

The local Emergency Management Director (EMD) is a critical asset to the municipal Chief Executive Officer (CEO), performing “peace time” planning, training and exercise activities, representing the community at local, regional, and state events, operating as the key link to the DEMHS Regional Office, and assisting the CEO in times of emergency.

Under the National Response Framework the local EMD has the day-to-day authority for overseeing emergency management programs and activities for the municipality. The local EMD does at the local level what DEMHS does at the state level. The local EMD reviews and approves the annual Local Emergency Operations Plan, and serves on the CEO’s Unified Command.

Among the other duties of the local Emergency Management Director in Connecticut is the administration of the statutory “LOYALTY OATH” to local volunteer civil preparedness force members such as the local Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT) members. The local EMD is also responsible for recommending activation of volunteers under Connecticut General Statutes Section 28-7(h). It is critical that the local EMD or other authorized local official ensure that volunteers are properly trained for all potential activities, since the EMD provides a certification to that effect at the time of activation.

Volunteer and non-governmental organizations are key resources for the municipal CEO and EMD.

The local EMD works closely with municipal, state, and private sector partners to ensure that the municipality, including staff, volunteers, and the public, have the opportunity to participate in training and exercises throughout the year, in order to increase preparedness and resiliency.

As part of the Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI), DEMHS runs a statewide exercise each year, providing municipal, state, private sector, and federal partners with an excellent opportunity to convene their Unified Commands and review and exercise their plans and procedures.