



Capitol Region Update

June 2006

Capitol Region Council of Governments

www.crcog.org

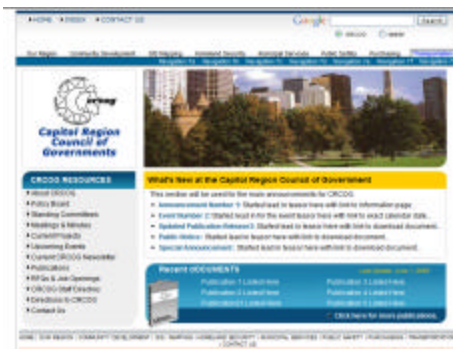
Is Your Municipality NIMS Compliant?



Over the past several months, through our homeland security training project, CRCOG has held several National Incident Management

(NIMS) courses. Dan Scace, Homeland Security Training Coordinator, has been meeting with municipalities to determine their training needs. Photo shows Bruce Lockwood teaching a NIMS 700 course in Avon. The federal government established NIMS to provide a common, nation-wide system to manage any emergency or disaster. It is each chief elected official's responsibility to certify they are NIMS compliant. Each town's emergency director, police, fire, EMS, public works, and education leaders play a role in ensuring their departments take the necessary steps to be NIMS compliant. For an explanation of the various training courses and requirements visit http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/06_training.pdf. Michael Chertoff, Secretary of U.S. Department of Homeland Security in his October 4, 2005 Letter to the Governors, wrote "Jurisdictions will be required to meet the FY 2006 NIMS implementation requirements as a condition of receiving federal preparedness funding assistance in FY 2007." Should you have any questions or concerns regarding NIMS or would like to schedule or attend a class, please call Dan Scace, Homeland Security Training Coordinator, at 860-522-2217 ext. 23.

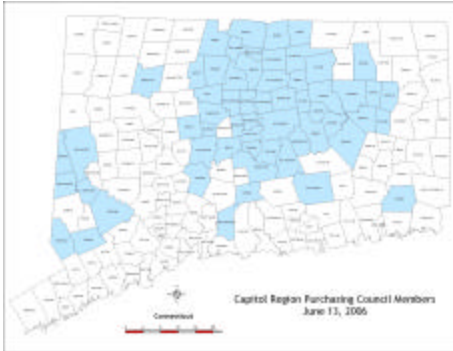
CRCOG Redesigned Homepage to Launch Soon



A team of CRCOG staff has been providing input to the contractor DMC Team to redesign the CRCOG webpage to be easier to use and to update.

Stay tuned for the launch of the new webpage – same address www.crcog.org -- that will be located on a new server at CRCOG.

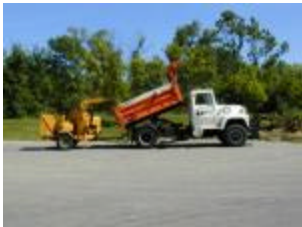
Capitol Region Purchasing Council Still Growing



The Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) is pleased to announce that it added two more members --Durham and Torrington-- in June. The group is now comprised of 59 members, 30 of which are "fee member," or non-regional, municipalities. CRPC welcomes participation from all municipalities in Connecticut. The benefits of collective bidding consistently outweigh the fees charged to join. Trial memberships are also available. If you know of a municipality outside of

our region that would like to join, please have them contact Jennifer March-Wackers, Municipal Services Coordinator, at jwackers@crcog.org.

Inter-Town Service Cooperation Advances



Inter-Town Service Cooperation was the subject of discussion at the June Municipal Services Committee meeting. Inter-Town Service Cooperation, or mutual aid, helps municipalities cut costs by sharing equipment and/or personnel. With tighter budgets, staff reductions and new technology available, some municipalities are focusing on sharing public works services and equipment. Jennifer Carrier, a

transportation engineer with CRCOG who has been consulting on this issue, presented information on the Newington-Rocky Hill-Wethersfield partnership as well as a successful statewide program in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire has a successful statewide public works mutual aid program in place, which is the first of its kind in the country. Approximately 80 cities participate in the cooperative, which has set protocols for requesting and receiving aid. The Newington-Rocky Hill-Wethersfield group is currently working to formalize their arrangements with the help of CRCOG. Attorneys from Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. have researched Connecticut statutes and drafted an "Interlocal Agreement" template that can be used by municipalities and other entities to share equipment and/or personnel.

