

2013 Statewide Severe Weather Exercise

June 20th and 22nd, 2013

Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Division of emergency Management & Homeland Security

Event Overview

This year's exercise will focus on a simulated Severe Ice Storm affecting the West/Northwest portion DEMHS Region 5 of the state. The event will give us an opportunity to exercise DEMHS Region 5's Regional Emergency Support Plan with the other 4 DEMHS Regions participating in support roles. This exercise will also provide another opportunity to test command staffs, supporting leaders, and other staff in municipalities, private sector business, non-governmental organizations, and state agencies in successfully planning, coordinating, and synchronizing efforts in supporting roles.

Weather forecast for the first week in November, 2013 (simulated)

- Initial Briefing to include complete scenario and preplanning "pro-active" injects.
- A nor'easter is developing off of Cape May, New Jersey over the first weekend of November. (simulated)

NWS Pre-Winter Storm Watch Issued for entire state with larger accumulations expected for Fairfield and Litchfield counties – up to 6 inches of snow/mixed precipitation changing to freezing drizzle/rain over night Wednesday into Thursday.

48 hour forecast: **STATUS**-monitoring storm advance, plowable snow event across state with possible change to Freezing Rain (potential significant ice accumulations possible) in western counties of state. Travel hazards are expected. Gusty winds will reduce visibilities and increase the icing impact on trees, power lines. Potential flat roof weight issues can be expected.

24 hour forecast: **STATUS**-monitoring storm advance – Wednesday morning through evening 3 – 5 inches expected across state with a potential to change to Freezing Rain (potential .25 to 1.0 inches accretions) particularly in Litchfield County starting around midnight. All locations NW winds 18 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph.

NWS Pre-Winter Storm Warning issued for all of Litchfield County – up to 6 inches of snow, mixed precipitation changing to freezing drizzle/rain by 11 pm.

Pre-Winter Storm Arrival Snow falling at 1 to 2 inches an hour throughout the state but temperatures are starting to rise in some areas with snow changing to Freezing precipitation.

Freezing precip begins in earnest in Kent and Sharon.

Kent through Hartland townships reporting significant ice accretion on roads, trees and power lines.

All Litchfield County municipalities are now reporting some areas with ½ inch ice accretions. Power outages are being reported in 75% of the county. Road-crews/local and state police are reporting many roads impassable due to snow accumulations of 5 inches or more with ice on top. Winds causing galloping of power lines with additional failures expected.

High tension power lines are down, support towers bowed or down, radio and cell towers bowed in and around Torrington city limits.

Back edge of precipitation crossing NY/CT border with storm expected to clear region in 2 to 3 hours.

Pre-Winter Storm Departure Storm has cleared the state. Forecast for the day is clearing skies and becoming sunny, temperatures warming to 38 degrees after noon with significant melting. Temps will go below freezing after sunset with refreeze of surface water.

Forecast for the next few days calls for sunny conditions with highs near 40 degrees. Downed power lines and trees along with small stream flooding exacerbated by required release of upstream reservoirs washes out some roads limiting access to communications towers that need repair or generators refueled. Debris clogged roads isolate some communities requiring additional road clearing support from non-affected communities.