



**Disaster Preparedness
Commission**

2015 Annual Report

Prepared by the
New York State Division of
Homeland Security & Emergency Services
Office of Emergency Management

March 31, 2016



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

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Chairman

**Members of the NYS
Disaster Preparedness
Commission**

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INTRODUCTION

The New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC) is comprised of the commissioners, directors, and chairpersons of 28 State agencies and one volunteer organization, the American Red Cross. The DPC's responsibilities include preparing State disaster plans; directing State disaster operations and coordinating the operations with those of local government; and coordinating federal, State and private recovery efforts.

New York State Executive Law, Article 2-B, enacted in 1978, shifted emphasis from civil defense to all-hazards preparedness activities and missions, created the DPC, and assigned responsibility for off-site radiological emergency preparedness for commercial nuclear power plants

OVERVIEW

Although 2015 was the first year New York State did not have a disaster requiring a gubernatorial request for a Presidential Declaration for FEMA reimbursement since Governor Cuomo has taken office, the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission was working hard to enact Governor Cuomo's preparedness, response and recovery priorities outlined in the 2015 – 2016 Opportunity Agenda. DPC Agencies did respond to several storms and other significant events, however. Winter Storm Juno threatened NYC with two feet of snow and blizzard conditions. Precautions were taken to assure the safety of the community, including the closure of the NYC subway system and roads throughout the NYC, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley area. Fortunately the storm was not as severe as forecasted. These precautions allowed workers to quickly and safely restore services.

In January, resources coordinated through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) responded to lake effect storms and workers from the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Thruway kept roadways clear. Only minimal temporary closures of the roadway were issued due to zero visibility from extreme snow rates of five inches per hour.

In October, Hurricane Joaquin's course put New York in its path. The State Emergency Operation Center was activated and preparation for landfall began. As preparations were underway the storm took an easterly turn out to sea.

Other significant events in 2015 included:

- Dannemora Escapee Search
- Roosa Gap Fire
- Johnson City Parking Garage Collapse
- Legionella Bacteria Monitoring/Sampling
- Papal Visit

NEW YORK PREPARES

As Governor Cuomo has often stated, we are living in a time where recurring severe weather events (such as Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, and Superstorm Sandy in 2012) have essentially created a “new normal” – a reality where New Yorkers and their communities face major natural disasters on a regular basis. Such events necessitate the need for coordinated planning efforts to mitigate the effects of future weather-related and man-made emergencies. To address this reality and take measures to prevent the loss of lives, properties, businesses, and other devastating effects of emergencies, the DPC member agencies met twice during 2015 to discuss various aspects of the State’s preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

Member agency representatives were briefed on a broad range of preparedness issues, including flood and winter storm preparedness, New York Responds, an incident management system for disaster response and recovery to better serve the citizens of New York State, and the potential for Highly Pathogenic H5 Avian Influenza to arrive in New York State. In addition, DPC meetings included updates on the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training initiative, crude oil transportation safety efforts, and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Office of Emergency Management (OEM)’s planning and preparedness activities.

At the core of Governor Cuomo’s comprehensive strategy for effectively and efficiently preparing for and responding to disasters is the essential need for better training, planning, and coordination. The DPC plays an important role in this process by ensuring that all member State agencies stay updated on all relevant disaster preparedness and response activities, while strengthening intra-agency coordination and cooperation during an emergency. The DPC will continue to fulfill Governor Cuomo’s mandate that coordinated emergency preparedness and response efforts are designed to enhance the protection and safety of all New Yorkers.

Governor Cuomo’s Opportunity Agenda continued on the path of constant progress toward making New York more prepared for and resilient to future emergencies. Below are highlights for 2015:

NY Responds

In 2015, Governor Cuomo announced the creation of “NY Responds” – a comprehensive new approach for coordinating and strengthening the State’s emergency preparedness. As part of NY Responds, for the first time ever, every county in New York State will have access to universal emergency management software. This software – provided at no cost to localities – will enable both local governments and state agencies to submit and share vital disaster-related information, ranging from incident reports and resource requests to real-time tracking of assets and weather conditions.

By the close of 2015, every county in New York State was trained in the NY Responds Universal Statewide Emergency Management Software by DHSES staff.

NY Responds also includes Mutualink, a new technology solution that integrates telephone, radio, video and file sharing into one, interoperable application. DHSES continues to train and provide state agencies and counties access to Mutualink and the rollout and integration of Mutualink into the NY Responds common operating picture will begin during Phase II in 2016. Phase II will also encompass additional upgrades to the incident management system adding improved geographic information systems, weather forecasting and modeling, additional Mutualink features, asset and inventory management, and notifications and alerting.

Additionally, Governor Cuomo announced the state is supplementing its stockpile of emergency response resources with an additional \$50 million worth of equipment in advance of the winter storm season. This will include 130 plow trucks, 62 tow blowers, 16 snow plows, 16 loaders, 11 graders, 10 medium dump trucks with plows, eight truck blowers, and two high axel vehicles.

