



Media Contact:
Robyn Gengras
Duby McDowell Communications
Gengras@DubyMcDowell.com
860.729.2200

Connecticut Science Center | 250 Columbus Blvd | Hartford, CT 06103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Connecticut Science Center Exhibit Nature Unleashed: Inside Natural Disasters

Hartford, CT (May 26, 2011) – The Earth sustains us, protects us and makes all life possible, but it also humbles us with its dramatic power. Beginning May 28th, visitors at the Connecticut Science Center will explore natural disasters through stunning displays, state-of-the-art animations, poignant, large-scale images and cultural artifacts that reveal the dynamic relationship we have with the Earth. **Nature Unleashed: Inside Natural Disasters, is an innovative, interactive exhibit that uncovers the causes of natural disasters and shares stories of how people cope and adapt in the aftermath.** The exhibit is sponsored locally by the Northeast Utilities Foundation and Connecticut Light & Power and nationally by Allstate. It is the latest in a series of traveling exhibits to the Science Center's Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Gallery.

On the heels of the recent earthquakes in Japan and horrific tornados in the United States, *Nature Unleashed* examines the science behind the history and the headlines. Science Center visitors will experience an up close view of four types of disasters – earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes and tornadoes. These spectacular forces drive our ever-changing planet and will leave visitors with a memorable and powerful experience. The exhibition illustrates how much we know, and how much we are still learning about nature's power as well as how we can prepare for, and in some cases, minimize the impact of nature's fury.

Science Center visitors will be inspired by the real-life stories of the resiliency of disaster survivors and discover how people adapt to living at risk. "We couldn't have known when we planned this how timely *Nature Unleashed* would be," said Science Center President and chief executive officer Matt Fleury. "When so many recent events around the world seem beyond comprehension, an exhibit like this helps to explain the Earth at work. We may ultimately be powerless in the face of nature, but having knowledge and the ability to prepare gives us a measure of control."

At the frontline of the state's emergency preparedness and response is the exhibit's Local Presenting Sponsor, the Northeast Utilities Foundation and Connecticut Light & Power.

"We are excited to collaborate with the Science Center in bringing the *Nature Unleashed* exhibit to this region," said Charles W. Shivery, chairman of the board of the Northeast Utilities Foundation and chairman, president and chief executive officer of Northeast Utilities, the parent company of Connecticut Light & Power. "This unique, educational exhibit provides the perfect platform to demonstrate how powerful a force nature can be and the importance of emergency preparedness."

Developed by Chicago's Field Museum, *Nature Unleashed* presents its content in an interactive and experiential manner. This is a rare opportunity to witness what it's like to stand inside a roaring tornado, trigger an underwater earthquake and tsunami and create a virtual volcano as well as examine real rock and lava specimens that tell of past geologic events that have shaped our planet.

For more information about *Nature Unleashed: Inside Natural Disasters*, visit www.CTScienceCenter.org/nature.

Details:

Opening Date: Saturday, May 28th at 10 AM

Cost: FREE with the purchase of general admission

Location: Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Traveling Exhibit Hall (Floor 4 South)

Ending Date: September 4th

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.

###