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## Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

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# CT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EARNs ACCREDITATION

MIDDLETOWN -- For the third straight time, Connecticut has received high marks for emergency preparedness, earning full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

"This is more evidence that Connecticut is ready and prepared for any emergency or disaster of any type," **said Governor Ned Lamont.** "I thank all of our emergency managers at the local, state and tribal levels for demonstrating commitment to the highest standards of emergency planning, resource management, training, communications, and emergency management administration. "

"Behind every emergency response is a complete safety system working for Connecticut. At DESPP, when the pressure is on, we come together," **said DESPP Commissioner Ronnell A. Higgins.** "This is one critical part of our agency's larger mission for Connecticut to remain ready for whatever comes next."

To earn accreditation, emergency managers in DESPP's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security had to document compliance with 73 standards as well as a site visit by an assessment team from the accreditation program.

"This is the sole accreditation process for emergency management systems across the country. It is a credit to the state that we continue to meet the highest standards to help the people of Connecticut be ready for the next inevitable disaster," **said DESPP Deputy Commissioner Brenda Bergeron.**

"Building and maintaining capable and resilient communities comes through measurable standards of excellence," **said DEMHS Director of Emergency Management William H. Turner.** "Accreditation provides a recognized standard of excellence for emergency management programs -- enhancing their credibility, improving internal processes, strengthening budget and resource advocacy, while fostering greater coordination and public trust."

DEMHS, one of six expert divisions that make up DESPP, provides a coordinated, integrated program for statewide emergency management and homeland security. This includes coordination of the state response to emergencies, strategic and operational all-hazards planning, community preparedness, exercise and training, and grants planning and program management.

"This accomplishment demonstrates their dedication to their communities and stakeholders through adherence to rigorous national standards," **said Angee Morgan, Chair of the EMAP Commission and Deputy Director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.** "Their efforts reflect a strong commitment to preparedness, coordination, and continuous improvement."

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