

The 1986 **EPA Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act** or “**EPCRA**” helps towns plan for chemical emergencies. The law requires towns and businesses to report data on hazardous substances storage & use to federal, state, and local authorities, and for governments to use the info to protect communities from risk.

Each February, PWD compiles information on its chemicals and potential risks for the March 1st deadline. Hazardous substances are defined by the Occupational Safety & Health Act by info in Safety Data Sheets or SDSs. Collectively this the Town’s “Tier II Inventory” and is sent to State & Local Emergency Response / Planning Commissions (SERC & LEPC), and our Fire Departments.

Groton’s supplies include diesel & fuel oil for heating, generators, and equipment, treated salt for roads, and chemicals for sewage treatment at the Water Pollution Control Facility (Caustic Sodium Hydroxide or lye to dissolve grease and Calcium Nitrate or Double Salt, for odor prevention.



Armstrong Maple



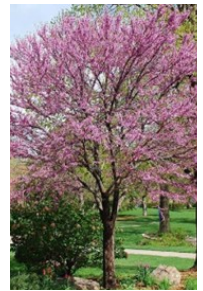
Japanese Snowbell

Looking Forward...

These are the four trees chosen for **2023 SPRING planting** at Thrive55+



Bosque Elm



Eastern Redbud

## Coming Regulatory Changes

The CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Council on Soil & Water Conservation published their draft updates to two documents key to municipal and Public Works operations:

- ▶ **The CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion & Sediment Control**
- ▶ **The CT Stormwater Quality Manual**

Nearly a dozen Public Works and Office of Planning & Development Services (OPDS) employees joined up to watch a Feb. 23rd State overview webinar + Q&A. With the last updates in 2002 & 2004 respectively, the edits are long awaited, and may be consequential. Release of the finished documents are expected late Spring or early Summer.



**View draft documents here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Stormwater-Quality-Manual-and-Soil-Erosion-and-Sediment-Control-Guidelines>**

The Town is also awaiting updates to the **DEEP Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems permit**, also known as the “MS4.” This has a 5-year span which expired last June and is also being revised before re-issue. This is opportune, however, as it give towns extra time to meet its variety of unfunded mandates. Though the MS4 is seen by some as a burden, it is a laudatory effort to restore ecological health as it aims to curb “non-point-source” pollution, or the addition of disparate small amounts of pollutants to rain/snow, or ‘stormwater.’