Crude Oil Planning and Preparedness

A Crude Oil Working Group, consisting of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), including both the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the New York State Police (NYSP), in conjunction with Federal partner agencies the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Coast Guard (USCG), is working with local and County agencies to develop Geographic Response Plans (GRP) focusing on the twenty-one counties directly impacted by the corridors used to transport crude oil across New York State. Once the rail corridors are addressed the intention is this effort will be expanded statewide. In 2015, the Crude Oil Working Group scheduled and held Geographic Response Planning Meetings in 14 of the 21 Counties where crude oil is transported by rail in New York. Geographic response plans allow emergency responders to identify sensitive human populations, critical infrastructure, and sensitive environmental areas, and to formulate strategies for their protection. These meetings with County Emergency Managers, local fire departments, hazardous materials teams, local public works officials and planning staffs, allowed the agencies to collect information for the preparation of area specific Geographic Response Plans. DEC and its contractors have prepared drafts of these plans for review by the County and local responders, and in several counties, those plans are now in final form for their use.

In October of 2015, Governor Cuomo announced that New York State will deploy 19 trailers equipped with a firefighting foam substance to local fire departments and county hazardous materials teams throughout the state for use when combating fires and spills involving crude oil or other ignitable liquids. Seventeen of nineteen foam trailers have been delivered to agencies participating in the Task Force (sixteen with local or county agencies and one operated by

OFPC). Each trailer includes 660 gallons of Class B foam concentrate appropriate for spills or fires involving crude oil and other ignitable liquids, along with the equipment necessary to produce and apply finished foam, requiring only an adequate water supply be provided. The foam trailers were strategically pre-positioned along the primary rail transportation corridors in New York State with the goal of placing the first Task Force trailer on scene at an incident within two hours or less of activation by OFPC. OFPC staff provides initial training in foam trailer operations to each agency at the time of delivery. This initial training will transition to an ongoing program of annual refresher training, drills and exercises to support and sustain the Task Force's operational capabilities. Delivery of the remaining two trailers will be completed by May 1, 2016.

New York State Mesonet

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and the State University on New York at Albany (UAlbany) have been steadily making progress on the NYS Mesonet project. This state-of-the-art weather detection system is one of only six such systems in the nation. Nineteen stations have been deployed, from Albany to western New York's Batavia, and Whiteface Mountain in the north to Otisville in the Southern Tier. The plan is for all 125 weather stations throughout NY State to be operational by the end of 2016.

Canal Flood Warning System

In 2013, FEMA approved the Canal Corporation's Section 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under DR-4020/4031 (Hurricane Irene / Tropical Storm Lee) to develop a Flood Warning System (FWS) for the Upper Hudson River, Mohawk River, and Oswego River Basins. This FWS will lower the risk to flood prone communities by enabling the State, emergency managers, and the public to view and understand the extent of forecasted flood conditions. Additionally, the ability of communities to prepare and protect lives, private property, and critical public infrastructure can result in a more-than 15% reduction in damages. The FWS will consist of a series of networked stream and precipitation gages, enhancing flood forecast capabilities by the National Weather Service (NWS), and the creation of basin-specific models to utilize this information to determine the timing and magnitude of flooding throughout the basins with flood inundation mapping to illustrate where flooding is forecast to occur. The FWS would be implemented by Canals in partnerships with appropriate local, State and federal agencies. The system will include a mechanism for disseminating information through various media on a real-time basis, providing advanced flood warning for 27 of New York State's most flood-prone counties with a population in excess of 2.6 million people in these basins. Work on the project began in early 2014 and is expected to be substantially complete by the start of the 2016 navigation season.

New York State's College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity

A new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity at the State University on New York at Albany (UAlbany) began in 2015 and is poised to create a state-of-the-

art college to help address and respond to potential threats from terrorism, disease, and weather through data analysis, and best practices for crisis management. DHSES leadership is working closely with UAlbany leadership to synchronize and coordinate efforts for students.

By the end of 2015, 159 students had enrolled in the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity's (CHEC) minor program, far exceeding initial planning target of under 50. The four-year major program has been developed and is moving quickly through the approvals process. The goal is to offer the major by Fall, 201

FuelNY

New York is the first state in the nation with a comprehensive plan to ensure that power is maintained at strategically located gas stations in an emergency. This multi-agency effort has made significant progress in 2015. The Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) Division of Weights and Measures and the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) remains actively involved in the Governor's Fuel NY initiative, which requires strategically located gas stations in the downstate region to be generator-ready in the event of an energy emergency such as the one caused by Hurricane Sandy. The program assists retail gasoline stations in complying with statutory provisions that require these stations to be prepared to deploy and install an emergency generator in the event of a declared energy or fuel supply emergency. This program is designed to support station owner implementation costs associated with the installation of a transfer switch and associated electrical modifications needed to accept a portable emergency generator or the installation of a permanent emergency generator. DAM, in collaboration with NYSERDA, has continued outreach to over 700 gas stations in the downstate region, providing assistance in the compliance process. As of January 1, 2016, 540 gas stations in the downstate region were in full compliance and are prepared should the Fuel NY program become activated. NYSERDA also worked to develop a Portable Emergency Generator program to facilitate gas station compliance with the law.