A Regional Symposium is being planned for this fall to discuss the future of Inter-Town Service Cooperation in both emergency and non-emergency situations in Connecticut. If you are interested in participating in the symposium, or would like additional information, please contact Jennifer March-Wackers, Municipal Services Coordinator, at jwackers@crcog.org, or call (860) 522-2217 x39.

New CERT Team in the Capitol Region



Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) representatives took part in the final training and graduation exercise for the First Company Governor's Horse Guard new civilian emergency response team (CERT) on May 4th at their headquarters in Avon. Craig Hancock, chair of the Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council, conducted the training.

The two missions of this new civilian emergency response team will be to assist the Capitol Region Medical Reserve

Corps with mounted or dismounted security and to assist the Animal Rescue Emergency Support function during times of disaster.

Safe Routes to Schools: State Efforts Underway



Picture source: Safe Routes to Schools

The state of Connecticut is moving forward with the implementation of the Safe Routes to Schools program DOT Safe Routes Coordinator Sharon Okoye is working with the Connecticut Transportation Institute to develop a series of workshops for town and school officials and interested parents. The workshops will be

held in late September or early October and at least one will be held in the capitol region. These sessions will be designed to explain the program, to encourage participation, and to give school officials the tools they need to get a program started. As soon as the meeting arrangements are finalized, CRCOG staff will work to insure that all our towns are informed.

Statewide Rest Area and Service Plaza Study



Are you aware the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is

undertaking a study on Connecticut's rest areas and service plazas? The study, which started Summer 2005 and is expected to wrap up near the end of 2006, will

evaluate the state's overall needs, requirements, and options for rest areas and service plazas and will also evaluate the needs of each individual existing facility. The study will result in a long-term plan to move Connecticut to the forefront of states providing highway rest facilities and traveler services and will also recommend specific facility improvements. Two representatives of Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., Ruth Fitzgerald and Ken Livingston, met with CRCOG transportation staff to discuss the study progress and direction. FHI is part of the consulting team working with the state on this project. You are invited to provide feedback for the study. Go to www.ctrestareas.org to learn more and to provide feedback.

Municipal Services Committee Hosts Time Management Workshop



A Time Management Workshop was held for municipal employees throughout the CRCOG region at the Wethersfield Police Department on June 8, 2006. Dona Vages (shown in the photo at left) returned to conduct the workshop with 17 attendees. Those in attendance learned about planning their work and personal lives to be more efficient and satisfying. Tips on establishing priorities, allotting time for important tasks, dealing with interruptions, and effective delegation were presented. The next Municipal Services Committee workshop on Team Building will be held in September. Keep an eye out for the date and time! You don't want to miss out!

CRCOG Public Safety Hires Two Contractual Employees



Carmine Centrella, (at left in the photo) former Fire Chief of the UConn Health Center Fire Department, began this month as a Regional Planner. Carmine has been a member of CREPC for five years and has worked on both the CR-MMRS and CR-MRC projects. Carmine's main task will be to review and enhance the Regional Emergency Deployment (RED) Plan and add specific annexes including evacuation and sheltering. He will also work closely with the regional planners from the other

four areas of the State.

In April, CRCOG hired Daniel Scace (at right in photo) to oversee CRCOG's homeland security training program. Mr. Scace has an extensive training background in the military and commercial nuclear industry. He continues to serve in the CT Air National Guard as the Director of the CT Joint Staff, where a key responsibility includes ensuring the Guard is ready to provide military support to civilian authorities in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Large Animal Rescue Training a Success



Over the 3 days of the Memorial Day weekend, thirty Connecticut State Animal Response Team volunteers participated in a training designed to help prepare Connecticut for disaster response on behalf of domestic animals. The event was supported by CRCOG's homeland security animal rescue project and coordinated by the project's leader, Dr. Arnold Goldman.

The training consisted of two portions, a small animal shelter construction competition and large animal rescue training. Dr. Gimenez, of Clemson University, who travels with his own horses and llama led the large animal segment. The animals were used to illustrate a wide variety of rescue techniques for situations both routine and extraordinary.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

Community Development Committee, Thursday, September 14, 12 noon

Public Safety Council, Thursday, 12 noon September 14

CREPC, Thursday, July 27, 9:30 a.m.

Transportation Committee, Wednesday, July 26, 11:30 a.m.

CRCOG Policy Board, Wednesday, July 26, 12 noon

Executive Committee, Wednesday, August 9, 12 noon



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