



**Edition 3:** October 26, 2023

## Commissioner's Corner



Each month we will update you through DAS Newsline on our department initiatives and our work to support state agency, municipal, and community partners.

October marks an important time for DAS. As of October 1, 2023, provisions making it easier for small, minority, and women-owned businesses to do business with the state took effect. In addition, DAS

promoted Cybersecurity Awareness Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and Fire Prevention Week. And, we received an update on the construction of the new Bullard-Havens Technical High School. Please take a moment to read about the good work happening at DAS.

## **Supporting Small, Minority, and Woman-Owned Businesses in Connecticut**



On October 1, a new law took effect making it easier for small, minority, and women-owned firms to conduct business with the State of Connecticut. This law raised the threshold for requiring contractor prequalification from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, thereby removing some bonding requirements for contracts under \$1,000,000 that have historically been a barrier for some small businesses.

We are grateful to the Administration, the General Assembly, and our stakeholders in supporting this impactful change.

[View the Press Release](#)

[Apply to be a Certified Small or Minority Business Enterprise Here!](#)

## Promoting Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October marks Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The DAS team recognizes the importance of cybersecurity in protecting our state employees, businesses, and communities across Connecticut.



[View Video on LinkedIn](#)

### Cybersecurity Roundtable with Industry Partners

Last Monday, Commissioner Gilman, Chief Information Security Officer Jeff Brown, and Chief Information Officer Mark Raymond joined Governor Lamont for a roundtable discussion regarding the importance of cybersecurity for state and local government,

businesses, and residents. They were joined by industry leaders and other key partners who pledged their support for continuing Connecticut's strong efforts to protect our cyber infrastructure and build a strong cybersecurity workforce across the state.



### **How can you keep yourself safe online?**

Here are four simple steps:

1. Use strong passwords.
2. Turn on multifactor authentication
3. Recognize and report phishing
4. Update software

*For More Information Visit [CISA.Gov](https://www.cisa.gov)*

**Checking in at Bullard-Havens Technical  
HS**



In Bridgeport, construction is underway on a new Bullard-Havens Technical High School. The 215,000 square foot building is being built on the existing 24-acre site and will include a field house, new athletic fields, a gymnasium, and other state-of-the-art classroom and lab features. Geo-thermal wells and other sustainability measures are also incorporated into the design.

When completed, the school will serve approximately 900 grade 9-12 students from the region. DAS Construction Services, the C-Tech system, and our other partners are looking forward to the grand opening in Fall 2026!

[Check Out the Full Story Here](#)

**Celebrating Disability Employment Awareness**





Each October, we observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) to celebrate the contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace and showcase supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit both employers and employees. The theme for NDEAM 2023, "Advancing Access and Equity" is foundational to our mission and values at DAS. They are not just words but the cornerstone of everything we do. Whether it is constructing new buildings, administering equitable workplace policies, or ensuring the state's online presence meets and exceed industry standards, our commitment to access and equity is unwavering.

[View the Full Statement Here](#)

**"Stand by Your Pan" - Fire Prevention  
Week 2023**



**[View More Steps Provided by the Office of the State Fire Marshal Here!](#)**

DAS and the Office of the State Fire Marshal recognized Fire Prevention Week which is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign was, "Cooking safety starts with You." Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and injuries. The good news is you can prevent most cooking fires and burns. Our Communications and Fire Marshal teams partnered to promote safe practices when cooking.

[Check Our Fire Prevention Week Campaign!](#)

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