Strategic Fuel Reserves

To prevent future supply disruptions, the current strategic fuel reserve will be expanded statewide to serve emergency responders. NYSERDA completed the development of two regional fuel reserves. The Downstate Strategic Fuel Reserve contains nearly three million gallons of gasoline and ethanol. The Upstate Strategic Fuel Reserve contains 1.4 million gallons of diesel fuel and 1.4 million gallons of gasoline and ethanol located at six separate distribution terminals across Upstate New York. This program is designed to fill a future supply gap in the routine resupply of fuel caused by an event leading to a declared emergency, as seen during Superstorm Sandy. As determined by the fuel emergency situation, gasoline and diesel fuel from the reserves may be released to meet fuel needs while the industry recovers from a disruption in routine fuel supply operations.

Mohawk Dams

In 2013, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the NYS Canal Corporation's Section 406 Hazard Mitigation Proposal (HMP) under DR-4020/4031 (Hurricane Irene / Tropical Storm Lee) for improvements to components of eight movable dams in Montgomery and Schenectady counties. These improvements will allow Canals to proactively remove dam components, which act as an obstruction in the Mohawk River, in advance of a forecasted high flow event and provide substantial flood mitigation. Work on mitigation improvements is continuing with a scheduled completion of 2017. The project is approximately 90% complete, with all work on schedule and within budget.

As part of the Mohawk Dam improvement effort, Canals instituted new operating procedures to adequately prepare for extreme high flow events in Montgomery and Schenectady counties. Although the structural improvements are not yet complete, these new procedures were tested over an elongated timeframe during Superstorm Sandy and fully tested during the June/July storms, and proved to be effective. Minor revisions to these procedures, due to lessons learned in 2012 and 2013, were formalized in 2015. Canals continued development of internal guidance documents for staff who are 24-hour on-call duty officers – these documents cover topics such as earthquakes, flooding, structural failures, environmental releases, vessel accidents, vessel recovery, law enforcement investigation activity, utility interruptions, and mechanical breakdowns, among others. These documents were finalized in 2015.

Citizen Preparedness Corps Training

Since February 2014, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, in collaboration with the National Guard and the American Red Cross, has offered emergency preparedness courses throughout the year to interested citizens, with a goal of training 100,000 citizens how to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters and emergencies. At the close of 2015, through the combined efforts of DHSES, DMNA and ARC, over 80,000 individuals were trained and the program is well on its way to reaching its goal of 100,000 trained in early 2016.

Emergency Management Certification and Training

The Emergency Management Certification and Training (EMC & T) program was developed by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to support Governor Cuomo's strategy of creating unified emergency management training, education, communication, and response protocols. The training is intended for public officials and other partners with a role in emergency management or disaster response. Additionally, the Division developed online refresher training for County Executives and Emergency Managers that have previously attended the certification program. In 2015, DHSES conducted the training as part of the New York State Emergency Management Association Conference (February) and the New York

Association of Counties Conference (also in February). DHSES also conducted an EMCT Academy in August. DHSES continued to deliver the training regionally in concert with County Emergency Managers and the online training as well. In total, approximately 600 individuals took advantage of the training in 2015.

County Emergency Preparedness Assessment

The County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) program involves outreach and coordination with local emergency management stakeholders. As part of CEPA, DHSES conducts workshop in each county to understand a county's risk, capabilities, and the potential need for support during disasters. This information helps DHSES better understand preparedness across the State and allows the agency to make more informed decisions regarding the State's preparedness and response efforts. In 2015, DHSES conducted 36 CEPA workshops. To date, every county has participated in the program.

Disaster Mental Health Summit at SUNY New Paltz

In coordination with DHSES and the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz, OMH sponsored an all-day summit on May 29, bringing together leaders in state mental health and emergency management agencies. The summit sought to improve the provision and coordination of post-disaster support services. Summit participants included leaders from State and county offices of emergency management, state and county offices of mental health, the American Red Cross, and the New York National Guard. The summit offered an opportunity for agencies to establish clear lines of communication and responsibility, enabling them to better coordinate their efforts and strengthen the overall disaster response in New York State. The resulting "white paper" from the summit meeting became the foundation of a number of follow-up activities, including a Statewide Mental Health-Emergency Management Facilitated Discussion in January 2016.

