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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



## So far this year.....

The winter and spring were expected to be a busy time for New London Emergency Management and its partners because of scheduled drills and exercises, but old man winter also had plans for New London. The EOC partially activated a few times in January and February due to coastal snow storms that impacted our city. WebEOC was utilized by EMD Kydd and DEMD Skau to report conditions in the city to the state and to the region. Once again, Dave Denoia and his staff at NLPW did a great job in keeping city streets open and passable to emergency and non-emergency traffic.

The new Local Emergency Operations Plan was completed and made official when mayor Michael Passero signed his name to it in early January. This plan is the culmination of over a year's worth of work conducted by the emergency management staff, with the assistance of CT DESPP/DEMHS Region 4. The LEOP is the framework for just about everything we do in the EOC during a disaster or major emergency.

The FEMA evaluated radiological emergency plan exercise at Millstone Nuclear Power Station was held on March 20th. The New London EOC activated in real time and received very positive reviews and feedback from evaluators. FEMA Region 1 representatives and a member from the nuclear power industry conducted an extensive evaluation of our local emergency plan, with a focus on the special needs population, dosimetry, public alerting and transportation. DEMD Skau's newly updated dosimetry briefing was a tremendous success and was a hit with evaluators. Additionally, 640 people in New London's special needs population have been added to the city's Everbridge system.



*Photo courtesy of Morgan Kaolin*

# Sailfest 2018

One of New London’s premier events is set to take place again this summer from July 13th - 15th. As always, Sailfest will host their highly regarded fireworks extravaganza on the Thames River, Saturday July 14th beginning at 9pm.

This event gives tens of thousands of people the opportunity to see what New London has to offer, especially along our waterfront and in our downtown areas. Each year, the New London Emergency Management staff works closely with local, state, federal, private and volunteer organizations to ensure that our citizens and guests have a safe and enjoyable time in the City of New London.



# Trainings and Exercises

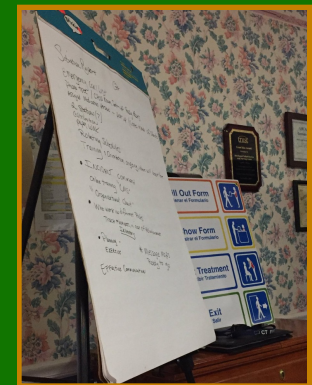
DEMD’s Skau and Rheame attended NIMS 300 & 400 training along with Dave Denoia at UConn Health Center this winter. These free courses were made available and presented by CT DESPP/DEMHS staff. The courses allow attendees to work with representatives from other disciplines and provide the opportunity to collaborate with others outside of our geographic area. The class included members of UConn’s logistics department, Connecticut State Police, Bridgeport and Danbury Health Departments, as well as local police and fire officials from around the state.

Members are also actively engaged with Ledge Light Health District in assisting with their efforts to expand their Closed Point of Dispensation program. This program encourages large employers, college campuses and other participants to consider dispensing medications on-site, in the event of a large scale biological threat or pandemic.

“A Point of Dispensing (POD) site is a mass medication dispensing location that is capable of providing emergency medication or Strategic National Stockpile supplies to protect the general population from biological threats or epidemics in a timely and efficient manner.” There are a number of “Closed POD’s” in New London, which will be able to supply countermeasures to their staff, patients and possibly even family members of employees.

New London Emergency Management is also working with Mitchell College Campus Safety to develop a robust tabletop exercise (TTX) for mid-summer. This TTX will give college staff and administrators the opportunity to work side-by-side with local and state partners, addressing the many complexities of keeping a college campus safe. Internal and external communications are just a few of the areas that will be covered during the tabletop.

**Top: Members of the New London EOC staff attend NIMS/ICS 300 & 400 training at UConn Health Center.**



**Middle: Very active ESF-8 Public Health meeting at Uncas on the Thames.**

**Bottom: Tabletop Closed POD exercise at Beechwood Manor in New London.**

# New London Emergency Management History

Each issue, we will provide relevant information about how history has shaped New London and New London’s Emergency Management efforts. The following excerpt was taken from an article titled, *The New London Harbor Light, One Year After Sandy*; written by FEMA staff in November 2013.

“When Hurricane Sandy slammed into the Connecticut coast last October, the New London Harbor Lighthouse, built in 1801, found itself in a vulnerable spot. Standing at attention where the Thames River meets the eastern edge of the Long Island Sound, there was nothing to protect the lighthouse from Hurricane Sandy’s severe lashing. Members of the New London Maritime Society, the lighthouse’s current stewards, anxiously awaited the passing of the storm to survey the damage.



When the skies cleared and the waves receded the lighthouse itself emerged stoic as ever, but the wreckage at its feet was significant. A masonry walkway that bridged the gap from the Keeper’s house to the lighthouse, and a brick seawall bordering the property were clobbered by waves, which resulted in disastrous structural damage. Without the funds to repair the estimated \$42,255 in damage, the New London Maritime Society applied for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

One year later, with the application approved and \$31,691.25 in FEMA funds, Susan Tamulevich, Executive Director at the New London Maritime Society’s Custom House is happy to report that the rebuilding of the walkway is all but finished. She explained that the city of New London gave them granite curbing for the rebuilding of the walkway, which is now very strong, level, and smooth. “It’s so level that someone in a wheelchair can now enter the lighthouse, which wasn’t possible before,” said Susan. She noted that previously there was one steep step and an uneven surface leading to the lighthouse door.

The New London Harbor Light before and after repairs were completed on its walkway, damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The New London Maritime Society has a \$10,533.75 bill left over after the federal share of 75 percent is taken care of, but Susan plans to sell the bricks from the damaged sea wall to raise the money. Work on the sea wall is slated to begin in two weeks.

The lighthouse has weathered many hurricanes in its 212 years, including the hurricane of 1938, which was one of the top ten deadliest hurricanes to make landfall in the U.S. Today the lighthouse still serves as an aid to navigation, as well as a long-loved attraction for school groups, tourists, and local appreciators. Susan was happy to note that the New London Harbor Lighthouse is featured in the U.S. Postal Service’s New England Coastal Lighthouses stamp collection this year, prompting many new visitors this past summer.”



**EOC STAFF NOTICE:** The 2018 Statewide Governor’s Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) Exercise is scheduled for Wednesday June 20, 2018 at approximately 8 a.m. Look for communications regarding this exercise from EMD Kydd in the near future.

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