

## **Public Safety and Homeland Security Highlights**

### **CRCOG Homeland Security & Grant Initiatives.**

Work on the FY 19 SHSGP has commenced. All open grants include funds for training and exercise, contractual support and sustainment and maintenance of regional equipment. There are also set asides for the Hartford Bomb Squad, Capitol Region HAZMAT team and Metropolitan Medical Response System. Applications for the FY 21 SHSGP, MMRS and HAZMAT grants were approved by DEMHS after a budget presentation.

The Statewide Homeland Security Working Group (Cheryl Assis is the COG representative) met to reallocate unspent FY 19 funds and it was determined that our region would receive an additional \$60,000 in funds. This will be split between Training/Exercise and Maintenance/Sustainment of Regional Equipment.

CRCOG staff continues to work with Tetra Tech on an After-Action Review of the region's response during the Covid pandemic. An electronic survey for all stakeholders was distributed with responses due back in mid-January. In addition, we will be required to complete one focused solely on local public health.

ESF-11 Animal Response has a cache of animal crates and cages that our being offered to our communities.

CRCOG public safety staff have been working with communities on vaccination planning efforts.

### **COVID-19 Support Activities**

The Regional Emergency Support Plan was activated on March 18th, 2020 and the Regional Coordination Center was recently deactivated. Coordination is being done by the ESF-5 (Emergency Management) and ESF-8 (Public Health and Medical Services) duty officers.

We are utilizing our Regional Distribution Site Standard Operating Guide. Our Regional Distribution Center in West Hartford was opened on March 25th and the three day a week operation ended at the end of August. The site is currently now open on an as needed basis and was utilized several times in February. The Capitol Region Incident Management Team is manning the site along with staff from the Town of West Hartford, National Guard, CRCOG and area CERT teams. At this point the IMT will complete Incident Action Plans as necessary.

Finally, our Medical Reserve Corps remains a very valuable asset. They have current activations at St. Francis, Chatham Health District, Bristol-Burlington Health District, Town of Vernon, and the City of Hartford Health Department with hundreds of Cr-MRC members volunteering their time in both medical and non-medical roles.

### **Other Highlights**

A quarterly Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council meeting was held with an update from all Emergency Support Functions.

Staff attended the quarterly meeting of the Capitol Region HAZMAT Team Steering Committee.

A bi-monthly Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council meeting was held via Zoom. Our CERT teams found creative and innovative ways to help during the pandemic and reported out on their activities.

Working with the Department of Public Health to act as the fiduciary agent for local public health emergency preparedness funds. We are currently completing the second quarter of BP3 and have submitted our 24/7 coverage forms, MCM Action Plan and Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plans. CRCOG completed the first quarter programmatic and financial reports for BP3. We continue to have monthly ESF-8 meetings and bi-weekly meetings with the local Public Health Directors.