Highly Pathogenic H5 Avian Influenza (HPAI)

The largest outbreak of avian influenza in U.S. history struck in 2015. Highly Pathogenic H5 Avian Influenza (HPAI) spread to fifteen states, leading to loss of 49.7 million chickens, turkeys and other poultry valued at nearly \$1.6 billion, causing an overall economic loss of \$3.3 billion. The US Department of Agriculture alone committed nearly \$700 million to control the spread of the virus.

No cases of H5 HPAI occurred in New York State. The Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) Division of Animal Industry undertook significant planning and preparedness efforts with other DPC agencies such as DHSES, NYCOEM, NYCDOHMH, OFPC, DMNA, DEC, DOH, DOMH, and DOT. Some of these activities included:

- A multi-agency discussion-based exercise

- HPAI state response plan development
- Training on the use of foaming equipment
- Joint development of public information materials

Joint visits to commercial poultry firms to provide biosecurity recommendations and assess facilities for potential response operations

The New York State Preparedness Training Center

The New York State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) in Oriskany, NY continues to serve as a centralized training facility for New York State, as well as local and federal first responders from all disciplines. Training through the SPTC includes residential, mobile and outside agency (State, federal and local) utilization of the Center. Residential and mobile courses are designed and delivered for statewide and national audiences based upon stakeholder needs while incorporating the very latest techniques and best practices.



Over the past few years, the demand for high-end, scenario-based, consequence driven training courses has dramatically increased not only throughout the US, but specifically in NY. The SPTC is the premier location to conduct such training and continues to research, develop and expand upon existing offerings to provide NYS first responders with the best quality instruction available.

Some of the training offered in 2015 included EMS Multiple Casualty Incident Management (EMS MCI); Tactical Emergency Casualty Care for Law Enforcement (TECC for LE); Initial Response to Active Shooters (IRAS); Workplace Violence Awareness (with a focus on active shooter incidents), the inaugural Excelsior Challenge (bringing FBI certified Bomb Squads, Explosive Detection K-9 teams, and Tactical Teams together to train over three days) and the Advanced Active Shooters Scenarios: Tactics and Operations (A2S2) course. The SPTC was one of only four sites selected throughout the US to host the Raven's Challenge, an exercise with an emphasis of integrating military explosives ordinance disposal teams with civilian bomb squads to solve a common problem. Students come to the SPTC from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, including police, fire, EMS, emergency management, government, and educational fields, from all over New York State and beyond.



2015 Raven's Challenge

GPA coordinated with the Office of Counterterrorism’s (OCT) Law Enforcement Coordinator resulting in the selection of New York State as one of four sites nationally for the 2015 Raven’s Challenge Exercise. This Exercise, designed to enhance interoperability between Public Safety Bomb Squads and Military Explosive Ordnance Disposal Units, was conducted at the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) on June 22nd – 26th. Hundreds of Bomb Technicians from across the Northeast participated in this exercise, both from State/local law enforcement agencies, multiple branches of the military, and partners from Canada. On June 24th, DHSES hosted a VIP Day for more than 30 officials that included participation by Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul. There was extensive media coverage of the exercise and the initial feedback provided by participants has been excellent. The 2016 Raven’s Challenge Exercise will be conducted in New York State on May 16th-20th at the SPTC.

Excelsior Challenge

On September 15-17, DHSES hosted the Excelsior Challenge Exercise for Bomb Squads, Explosive Detection Canine Teams, and Tactical Teams. This event was hosted at the SPTC and involved more than 100 participants from thirty (30) law enforcement agencies across New York State and Canada. The purpose of this event was to enhance coordination and integration among these three specialty teams, which is critical given the increasing complexity of recent real-world events. The Excelsior Challenge included several new features this year, such as participation by Military Explosives Teams, participation by OFPC’s Technical Rescue experts for a post-blast scenario, a Robot Rodeo competition for Bomb Technicians, and the stand-up of a Bomb Management Center with the FBI. DHSES also hosted a VIP Day on September 16 to further expose local, State, and Federal distinguished guests to the SPTC and to DHSES’s programs to support Bomb Squads, Canine Teams, and Tactical Teams.

NEW YORK’S RESPONSE EFFORTS IN 2015

The table below shows the incidents where the EOC was active during 2015

Date	Incident Name
Jan. 9-10	Winter Weather
Jan. 26-27	Winter Storm
Feb. 2	Winter Storm (monitoring)
March 24	R. E. Ginna Practice Exercise
April 28	R.E.Ginna Federally-Evaluated Exercise
July 4	Independence Day (monitoring)
Aug. 7-14	Legionella Bacteria (monitoring)

Sept. 24-26	Papal Visit
Oct. 1-3	Hurricane Joaquin
Oct. 6	WRECKIT 2015 Exercise
New Year's Eve	Dec. 31, 2015 – Jan. 1, 2016

January/February Winter Storm

January 2015 ended with a major Nor'easter that traveled up the east coast and on January 25, blizzard warnings were issued for the lower portions of New York including NYC and Long island. The storm, dubbed "Juno" by the Weather Channel, was expected to bring high winds and heavy snow for the evening of January 26 and all day January 27, impacting a 250-mile area from New York City to Boston.

