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For Immediate Release:

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The 2013 Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium: is set for Wednesday, May 8 in Cromwell. Over 400 local & state leaders are expected.

Over 400 municipal and state leaders will converge in Cromwell on Wednesday, May 8 for the 2013 Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium. The event will take place at the Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), the CT Div. of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHSO), and the CT Dept. of Public Health (DPH).

“With the tragedy in Newtown, major storms again battering Connecticut, and recent the Boston Marathon bombing, the need for assessing and improving our emergency response procedures and resources, at the state and local levels, has never been more apparent in Connecticut,” said Jim Finley, CCM Executive Director and CEO “This critical conference brings together federal, state, and local government officials and personnel to participate in a unique, day-long opportunity to share experiences and learn the latest resources to employ when the next major emergency or disaster hits our state.”

Here is the day-long schedule of sessions:

8:30 – 9:15

General Session

Welcome and Introductions

William J. Hackett, State Emergency Management Director, Div. of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Opening Remarks

James J. Finley, Executive Director and CEO, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

William P. Shea, Deputy Commissioner, CT Div. of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Lisa Davis, Deputy Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health

9:15 – 9:45

Overview of School Security Planning

Grand Ballroom

William P. Shea, Deputy Commissioner, DEMHS

Thomas Vannini, Region 5 Coordinator, DEMHS

Lieutenant Louis J. Fusaro, Office of Counter Terrorism, DEMHS

9:45 – 10:15

Role of Public Health in Emergencies

Grand Ballroom

Jonathan Best, Director of Preparedness & Response, DPH

10:40 – 11:00

Emergency Planning & Preparedness Initiative Exercise 2013

Grand Ballroom

John Warren, Operations Training & Exercise Manager, DEMHS

11:00 – 11:30

Cyber Security as an Emerging Threat

Grand Ballroom

William P. Shea, Deputy Commissioner, DEMHS

Mark Raymond, Chief Information Officer, State of Connecticut

11:30 – 12:00

CERT/Medical Reserve Corps Activation Refresher

Grand Ballroom

Brenda M. Bergeron, Esq., Principal Attorney, DEMHS

1:00 to 1:30

CT Disaster Status: Recovery 2013

Grand Ballroom

William P. Shea, Deputy Commissioner, DEMHS / CT State Disaster Recovery Coordinator

Nancy Casper, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, FEMA

1:30 – 1:50

Sheltering Best Practices

Grand Ballroom

Jonathan Best, Director of Preparedness & Response, DPH

Jean Flynn, Emergency Management Director, Town of New Fairfield

Thomas Vannini, Region 5 Coordinator, DEMHS

1:50 – 2:00

2013 Hurricane Forecast

Grand Ballroom

Douglas Glowacki, Emergency Management Program Specialist, DEMHS

2:00 – 3:30

Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG)

Grand Ballroom

Douglas Glowacki, Emergency Management Program Specialist, DEMHS

Megan Sopelak, Fiscal Grants Manager, DESPP

Sandra Spinks, Grants Manager, FEMA

In addition, there will be a day-long trade show with nearly 50 companies presenting a broad range of critical products and services that are needed by town and city leaders to effectively respond to emergencies in their communities.