



HENRY E. KYDD JR., EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

VERNON SKAU, DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

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“New London Emergency Management is a unified, action oriented agency, charged with protecting our city by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.”

WHAT'S NEW



This year and beyond....

Over the last two years, the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) was thoroughly revised to meet today’s ever-changing and complex needs. This work began with Emergency Management Director Henry Kydd and Emergency Planner, Carla Iezzi from DESPP/DEMHS Region 4. DEMD Skau and Rheaume assisted in this work upon their appointments in early 2017. The new LEOP documents allow participants within the New London Emergency Operations Center the opportunity to more easily visualize how various Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) can work together during times when collaboration and coordination are needed the most. Easy-to-read checklists and position aids have been created to allow agency representatives to quickly grasp their level and area of responsibility during a variety of emergency and non-emergency situations that occur in New London.

While it’s always advisable to have hard copy versions of plans on hand, Emergency Management has obtained a grant that will allow EOC members to have the same checklists and position aids on hand electronically via Lenovo Think Pads. This grant and subsequent equipment purchase will strengthen and enhance our capabilities as a team. Each computer will be tailored to meet the need of the individual ESF and/or area of responsibility within the EOC.

In addition to the Lenovo Think Pads, grant funding has also been secured to purchase a mobile message board, much like the units already being used by the city, as well as a respirator fit test machine and portable radio batteries. These acquisitions assist us with both day-to-day operations, as well as when a disaster strikes New London.



Lenovo Think Pad

The past and our future

New London’s past continues to influence its future. The city’s historic port saw a host of visitors this year, including the USS Cole. Regional assets from ESF-20, the marine group, supported this high-profile port of call. All city agencies played some role in this successful visit. When things run smoothly, people tend to forget about the fact that a great deal of planning and coordination takes place long before a ship sails into our harbor. Thank you to everyone who played



a vital role in this historic and memorable event.

Sheltering of our residents during times of disaster is also a critical role of Emergency Management and our partner the American Red Cross. Members of the Emergency Management team took part in an eye-opening sheltering exercise at the Martin Center in September. Additionally, with the aid of the city’s IT department, we have mapped all of our known functional needs residents. Information provided on the Millstone Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) cards distributed by DEMHS and completed by residents, has been entered for easier situational awareness in the EOC. To date, over 750 residents have submitted EPZ cards and have identified some type of need during a potential evacuation.



Our city saw a fairly quiet thunderstorm season this summer.



Unfortunately, we saw a quickly formed storm cell that claimed the life of one city resident. This cell did not cause the National Weather Service to issue a Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Warning, but it did a significant amount of infrastructure damage to New London and to some sections in the City of Groton. We are hopeful

for a quiet winter and are thankful for the tireless efforts of the city’s various departments and agencies in 2017.

Below: Members attend a regional equipment expo hosted by Groton DPW. Members of New London’s own DPW highlight our regional assets. Sept. 2017



New London hosts regional equipment and the city has signed MOA’s with Region 4, that allows us access to a variety of equipment. This equipment can be deployed for spontaneous incidents or planned events, such as Sailfest.

New London Emergency Management History

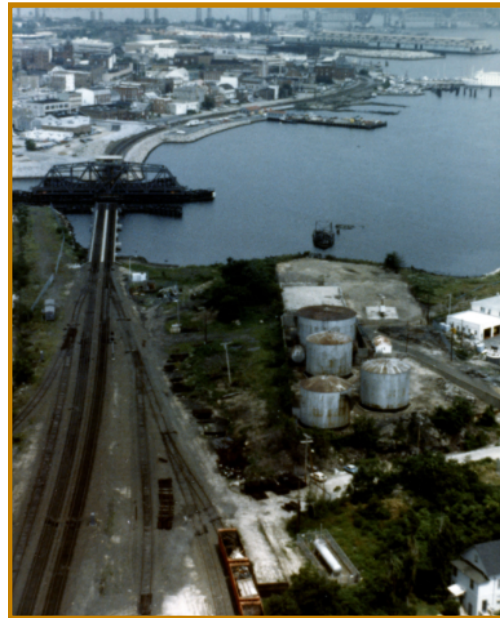
Each year, we will provide relevant information about how history has shaped New London and New London’s Emergency Management efforts. Our city of course, has a history with the sea and with hurricanes. The following excerpt was taken from the Army Corps of Engineers New England District website.

New London Hurricane Protection Barrier

“The New London Hurricane Protection Barrier is located along the New London waterfront at Shaw Cove on the Thames River. It is about 45 miles southeast of Hartford.

New London suffered damaging floods from hurricanes in 1938, 1944, 1954, and 1960. Damages from 1954’s Hurricane Carol amounted to \$3.8 million, of which \$2.4 million could have been prevented if a hurricane protection barrier had existed. The barrier today protects about 173 acres of industrial and commercial areas in the vicinity of Shaw Cove from hurricane and severe coastal storm flooding, and safeguards against interior flooding caused by overflows from Truman Brook.

Construction started in August 1978 and was completed in May 1986, costing \$12 million. The relocation of electric, water, sewer, telephone, and drainage lines was required. The barrier is operated and maintained by the city.



The project consists of an earthfill dike with stone slope protection approximately 715 feet long with a maximum elevation of 14.5 feet; a concrete floodwall about 800 feet long with a maximum elevation of 14.5 feet; two revetments that have a total length of 925 feet; a gated 1,800-foot-long concrete conduit eight feet in diameter that intercepts flows from Truman Brook and discharges into Shaw Cove; and a pumping station that discharges flows through the dike during unusually high tides. The project also included the construction of a raised railroad embankment, the dredging of Shaw Cove, and the demolition of waterfront structures.”



Photo: The Day
Bank Street at Sparyard Street,
September 1938

Today, we tend to forget that this important improvement exists, because of the fact that it remains as a mostly hidden structure, allowing for train and pedestrian traffic to transverse the waterfront area with little to no interruption. Many recent storms however, have challenged this protective measure, seemingly without notice. Storms Sandy, Irene, Ivan, and others have all been held back by this critical barrier.

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”
- Benjamin Franklin