In a statement on January 25, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the activation of the State Emergency Operations Center in advance of the storm which was staffed by Agriculture and Markets, American Red Cross, Environmental Conservation, Military and Naval Affairs, Health and Health EMS, Transportation, Information Technology Services, Education, NYSERDA, State Police, Children and Family Services, Fire Prevention and Control, Interoperable Emergency Communications, Mental Health, Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, People with Developmental Disabilities, Temporary and Disability Assistance, Public Service Commission, Thruway, General Services, Port Authority of NY and NJ, Salvation Army and SUNY.

On January 26, The Governor declared a State of Emergency for Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Ulster, Westchester and contiguous counties and directed all non-essential state employees covered by the state of emergency to leave work at 3:00 PM. Many roads in New York were closed to all vehicles except emergency vehicles due to life-threatening conditions on area roadways.

The New York State Thruway Authority activated its emergency operations ahead of the winter storm and is expected to supply 338 snowplows, 18 snowblowers, 55 front-end loaders, and approximately 126,000 tons of salt. The New York State Department of Transportation also activated its emergency operations, mobilizing 162 snow plows and nearly 338 operators to Long Island and the Hudson Valley, totaling to approximately 600 plows and 1,300 operators and supervisors across downstate New York. A total of 1,444 snow plows and 3,629 operators and supervisors would be available statewide.

The MTA deployed extra crews, salting trucks, and chained tires. The National Guard was deployed 420 personnel which conducted 33 emergency response missions during the duration of the event. New York State Police supplied at least 50 4x4 vehicles, 8 all-terrain vehicles, and 8 snowmobiles.

At its major transportation facilities, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey readied more than 200 piece of snow equipment at its airports, more than 60 pieces of snow equipment for its bridges and tunnels, hundreds of thousands of gallons of liquid anti-icer chemicals and thousands of tons of solid de-icers, plow-equipped trains, liquid snow-melting agent trains, and a "jet engine" plow.

The NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) stood up a virtual Departmental Operations Center (DOC) to manage communications and coordination among the state operated psychiatric facilities impacted by the storm. The DOC also monitored the status of community mental health services throughout the storm via liaisons at the New York City, Long Island, and Hudson River Field Offices.

Roosa Gap Fire

On May 3, the Roosa Gap Fire began near a home in Roosa Gap, Sullivan County and eventually burned 2,759 acres into the Hamlet of Cragmoor, Ulster County. This fire began by unlawful debris burning and spread quickly from dry, blustery winds, steep slopes and dense forest. Firefighting tactics were not able to prevent the wind-driven fire from jumping forest roads and bulldozer lines. The State Incident Management Team (IMT) took command of fire operations on May 5 through May 8 and included a single-engine air tanker and aerial command plane from New Brunswick, Canada. Additionally, staff from NYS Information Services (ITS) GIS Program Office (GPO) mobilized to the site with the NYS Incident Management Team to provide mapping support. Only two firefighters were hurt when their ATV rolled over and no homes or buildings were damaged. A 62-year old East Meadow man and a 52-year old Bethpage man were charged for setting and allowing the fire to escape their control. The Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) also supported wildfire suppression activities relating to the Roosa Gap Fire. Two UH-60 (Blackhawk) helicopters on a previously scheduled training mission executed several water drops over the fire, and one aircraft transported DHSES and DMNA leadership over the incident site. Twenty-one hours of flight time was logged by all three aircraft. In addition, there were five New York Military Force members conducting Command and Control activities and three personnel conducting support activities in Latham as well as support personnel at Stewart Air National Guard Base.

Indian Point Transformer Fire and Spill

On May 9th, a transformer failure caused a fire and spill at Entergy's Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Buchanan, Westchester County. Firefighting efforts brought the fire under control, but the loss of mineral oil from the transformer impacted the Hudson River during the incident. DEC Spill Responders, with support from Division of Law Enforcement crews and vessels, worked to oversee Entergy's spill contractors to contain spilled oil and protect sensitive environmental areas in the vicinity. They also documented the extent of the area impacted by the spill. Survey,

monitoring, and remedial activities along the Hudson River in this area continued until the end of May.

Dannamora State Correctional Facility

In June, there was an escape of two prisoners from the Dannemora State Correctional facility in Clinton County. The effort lasted 22 days involving 11 different local, state and federal agencies with 1,538 officers, with approximately 850 officers each day. Ultimately the two suspects were captured. The effort by the New York State Police-led, multi-agency response teams to support the search and the affected communities in the region were vital to the operation.

