



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

TO: State Agency Commissioners and State Agency Heads

FROM: Dora B. Schriro, Commissioner 
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Melody A. Currey, Commissioner 
Department of Administrative Services

DATE: October 21, 2016

RE: **2016 Statewide Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI), Exercise Update**

We have made a special effort to maximize this year's training opportunity and also reduce your time spent at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) during the upcoming annual Statewide Governor's Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) exercise. This year, DAS will conduct a COOP Exercise in conjunction with the all-agency EPPI exercise. This update is intended to provide you with an overview of the attendant changes including details regarding the COOP Exercise.

Saturday, October 29, 2016: Agencies will not be required to participate in a Unified Command Meeting/Conference Call or to assign any staff to the SEOC on Saturday, October 29. Instead, the Unified Command Meeting/Conference Call and actions will be simulated for the municipalities that opted to participate in the exercise on the weekend. You are very welcome to dial-in and listen to the Municipal Conference Call which will take place at 11:00 a.m. The dial-in number will be provided under separate cover.

Wednesday, November 2, 2016: All agencies are expected to participate in both the Unified Command Meeting/Conference Call and the Municipal Conference Call on Wednesday, November 2. There is no requirement however, to staff the agencies' respective duty desks in the SEOC. Instead, there will be an EPPI Exercise related training opportunity on Friday, November 4; see below.

The Governor's Unified Command Meeting/Conference call on Wednesday, November 2, is tentatively scheduled to take place at 9:30 a.m. The Municipal Conference Call will follow at 11:15 a.m. Kindly note, the times for both calls are subject to change.

Friday, November 4, 2016. DESPP will host an EPPI Exercise related training session for designated state agency liaisons, utilities liaisons, and designated Task Force members on Friday November 4, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This training will focus on (a) the State Response Framework (SRF), (b) agency/Task Force procedures to respond to requests for assistance, and (c) an update on WebEOC.

COOP Exercise: As part of this year's EPPI exercise, every state agency is expected to participate in the annual Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) exercise conducted by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on Wednesday, November 2. Participation encompasses (a) convening your Incident Management Team or agency Unified Command, (b) logging into WebEOC, and (c) reporting absences. There was a test of the COOP Emergency Command Center (ECC) on Tuesday August 19, 2016, in preparation for the formal test on November 2, 2016. We encourage you to review and revise, as needed, your existing agency COOP. If you have any questions regarding COOP, kindly contact Peggy Zabawar, DAS' point of contact, via e-mail at peggy.zabawar@ct.gov.

This advisory along with supporting products and exercise update messages are posted on the DESPP website at <http://www.ct.gov/demhs>. If you have any questions or if you require any additional information regarding the Governor's EPPI, contact D/C William Shea, via e-mail at william.shea@ct.gov or Director Bill Hackett, via e-mail at william.j.hackett@ct.gov.