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Connecticut Science Center to Host Expert Panel Discussion on Disaster Preparedness Following Recent Tornadoes

***Disaster Preparedness Experts Come Together at the
Connecticut Science Center***

Hartford, CT (August 17, 2011) – The Connecticut Science Center will be asking the question, "Are We Ready for Nature Unleashed," during an expert panel discussion hosted by the center on Monday, August 22, 2011. The event was created in light of the Springfield, Massachusetts tornadoes, which piggybacked on the opening of the Science Center's "Nature Unleashed" exhibit on June 1st. The exhibit shows the brutal consequences of Mother Nature, but once these consequences became a tragic reality in the area, the Connecticut Science Center, in partnership with Northeast Utilities Foundation and CL&P, felt it was the perfect time to bring the community together to discuss preparedness and share such critical information.

"We are honored to host this panel discussion with the best experts in their field sharing such crucial information. We appreciate the opportunity to bring people together not only for an educational discussion but one that allows us to highlight how prepared Connecticut is in the event of a future natural disaster," said Matt Fleury, President & CEO of the Connecticut Science Center. "Thanks to the Northeast Utilities Foundation and CL&P, we can make these important conversations come alive in an interesting and informative manner."

The Nature Unleashed event has been created with experts from across the field to ensure a comprehensive discussion on disaster preparedness, geared toward an audience of emergency response planners and professionals. Panel discussion members include Joseph I. Lieberman, United States Senator of Connecticut and Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee; Ken Bowes, Connecticut Light & Power Vice President Energy Delivery Services; Mario Bruno, Regional Chief Operating Officer for the Connecticut and Rhode Island Region of the American Red Cross; Peter Boynton, Connecticut Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection; William "Russ" Webster, FEMA Division I National Preparedness, Division Director and Federal Preparedness Coordinator; and G. Michael Dobbs, Managing Editor of TheReminder.com and Springfield Tornado Survivor.

The discussion will begin at 9:15 a.m. and will be hosted by Jeff Butler, CL&P President and Chief Operating Officer, who was also present at the June 1st opening of the "Nature Unleashed" exhibit, hours before the tornadoes struck Springfield. Butler will be assisted by the event moderator, Jeffrey Cohen, correspondent for WNPR Radio.

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About the Connecticut Science Center The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Visitors experience over 150 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store and café, and ongoing events and lectures for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.