During the search, The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) provided logistical support including the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and State Fire (OFPC) staffing to the incident command post along with Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Officers and Rangers. DHSES Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications (OIEC) supported interoperable communications with mobile communication units, specialized equipment and trained personnel. DEC Officers and Rangers were also integrated into nearly every important mission carried out by the Interagency Group. The tactical tracking and operations training received by the DEC Officers allowed them to function highly efficiently in both woodland and structures, giving them a unique ability to carry out the search role.

Light towers from the DHSES stockpiles were deployed to provide lighting around the miles long perimeter. Members and equipment from the Office of Interoperable Emergency Communications (OIEC) assisted with communication support to boost radio and cellular capability. Pallets of MREs (meals ready to eat) and bottled water were provide for searchers.

Many residents in the North-county area were affected by closed roads, on-the-ground searches, and the fear that the escaped convicts would cause harm to those in their way. During this 3-week emergency, the Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) staff was in constant contact with the local Offices of the Aging (AAAs) to ensure that they had the support needed to work with those in need. Local AAAs from Clinton, Franklin, Essex, and others, provided wellness checks to vulnerable older adults, emergency meals when home delivered meals could not be completed, and other services to seniors who were forced to lock their doors and remain vigilant.

Johnson City Parking Garage Collapse

On the afternoon of July 16, 2015 the second floor ramp of parking garage at the Wilson Hospital in Johnson City, near Binghamton, collapsed. Multiple cars were crushed or trapped in the lower level. This incident occurred during the hospitals shift change so accountability of staff and visitors was unclear. DHSES staff from OFPC and OEM responded to assist local first responders. Due to the potential of people being trapped the NYS Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team responded. Mutualink communication was established to the NYS OEM Watch Center enabling live video and verbal communication to be transmitted from the scene providing instantaneous

situation awareness. This was the first time this tool was used during an event of this type. Members of the USAR are able to use this information to assist in the development their response plans including identifying equipment needs and safety considerations prior to arriving on the scene.

Legionella Bacteria Monitoring/Sampling

During the summer of 2015 several people in a section of the Bronx were diagnosed with Legionnaires disease. Legionella is bacteria that can be spread through cooling towers and the condensers of large air-conditioning systems. DHSES and the Department of Health (DOH) collaborated to identify and gather samples from 76 buildings within the Bronx. At the time of the outbreak, owners of buildings with cooling towers were not required to report their presence, complicating the response. On August 7, 2015 a state command post was established at Roberto Clemente State Park with 125 staff from DOH and DHSES. Additionally, DOH staff operated a call center for concerned residents and led a robust public education campaign. The Office of Mental Health (OMH) coordinated guidance activities with the New York City Department of Health – Mental Health (NYCDOHMH) to ensure that mental health providers received critical information.

Teams were supplied with personal protective equipment (PPE) and given with sample jars to collect water samples from potential sites identified through the State Emergency Operations Center. These samples were transported to the Wadsworth lab for testing. Twenty of samples tested positive, including those taken at Lincoln Hospital and the Daughters of Jacob Nursing Home. Testing continued for a week to ensure all potential sources were identified and mitigated. As a result of the outbreak, DOH is developing a State Emergency Regulation on cooling towers.

Papal Visit

From September 24 through 26, the SEOC activated for the NYC visit of Pope Francis. Security concerns for the Pope's visit during the time of the United Nations General Assembly were high. Members from multiple DPC agencies, monitored the activities, including DHSES, members assigned to the NYPD Joint Operations Center (JOC) at One Police Plaza. Additionally, Red Cross pre-deployed human and material resources in anticipation of the event and coordinated efforts with State partners.

Significant event planning, preparedness and coordination by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Port Authority of NY and NJ ensured that the surge of visitors to New York City went smoothly and in the event of an incident,

Paris Terrorist Attacks

On Friday, November 13, 2015 a tragic and senseless act of violence rocked the streets of Paris when unprecedented terrorist attacks at multiple sites by gunmen and suicide bombers left 130 people dead and 368 injured.

In the wake of these attacks, Governor Cuomo directed several state agencies to enhance their preparedness out of an abundance of caution and remain in close contact with local and federal authorities, including the NYPD through the Joint Terrorism Task Force and the FBI.

The New York State Police and the National Guard have coordinated with federal officials as well as local law enforcement partners, including the New York City Police Department. and as a precaution, have increased surveillance of critical infrastructure including transportation hubs and will be deployed additional resources to large public gatherings.

Port Authority Police were on heightened alert at all of the agency's bridge, tunnel, rail, World Trade Center and other facilities, following the attacks in Paris. Actions included increased patrols and checks of bags, buses, trucks and trains at agency locations. Travelers were reminded to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to police or other authorities.

The MTA increased its patrols and surveillance in order to provide heightened protection across all its agencies. The MTA Police Department stepped up its uniformed and plainclothes presence in Penn Station and Grand Central Terminal as well as other major stations throughout the Metro-North Railroad and Long Island Rail Road network. Police canine teams and units with heavy weapons provided extra protection as well as a noticeable sign of increased security. Railroad customers also saw surge patrols, increased step-on/step-off patrols of trains, and random bag checks at various locations.

