

# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

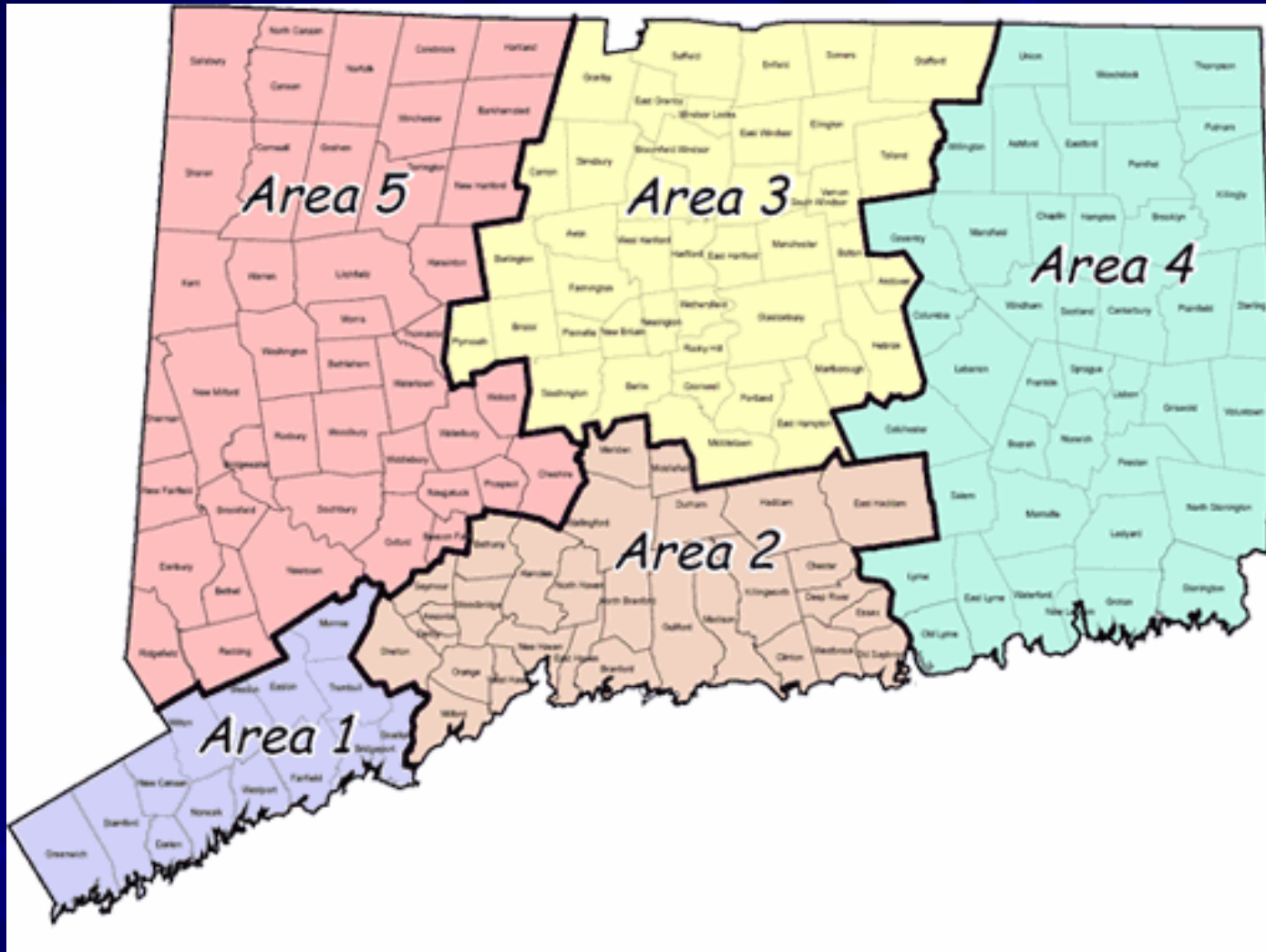
Department of Emergency Management &  
Homeland Security, December 6, 2005

# Role of DEMHS in CT

The mission of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security 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.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN CT

- State divided into 5 regions for emergency planning and preparedness.
- DEMHS has Area Coordinator in each of the 5 regions.
  - Works with Locals to develop Emergency plans
  - Helps locals conduct exercises
  - Serves as state contact during an emergency
- Each municipality has an Emergency Management Director.
  - Develops local plan
  - Serves as contact for local CEO to state



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN CT

- When an incident occurs, initial response is local.
- Area Coordinators and/or DEMHS duty officers (on call staff) are notified.
- Commissioner notifies Governor and determines whether DEMHS staff are needed at Emergency Operations Center in Hartford.

