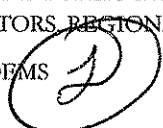

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

TO: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS EMS, MEDICAL DIRECTORS, EMS COORDINATORS, REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRS
FROM: LEONARD H. GUERCIA, JR. M.A., EMT-P, DIRECTOR, OFEMS 
SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION TO SHELTERS
DATE: 11/1/2011

Power outages and low ambient temperatures continue to affect large areas of Connecticut resulting in a statewide emergency condition. This situation has resulted in voluminous requests for emergency services to respond to the needs of individuals without electricity, specifically to transport individuals to areas of refuge and locations where there is electricity to power medical equipment.

Any Connecticut Licensed or Certified EMS organization that receives a request to transport an individual(s) due to their loss of utilities may consider transportation of the individual(s) to a local emergency shelter utilizing whatever transportation resource that is most appropriate and safe, inclusive of ambulance or invalid coach. If, after the EMS responding provider's assessment, no acute medical concerns are identified, providers should consider shelter capabilities and the presence or absence of caregivers or resources in determining an appropriate destination. Whenever possible, any medical equipment, medications, bedding and personal care articles required by the individual(s) should be sent to the shelter with them.

EMS providers must contact online medical direction from their Sponsor Hospital for medical oversight, supervision, and direction and/or instructions on the appropriate destination of an individual. Coordination with local dispatch/CMED will be critical to ensure available shelter space and resources.

It is imperative that individuals receive timely and appropriate medical care and/or service. We appreciate the unprecedented collaboration with all of our State public and private service agencies. Please feel free to contact the CT Office of Emergency Medical Services with any questions or for clarification.