



Promoting
healthy
communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A message from Stephen Mansfield, Director of Health, Ledge Light Health District:

This afternoon, a tractor trailer was traveling northbound on I-95 in North Stonington and crashed into the bridge over Rte 49. The truck and trailer caught fire and was extinguished. It has been determined that the tractor trailer was carrying various herbicides and pesticides. Though much of the materials were consumed by fire, DEEP is currently assessing the possible effects on surface and groundwater, including assessing water quality in the Pawcatuck River and its tributaries. Residents are advised to avoid the Pawcatuck River and its tributaries from the junction of I-95 and Route 49, south to the mouth of the Pawcatuck River.

DEEP, the state agency leading this response, is working with the cargo carrier, CT DPH Drinking Water Section, Ledge Light Health District, Westerly Water Dept. and local officials regarding this incident, and will be providing more details as they become available.

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Ledge Light Health District – LLHD – serves as the local health department for East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, Lyme, New London, North Stonington, Old Lyme, Stonington and Waterford, Connecticut. As a health district, formed under [Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-241](#), LLHD is a special unit of government, allowing member municipalities to provide comprehensive public health services to residents in a more efficient manner by consolidating the services within one organization.

The Director of Health and staff of LLHD work to promote health and wellness among more than 151,000 residents we serve. By enforcing the Connecticut Public Health Code, conducting health education programs, monitoring disease outbreaks and nurturing our environment, LLHD is focused on *promoting healthy communities*.

LLHD's mission statement – **to prevent disease, illness and injury; to protect and nurture our environment; and to promote improved health and prosperity for all residents** – describes in more detail our slogan of “promoting healthy communities.”