# Emergency Response in CT

- Governor and/or Commissioner have authority to “activate” Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Upon activation, Commissioners from state agencies and their staff are required to report to the EOC.
- Examples: DOT, CT Military; DPS, DCF, DMHAS, DMR, DEP, DPH, Red Cross, Governor’s Public Information Officers.

# Emergency Response in CT

- Commissioners brief Governor on: road closures, floods, dam breaks, power outages, evacuations, shelter needs, and what state can do to help.
- EOC receives requests for resources from municipalities or regions. State agencies help find and deploy resources as appropriate.
- Governor has many statutory powers and authorities including declaration of state of emergency and ordering mandatory evacuation.



# Communication During Emergency

- Emergency Alert System (EAS) used in CT.
- Original programming on TV or radio is interrupted and emergency message broadcast.
- Subscribe to e-alert and receive email about emergencies in CT.
- Go to [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs). Click on e-alert.



# Communication During Emergency

- DEMHS is expanding new initiative with Connecticut Television Network (CTN).
- DEMHS has direct broadcast access to CTN during emergencies.
- Closed captioning will be available.
- More details provided than on typical network newscasts.

# CT's Evacuation and Mass Sheltering Initiative

- Governor's mandate for DEMHS, DOT, DPS to develop state plan for evacuation and sheltering by January, 2006.
- Because of magnitude of this effort, additional planning and exercising will continue beyond January, 2006.
- Plans being developed at regional level (5 DEMHS planning regions).

# CT's Evacuation and Mass Sheltering Initiative

- Regional Evacuation Planning Team (REPT) will be comprised of Regional Planning Organizations' transportation planners, DEMHS ACs, and representatives from local EM, FD, PD, EMS, Red Cross, & private sector.
- Additional representation needed from persons with disabilities, their families and advocates.

# How to Join The Planning Effort?

- Persons with disabilities, families and advocates within DEMHS regional planning areas work together to identify representative to serve on each of the 5 REPTs.
- The REPTs are beginning their work this week. (Work in the Capitol Area has already begun.)

# Contact Your Area Coordinator

## ■ Area 1:

- Richard Fournier
- 203-696-2640

## ■ Area 2:

- Paul Pascarelli
- 860-685-8105

## ■ Area 3:

- Tom Gavaghan
- 860-685-8105

## ■ Area 4:

- Anthony Scalora
- 860-537-7560

## ■ Area 5:

- MaryRose Duberek
- 860-567-6850

# What Can You Do to Prepare?

- Create support network to help in emergencies.
- Tell others where you keep emergency supplies.
- Give member of support network key to your house or apartment.

# What Can You Do to Prepare?

- Wear medical alert tags or bracelets to help identify your disability.
- Teach others how to operate your medical equipment and label wheelchairs, walkers or canes with your name.
- Know location and availability of more than one dialysis treatment facility if needed.



# Register With E-911

- Go to [www.CT.Gov](http://www.CT.Gov)
- Click on Executive Branch
- Click on Department of Public Safety
- On left side of page click on Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
- Click on 911 Special Needs Form
- [http://www.ct.gov/dps/lib/dps/office\\_of\\_statewide\\_emergency\\_telecommunications\\_files/oset-files/how\\_to\\_alert\\_911.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dps/lib/dps/office_of_statewide_emergency_telecommunications_files/oset-files/how_to_alert_911.pdf)

# Create Emergency Health Info Card

## ■ Card should be created to:

- Communicate to rescuers what they need to know about you if you are found unconscious, incoherent or if they need to evacuate you quickly.
- Card should contain information about medications, equipment needed, allergies, communication difficulties, preferred treatment, medical providers, important contact people.

# Create Emergency Health Info Card

- Create multiple copies of the card to keep in emergency supply kits, car, work, wallet, wheelchair pack, etc.
- For downloadable version of health card, visit [www.dph.state.ct.us/ready.htm](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/ready.htm)