

## For regional distribution in DEMHS Regions 1, 2 and 5 :

DEMHS would like to update you on recent efforts to receive federal disaster aid. These efforts have focused on three disaster incidents: (1) the January 11-12, 2011 record snowstorm; (2) the March 7, 2011 flooding along certain CT rivers, and: (3) the February 18, 2011 fire which destroyed a Southbury shopping center.

(1) With regard to the January 11-12<sup>th</sup> storm, as you know, the President declared a major disaster (DR 1958) for all CT counties except Windham and Middlesex. At the direction of the Governor, DEMHS has filed an appeal of the denial of those two counties, which is pending. To date, FEMA has obligated \$1 million in Public Assistance for eligible municipalities, state agencies, tribal nations, and private non profits, and that number will continue to grow.

(2) With regard to the March 7, 2011 flooding, reported damages did not meet FEMA disaster declaration thresholds. DEMHS did contact the Small Business Administration (SBA) and requested a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for the towns which had reported the most extensive damages, indicating that the SBA threshold might be met. (Under SBA rules, if one county is declared eligible, contiguous counties are eligible as well.) Based on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> PDA, however, the SBA determined that the damages did not meet the threshold required to allow the State to request a SBA disaster declaration. **Therefore, unfortunately, there is no federal assistance available for the March 7<sup>th</sup> flooding.**

(3) With regard to the February 18, 2011 fire in Southbury, DEMHS and the Town of Southbury worked with impacted businesses to determine if the disaster would meet the criteria for SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). On April 20, 2011 the Governor requested an SBA Disaster Declaration for the EIDL program. On May 4, 2011, the SBA issued an EIDL declaration for New Haven County. The EIDL Program may provide working capital loans for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and certain private nonprofit organizations impacted by the February 18 fire.

We have attached the SBA denial letter for the March 7<sup>th</sup> flooding and the SBA press release for the February 18<sup>th</sup> fire. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your DEMHS Regional Coordinator.

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