Behind the scenes, the MTA Police Department, MTA New York City Transit security and MTA Bridges and Tunnels Officers shared intelligence information and coordinate their threat response with other police and security agencies to ensure a seamless web of protection throughout the region.

Additionally, the New York State Police, in conjunction with DHSES launched the **“See Something, Send Something”** smart phone app. "See Something, Send Something" allows anyone to capture suspicious activity as a photo or written note and send the information to the New York State Intelligence Center. From there, the tip will be reviewed and if relevant, sent to the appropriate law enforcement agency. [Public service announcements](#) promoting the campaign will be played at DMV offices and service areas along state highways. By the end of 2015, the See Something, Send Something app has been downloaded by 27,300 by IOS users and by 8,971 users of the Android platform.

NY RECOVERS - RECOVERY EFFORTS IN 2015

Mitigation Efforts

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose

of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

This year the Mitigation Section continued its support to communities affected by Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, the three largest HMGP natural disasters in State history. As acquisition and elevation activities from Irene and Lee wound down, more HMGP projects were submitted under Superstorm Sandy. The State received 2,500 Letters of Intent requesting just over \$11.5 million; of those, over 1,200 submitted applications in response to the Governor's commitment to support proposals that ensure continuity of critical government, transportation and communications services, Implement the recommendations the NYS Ready, the NYS Respond, and the NYS 2100 Commissions, provide back-up power, monitor streams and/or tides, and train local floodplain officials. The State's HMGP funding pool is based on all FEMA disaster spending and is provided incrementally; it currently stands at \$1.44 billion.

Projects are reviewed on a rolling basis, and those submitted to FEMA support statewide resiliency goals and critical transportation and healthcare objectives. Examples include:

- Generators at Downstate Gas Stations on Evacuation Routes (expanded to Upstate): \$25.9 million;
- Upgrade 106 Scour-Critical Bridges Statewide: \$518 million;
- Mesonet Statewide Weather Monitoring System: \$30.5 million;
- Power and Resiliency Upgrades at Hospitals: \$64.3 million;
- LaGuardia Flood Control: \$30.5 million;
- Spring Creek Wetland and Upland Restoration (151 acres) to Protect Neighborhoods: \$3.3 million;
- NYCHA Community Center Hardening: \$37.1 million;
- Breezy Point Risk Reduction Systems (4300 residents): \$43.5 million.

The Mitigation Section also continued assisting communities on buyout and elevation projects approved under Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Most of the 700+ properties to be acquired have had closings and structures continue to be demolished, removing residents from potential harm and restoring the floodplain function.

The Mitigation Section continued to work with local communities to update their hazard mitigation plans, which identify risks and strategies and open the door for FEMA project grants. In 2015 DHSES forwarded Erie, Franklin, Livingston, Putnam, St, Lawrence and Westchester county plans for FEMA approval. We also worked with planners in Albany, Chautauqua, Chenango, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Niagara, Ontario, Orange, Schenectady, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Suffolk, Ulster, Warren and Washington counties and New York City to update their plans.

Public Assistance

The mission of the DHSES Public Assistance (PA) Section is to provide the maximum amount of funding available through FEMA after a major disaster or emergency is declared by the President to assist the recovery of our State, local and Tribal governments, as well as Private Nonprofit organizations providing governmental types of service.

Through the PA Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations. The PA Program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for effective hazard mitigation measures such as increasing culvert capacity, armoring embankments, building floodwalls, elevating electrical components and relocation of critical controls and facility support elements, like boilers and generators.

Notable achievements during the past year include approval of the largest PA grant ever awarded by FEMA, \$2.8 billion for the New York City Housing Authority, approval for the replacement and relocation of the Schoharie County Public Safety Facility (\$36 million), replacement and relocation of the Owego-Apalachin School District Administration and maintenance facilities (\$15 million), and the relocation out of the floodplain for the Glen Aubrey Volunteer Fire Department (\$520,000). These projects are each critical components to the well-being of their communities' social, cultural, economic, and public safety networks.

The following table illustrates federal and State share funding for recent federally-declared disasters under the FEMA Public Assistance program:

Public Assistance Disaster	Incident Period	FEMA #	Federal Share	State Share
Severe Storms and Flooding	May 13–June 17, 2004	DR-1534	-	-
Severe Storms and Flooding	Aug. 13– Sept 16, 2004	DR-1564	\$1,918.00	-
Severe Storms and Flooding	Apr. 2–4, 2005	DR-1589	-	-
Severe Storms and Flooding	Jun. 26–Jul 10, 2006	DR-1650	\$7,217,782.97	\$181,865.26
Severe Storms and Inland and Coastal Flooding	Apr. 14–18, 2007	DR-1692	\$1,818,866.85	\$596,399.36
Severe Storms and Flooding	Jun. 19, 2007	DR-1710	\$1,530,761.39	\$502,836.84
Severe Storms and Flooding	Aug. 8–10, 2009	DR-1857	\$695,320.73	\$64,211.32

