Statewide Unified Response Manual

The preparation of a Unified Response Manual (URM) for use statewide in managing incidents on our highways is moving forward. The South Central Region Council of Governments (SCRCOG) is managing a program funded by FHWA, ConnDOT, and SCRCOG to develop the URM. SCRCOG recently awarded a contract to IBI Group of Cambridge, Massachusetts to write a first draft. IBI will also develop a plan of “next steps” that will include finalizing and implementing the URM, preparing a training program, and identifying funding sources for these efforts.

Denis McCarthy, Fire Chief for the City of Norwalk, is chair of the URM subcommittee and Judy Gott, Executive Director of SCRCOG, has administrative responsibility for the project.

The URM subcommittee met on November 16 in North Haven to review the project work plan and schedule; to identify specific project objectives; and to define a project outreach approach that best utilizes available project resources. The Statewide Incident Management Task Force (SIMTF) is proving input to this work effort and outreach to State agencies that have incident response responsibilities, as well as to local first responders through their statewide associations.

A rigorous schedule for completing this initial work by Spring of 2007 has been adopted. The consultants will be meeting with the SIMTF in mid-December to finalize a PowerPoint presentation that will then be used to reach out to the various stakeholders. That effort will take place in January and February 2007.

Reducing Incident Duration

ConnDOT in conjunction with on scene responders are working together as an incident management team to implement a new strategy to reduce incident duration.

Over the past year, in three incidents involving fully-loaded Overturned Tractor Trailers, efforts were made to quickly open up the highway. The OTT’s were dragged over the travel way to a safe area such as an exit ramp or gore area that had plenty of roadway in which to work.

This effort saved considerable time. The Tractor Trailers, while still overturned, were pulled by heavy-duty wrecker equipment and pushed with a heavy-duty loader, in some cases in excess of 1500 feet. Most if not all of the incidents occurred prior to rush hour.
One incident occurred along I-84 in West Hartford in the vicinity of exit 43 at approximately 0500 on a Monday. The road was opened in two hours. Other incident locations included I-91 southbound in the vicinity of exit 29 in Hartford and I-91 northbound in the vicinity of exit 16 in Meriden.

ConnDOT encourages other first responders to consider this as an option to reduce incident duration.

**Other News from ConnDOT**

**Diversion plans.** Development of plans for the expressway-to-expressway traffic diversions in the Capitol Region will be underway soon. ConnDOT will be working with the Connecticut State Police to develop these plans, which are used when significant lane or roadway shutdowns are required.

Diversion plans for each of the exits on the I-84 and I-91 in the Hartford area were prepared several years ago. They were made available to appropriate local police departments in a paper format at that time and again in 2003. ConnDOT is now working on making those diversion plans available electronically sometime next year.

**Traffic e-alerts.** You are able to have notification of traffic conditions sent directly to your email address. Sign up for traffic and/or rail e-alerts at [www.ct.gov/dot](http://www.ct.gov/dot). Click on the link in lefthand column. The direct internet link is: [http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2003&Q=290292&dotNav=](http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2003&Q=290292&dotNav=)

**Additional information.** Contact Jim Mona at ConnDOT for additional information about any of these ConnDOT programs. Call him at 860-594-2630 or email: [james.mona@po.state.ct.us](mailto:james.mona@po.state.ct.us).

**Regional Emergency Evacuation and Shelter Plan**

The Regional Evacuation and Shelter Plan (RESP) was finalized in draft form at the end of September. The RESP was introduced to the DEMHS Region 3 - Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) in October for review and comment.

DEMHS Region 3 Coordinator Thomas Gavaghan has now had an electronic version of the RESP delivered to all local Emergency Management Directors in the Region for their review and comment. It is anticipated that all comments will be received by mid-December when Tom and CRCOG Homeland Security Regional Planner Carmine Centrella will review and revise the RESP, as appropriate.

The RESP does have information gaps specific to local Traffic Management Plans (TMPs), and Evacuation Routes; both CRCOG and DEMHS Region 3 will be working with Capitol Region communities to provide the necessary data. In an evacuation-warranted event, this information is critical to the timely evacuation of either specific regional populations, or the entire Capitol Region. All TMPs must be coordinated regionally to assure like assumptions, and continuity of plans and routes.

If your community has not received a copy of the Capitol Region / DEMHS R-3 Regional Evacuation and Shelter Plan, please contact Tom Gavaghan at 860-529-6893 or email: [thomas.gavaghan@po.state.ct.us](mailto:thomas.gavaghan@po.state.ct.us); or Carmine Centrella at 860-522-2217, x25 or email: [ccentrella@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccentrella@sbcglobal.net).
Transportation Resources Survey

The regional database of local transportation resources that might be available during an emergency is now posted on the CRCOG website. Emergency responders are reminded that this is a contact resource only and that the services listed may not be available in an actual emergency. You are encouraged to make preliminary contact with resources in your town and in neighboring towns to establish a relationship before a major incident or emergency takes place.

Emergency planning directors are asked to review the information submitted for their town and to send updated or corrected information to Karen Olson at kolson@crcog.org or 522-2217, ext 15.

If you are an emergency planning director for your community and have not responded to this request for information, please contact Karen to obtain the survey form. Completed forms should be sent to her by email, faxed to 860-724-1274, or mailed to CRCOG, 241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Incident and Emergency Management Online Resources

AASHTO’s Traffic Incident Management Community of Practice website designed for traffic incident responders to share their experiences and knowledge:
http://www.timexchange.org/inc/inc.nsf/home

FHWA’s Traffic Incident Management website:
http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/incidentmgmt/index.htm

FHWA’s webpage of publications on Transportation Incident Management:
http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/incidentmgmt/publications.htm
See especially: Simplified Guide to the Incident Command System for Transportation Professionals

Homeland One: “network of specialized training and instant communication during times of emergency and crisis”
http://www.homelandone.com/


American Red Cross: disaster services & emergency preparation
http://www.redcross.org/index.html

TRB’s Transportation Emergency Response Preparedness information:

Please send information about a website you believe would be of interest to incident and emergency responders to Karen Olson at kolson@crcog.org for publication in future issues of this newsletter.

Questions or Comments about this Newsletter?

Contact: Karen Olson, Capitol Region Council of Governments, 241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 522-2217, x15 E-mail: kolson@crcog.org

***************************************************
Previous issues of Incident Management News (ESF-1 News predecessor) are posted on the Transportation Page of the CRCOG website at www.crcog.org/transportation.htm Scroll to the bottom of the page.