partners, as needed.

- Implement processes for the rapid licensure or certification of out-of-state healthcare practitioners during surge events that impact the healthcare sector, as needed.

#### Department of Social Services (DSS)

- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including leading or supporting State ESF 6 Mass Care Task Force, ESF 8 Public Health and Medical Services, ESF 14 Long-Term Care and Mitigation, ESF 12 Energy and Utilities Committee
- Assisting program eligible CT residents in obtaining agency services including:
  - Non-emergency medical transportation
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP and DSNAP)
  - Medical Assistance
  - Cash Assistance
  - Other State and Federal assistance programs

#### Department of Transportation (DOT)

- Signing and barricading unsafe or impassable state highways in collaboration with state and/or local police;
- Closing appropriate rail, public transit, and ferry services as a result of damage or other unsafe conditions;
- Inspecting, repairing, condemning and/or demolishing state-maintained transportation facilities;
- Coordinating any and all transportation resources within our statutory authorities in the state to assist with the evacuation of persons needing transportation;
- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, including leading and/or supporting the State ESF 1 Evacuation Taskforce;
- Providing assistance in the field for local Make Safe operations under the State ESF 12 Annex, Make Safe Protocol (see Addendum 1 to this State Response Framework);
- Providing public information, in coordination with the Governor's Office, relative to road conditions and closures, trains/bus schedules, and ferry operations;
- Clearing debris from state-maintained roads;
- Advising the Governor on such matters as:
  - The need to declare driving bans;
  - The need for National Guard/Military Department personnel and equipment relative to the repair or protection of transportation facilities;
- Providing qualified personnel to serve on Joint Federal State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Teams;
- In accordance with the State of Connecticut Disaster Debris Management Plan, providing assistance to municipalities for the purposes of debris clearance, inspection, repair and/or condemnation of transportation facilities, once departmental priorities have been met and providing limited assistance in search and rescue operations;

- Notifying the State EOC of disruptions or impending disruptions to the transportation system (e.g., road closures, bridge outages, damage to railways, etc.) and rectification of such disruptions;
- Preparing formal requests for financial assistance from the Federal Highway Administration;
- Providing traffic management assistance through the DOT Highway Incident Management System.

#### Judicial Branch

- Providing foreign language interpreters as requested by DEMHS to assist with public information and to assist disaster victims in applying for disaster assistance.
- Disposing of civil and criminal actions arising out of emergency or disaster situations, including possible hearings regarding quarantine and/or isolation of individuals.
- Providing assistance from Judicial Marshal Services to support first responders in emergency or disaster situations that may require additional support, such as use of lockup facilities, transportation services and alternative modes of communications as needed.

#### Office of Higher Education/Board of Regents

- Coordinating shelter, mass feeding, non-surgical medical care, and temporary housing at state colleges, regional community colleges, and the University of Connecticut, depending upon student populations.
- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force.

#### Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

- Facilitating communication with OEC licensed facilities regarding the emergency and determining if assistance is required.
- Facilitating deployment of Temporary Respite Care equipment (Child Friendly Space Kits) as needed to establish a physical space suitable for temporary care of young children.
- Serving as requested on the State ESF 5 Emergency Management and ESF 6 Mass Care Task Forces or any other SEOC or DEMHS Task Force.

#### Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

- Dispatching a representative to the Incident Command Post to authorize the movement of deceased persons by responders at the scene and to authorize removal of deceased persons from the scene.
- Providing and coordinating victim identification and mortuary services.
- Determining facilities to be used as temporary morgues.
- Developing requests through and in coordination with State EOC/DEMHS for Federal assistance to:
- Assist in victim identification and mortuary services, including:
  - National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)
  - Disaster Mortuary Services Teams (DMORTs)

- Setting up and operating temporary morgue facilities.
- Processing, preparing, and disposing of remains

#### Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

- Providing information (executive branch agency data, geographic information systems data, budget information, etc.) as requested by DEMHS for use in the development of requests for Presidential disaster or emergency declarations.
- Expediting establishment of special accounts for disaster assistance funds and taking other actions necessary to expedite the availability of disaster assistance funds to local governments and individual disaster victims.
- Through the OPM Geographic Information Officer, support DEMHS in GIS initiatives and creation of products both at the SEOC and in preparation for and recovery from an event.
- Serving at the SEOC in the Fiscal Section, or on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force.
- Assist DESPP in providing the state cost share for disaster assistance, including FEMA Other Needs Assistance and payment for resources provided under mutual aid systems such as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 28-23a.
- Assisting in the implementation of the State Disaster Debris Management Plan.
- In collaboration with the Department of Administrative Services, provide coordination and support for statewide geospatial information resources through the GIS Office and GIS Advisory Council, as needed.

#### Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA)

##### Pre-Event

- Designated and acts as a single point of contact and liaison providing direct coordination with all other State, regional and Federal Departmental response elements as requested by the Governor's Office, EOC and the affected utilities.
- Has a primary and secondary liaison officer(s) who reports to the State EOC when called upon and is available on an around-the-clock basis if needed.
- The liaisons are trained in Incident Command and the National Incident Management System.
- Provide input to periodic readiness assessments and participating in training and exercises aimed at continuous improvement of prevention, response, and recovery capabilities.
- Provide appropriate staffing and participate in planning and exercises for short term and long term emergency management, restoration and protection operations, and the development of supporting operational plans, SOPs, checklists, or other job aids in concert with existing first responder standards.
- Communicate with utilities in advance of storms or other significant emergencies.
- Provide technical support for the EOC, as requested.
- Coordinate with ISO-NE, DOE, NERC, NARUC, and other utility sector agencies and develop procedures for responding to regional outages.

- Develop contact list and calling tree of PURA personnel and ESF-12 members for use to facilitate restoration and protection efforts during emergencies.
- Continuously identifying capabilities required to prevent or respond to new emergency threats and hazards, or to improve the ability to address existing threats.

#### **At SEOC**

- Serve as the state's liaison to Connecticut's regulated and unregulated utility companies and state agencies to facilitate critical utility infrastructure protection and restoration.
- Serve on appropriate Task Forces at the EOC as requested by DEMHS.
- Furnishing available personnel as requested by Governor's Office/SEOC.
- Provide technical assistance/guidance to federal and other state agencies.
- Coordinate with the EOC, Governor's Office and the utility companies to prepare and release public information regarding the emergency.
- Assist with disseminating emergency information and guidance to the public, private, and government organizations. All press releases are coordinated through the Governor's Office.
- Consult with legal counsel and disseminate proprietary information from affected public or privately owned facilities, when received.
- Keep the Governor's Office/EOC team informed of any utility related problems that may cause or contribute to extended outage(s).
- Receive and respond to information requests from municipalities and utility providers.
- Work with utilities on priority restoration of critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, water/wastewater plants, nursing homes, and prisons.
- Process of waiver requests for the utilities.
- Facilitate public utilities communication with local state, and federal agencies and organizations.
- Assist, as needed, with requests from the utilities for assistance from state agencies and help facilitate critical infrastructure protection and restoration.
- Monitor, evaluate, and provide input to the utility companies and other support agencies and organizations that are responding to and recovering from emergencies.
- Maintain notes, draft recommendations, and draft reports as appropriate.

#### **Recovery Activities**

- Serve as the point of contact for post event damage reports to affected utility systems (e.g., supply, distribution, telephone, pipelines) and conduct planning section meetings.
- Establish Docket(s), if necessary.
- Conduct a "lessons learned" and best practices review.
- Determine whether performance standards have been met and whether fines should be imposed (General Statutes §§ 16-32h and 16-32i)

#### State Department of Education (SDE)

- Facilitating communication and public information with school districts.
- Coordinating as necessary the use of USDA Food Distribution Program food for schools utilized as emergency shelters.
- Assisting with access to social, emotional, behavioral, mental health and crisis counseling and supports for Connecticut's school staff and students.
- Serving on any DEMHS or SEOC Task Force, as requested.

#### University of Connecticut Health Center, Poison Control Center (CPCC/UCONN)

- Providing advice and consultation to health care providers and the public regarding the management of chemical exposures.
- In the event of a chemical terrorist attack or a Hazmat situation with the potential for chemical exposure and/or injuries, assisting in the coordination of hospital response by relaying information regarding known or possible chemical entities, as well as providing information regarding laboratory testing, treatments and potential antidotes and their availability. Efficient deployment of these functions is dependent on early communication by first responders with the CPCC to identify substances involved or initial symptoms of those injured, as well as utilization of the C-MED/RCC system with hospital notifications.
- Coordination of follow-up with other medical providers. Exposure data collected by the CPCC is shared with America's Poison Centers in near real-time and they in turn share it with the CDC.

## Appendix B: Plans and Supporting Resources

The following are some but not all of supporting plans, documents, and functional annexes that may be utilized during implementation of the SRF or activated independently of an SEOC Activation. This is not an exhaustive list and other documents and plans may be used during operations that require activation of other tactical or operational plans:

- SEOC Standard Operating Procedures and Policies
  - SEOC Section Standard Operating Procedures
- Radiological Emergency Response Plan and Accompanying Annexes
- Local Emergency Operations Plan Template
- State Active Shooter/Hostile Event Strategy
- Long Term Mutual Aid Plan