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Immediate Release:

Contact:

Jim Finley (203) 804-6895

Kevin Maloney (203) 710-3486

**The 2012 Connecticut Emergency
Management Symposium:
is set for Tuesday, May 1 in Cromwell.
Over 500 local & state leaders are expected.
Keynote addresses to be presented
by senior FEMA officer and by
Tennessee disaster response & recovery expert.**

Over 500 municipal and state leaders will converge in Cromwell on Tuesday, May 1 for the 2012 Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium. The event will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), the CT Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection (DESPP), and the CT Dept. of Public Health (DPH).

The welcome and opening remarks at 8:30 a.m. will be presented by Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman; James J. Finley, Jr., Executive Director and CEO, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities; Reuben F. Bradford, Commissioner, CT Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection; Leonard Lee, Deputy Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health; and William Hackett, State Emergency Management Director, Div. of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, CT Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection.

“With the two major storms that battered Connecticut last August and October, 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 Finley. “This critical conference brings together federal, state, and local government officials to participate in a unique, day-long program to share their experiences and learn the latest resources to employ when the next major disaster hits our state.”

The day-long schedule will kick off with back-to-back keynote addresses starting at 8:45 a.m.

Albie Lewis, the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for Region One with FEMA, will discuss “Recovering from a Devastating Catastrophe.” He will relay his experiences as a Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator after 64 tornados devastated Alabama communities.

Lewis has been appointed FCO for over 18 different presidential disasters and Emergency Declarations, and has served as Deputy FCO in many other disasters, including assignments in Texas for Hurricane Ike and in Alabama for the 2011 tornados. He served in this role in Alabama for the 2011 tornados. He is a former FEMA Disaster Assistance Employee (DAE) and was special assistant to the FCO during disaster reponses for Hurricanes Katrina

and Rita and the 2005-2006 Texas wildfires.

General Warren Edwards, Director of the Community and Regional Research Institute (CARRI) in -Oak Ridge, Tennessee, will speak on his organization's "Community and Regional Resilience System Program." This effort addresses the development of community resilience and the ability to bounce back in the face of turbulent change. Peter Tesei, First Selectman of Greenwich, and Dan Warzohan, Emergency Management Director for the town, will discuss how Greenwich is implementing the system.

As Director of CARRI, Edwards works to help develop and then share critical paths that any community or region may take to strengthen its ability to prepare for, respond to, and rapidly recover from significant man-made or natural disasters with minimal downtime of basic community, government, and business services. CARRI supports communities in their resilience building efforts and also works with state, regional, and national stakeholders to create incentives and support for community resilience.

Also central to the day-long event will be exhibits -by nearly 50 leading public and private-sector service-providers in emergency management., They will be on hand as part of a trade show throughout the day to assist and discuss local planning and response needs.

Here is the breakdown for the other workshop sessions occurring during the day:

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.

Response to Suspicious Powder: A Team Effort by Law Enforcement and Public Health

This session details the multi-agency response to suspicious substance incidents and the need for coordination with Public Health..

- Michael Syrax, WMD Coordinator, FBI Office, New Haven
- Lisa Pippa, Director, Dept. of Public Health, Meriden

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Review of Statewide Disaster Preparedness Exercise: Planning Ahead for the Next Big Storm*

The session provides an update on Governor Malloy's Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative. Additionally, details of the statewide exercise scheduled for July 28-31 and the current predictions for the 2012 hurricane season will be discussed.

- Brenda Bergeron, Principal Attorney DESPP/DEMHS
- Douglas Glowacki, Emergency Management Program Specialist DESPP/DEMHS

11:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Enhanced Storm Response and Recovery Readiness: Utility Companies' Guidelines

- Angela Ruggiero, Manager of Regional Coordination, CL&P
- Theresa Brown, Director, Regulatory & External Affairs, AT&T
- Alfred Felice, Restoration Manager, UI

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Maximizing Emergency Preparedness in the Current Federal Grant Environment

Discussions include the dwindling federal homeland security grants and strategies to ensure continuance of emergency preparedness plans.

- Chief Denis McCarthy, Fire and Emergency Management Director, Norwalk
- Scott Appleby, Emergency Management Director, Bridgeport

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Reviewing and Updating State and Local Emergency Operations

Issues to be discussed include legal obligations regarding local emergency operations plans; new local mass-care instructions – sheltering, feeding, and related services; new legislation on children and emergency preparedness; and debris management

- Brenda M. Bergeron, Principal Attorney, DESPP/DEMHS
- Michele DeLuca, Deputy Emergency Management Director, Norwalk
- Cynthia Tangney, Emergency Management Planning Specialist, DESPP/DEMHS
- Carolyn Carlson, Deputy Chief of Response, CT American Red Cross
- Jonathan Best, EMS Field Coordinator, Public Health Preparedness, CT DPH
- Mary Kate Lowndes, Director of Development and Special Initiatives, Commission on Children
- Bruce Lockwood, Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator, Bristol-Burlington Health District
- Frank Gagliardo, Supervising Environmental Analyst, CT DEEP
- Joseph Schiavone, Sanitary Engineer, CT DEEP

