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For immediate release  
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## **“Not If, But When: Be Prepared for the Next Disaster Now” is the focus of a special March 2 conference in Meriden for municipal CEOs called for by Governor Malloy’s Two-Storm Panel**

*Not If, But When: Be Prepared for the Next Disaster Now* will be the focus of a special half-day conference for Connecticut mayors and first selectmen and other key emergency management leaders sponsored by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) on Friday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council in Meriden. CCM is sponsoring the workshop in conjunction with the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

This workshop and the upcoming May 1 statewide, day-long, Emergency Management Symposium, sponsored annually by CCM, were two of the several key calls to action included in Governor Malloy’s January 11<sup>th</sup> recommendations following the report from his Two-Storms Panel.

More than 200 municipal leaders from across the state are scheduled to attend the morning program.

The two catastrophic storms of 2011 in Connecticut are proof that all emergencies start and end locally. The CEO desk during an emergency learns precisely what needs to be done and how to coordinate among all local officials - and regional, state and private sector counterparts - so communities can be better prepared to respond to and recover from an emergency.

Being aware of key assets in an emergency is one thing but knowing how to access and maximize those resources is another. The workshop will help municipal CEOs better understand best methods on planning, restoration, and training directly from experts whom examined lessons-learned from 2011. Local leaders will also review specific duties, responsibilities, and obligations during an emergency.

### **The objectives for the workshop include:**

- \* Examining preparedness needs within municipalities and regions.
- \* Understanding regional and local plans for responding to natural and man-made disasters.
- \* Evaluating protocols and best practices, based on lessons learned from previous disasters.
- \* Understanding legal responsibilities, and the emergency management systems in place at the local, state,

and federal levels.

- \* Determining communication needs and interoperability capacity.
- \* Networking with nearby communities - connect names with faces.
- \* Plan - Exercise - Prepare: the reasons to conduct a tabletop exercise.

**The speakers & panel are:**

Welcome and Introductions

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

Reuben F. Bradford, Commissioner, CT Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection

Nancy Wyman, Lt. Governor

**Presentations**

CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

William J. Hackett, State Emergency Management Director

Brenda Bergeron, Principal Attorney

**Panel Members:**

*Region 1*

Peter Tesei, First Selectman, Town of Greenwich

Daniel Warzoha, Emergency Management Director, Town of Greenwich

*Region 2*

John Picard, Mayor, Town of West Haven

Robert Schwartz, Emergency Management Director, Town of West Haven

*Region 3*

Matthew Galligan, Town Manager, Town of South Windsor

Matthew Reed, Police Chief, Town of South Windsor

*Region 4*

John Elsesser, Town Manager, Town of Coventry

Noel Waite, Emergency Management Director, Town of Coventry

*Region 5*

Vincent Festa, Jr., Mayor, Town of Plymouth

Anthony Orsini, Emergency Management Director, Town of Plymouth