Severe Storms and Flooding assoc. with T.D. Ida and Nor'easter	Nov. 12–14, 2009	DR-1869	\$190,453.41	\$31,742.24
Severe Storms and Flooding	Mar. 13–31, 2010	DR-1899	\$910,780.09	\$88,895.89
Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm	Dec. 26–27, 2010	DR-1957	\$1,093,107.34	\$9,001.86
Severe Storms, Flooding, Tornadoes and Straight-line Winds	Apr. 26– May 8, 2011	DR-1993	\$2,175,730.65	\$330,011.05
Hurricane Irene	Aug. 26–Sep. 5, 2011	DR-4020	\$31,522,662.85	\$15,672,494.91
Tropical Storm Lee	Sep. 7–1, 2011	DR-4031	\$32,462,966.73	\$6,454,603.01
Hurricane Sandy	Oct. 27–Nov. 8, 2012	DR-4085	\$4,469,312,335.5	\$44,460,971.19
Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm	Feb. 8–9, 2013	DR-4111	9089564.36	2967781.75
Severe Storms and Flooding	Jun. 26–Jul. 10, 2013	DR-4129	7746135.41	3442644
Severe Storms and Flooding	May 13–22, 2014	DR-4180	9266770.18	5227591.27
Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm and Flooding	Nov 17 -27, 2014	DR-4204	19,528,583.01	6,148,272.65

Individual Assistance

SBA Activity

In 2015, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) opened their loan program for four incidents across New York State, making loans available for residents and businesses to recover from natural disasters and fires/explosions. SBA also, reopened its loan program for those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Disaster Case Management

On September 18, 2014 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) granted New York State's request to extend the federally funded Disaster Case Management Program for those

affected by Hurricane Sandy for one year- through October 30, 2015. With this extension, hundreds of cases could continue to be worked and clients advocated for with the various recovery programs. Throughout 2015, DHSES Individual Assistance staff worked closely with FEMA Region II and Catholic Charities Community Services Archdiocese of NY to scale down the program, troubleshoot issues, and close the program successfully. Thanks to this program, over 10,000 households were assisted and were able to return to normal life.

Voluntary Agency Liaison Activities

Throughout New York State, many Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), have been actively meeting and training to better prepare themselves for when the next disaster strikes. Regular meetings are imperative to further progress the preparedness and community relations of each perspective group. Various trainings have been conducted including Local Volunteer and Donations Management training, as well as Volunteer Reception Center trainings. In 2015 DHSES worked closely to support VOADS in six counties with writing Standard Operating Guides and activation plans

Other Notable Recovery Efforts in 2015

- Empire State Development (ESD) provided ongoing relief to the many small businesses still affected by Superstorm Sandy through the \$10 million New York State Small Business Emergency Loan Fund, which was launched in the weeks following Sandy by ESD and the New York Bankers Association. To date, more than 140 small businesses have received loans up to \$25,000 to help replace or repair damaged assets and inventory, and for working capital losses incurred due to the superstorm.
- ESD continued and improved Business Mentor NY, New York State's free, hands-on business mentoring initiative launched in 2014 to link mentors and entrepreneurs in counties affected by major storms (Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee), providing guidance and assistance via the Business Mentor NY website, www.businessmentor.ny.gov. Since inception, more than 3,000 volunteer mentors, and over 1,100 successful matches, have been achieved with entrepreneurs seeking assistance in navigating businesses challenges.
- DFS renewed the emergency amended regulation that established the mediation program to expedite resolution of Storm Sandy-related property claims. In addition to the complaint process, policyholders with unresolved Storm Sandy claims had the option of filing requests for mediation through a program established by the Department and administered by the American Arbitration Association. There have been a total of 3,363 requests for mediation, of which 3,301 have been closed. In 2015, policyholders made approximately 375 requests. All told, approximately 67% of the mediation cases have been settled or withdrawn. Due to the dwindling number of requests for mediation being filed almost three years after Sandy and almost two and a half years after the mediation program began, the deadline for filing requests for mediation expired in late June 2015.

- Insurers are required to provide information to DFS regarding their disaster response plans and business continuity plans so the Department can assist promptly in organizing an industry response to a disaster. DFS received 210 such filings from insurers and insurer groups in 2015.
- The Department of State formally launched its Code Enforcement Disaster Assistance Response (CEDAR) program in 2015. The CEDAR program provides requesting communities with timely post-disaster assistance as part of the statewide coordinated effort under the leadership of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Emergency Management. The program's disaster response focuses on performing Rapid Evaluation Safety Assessments of damaged structures in affected communities for use as part of the application process to request federal disaster assistance through FEMA. .Currently, 149 individuals statewide have completed the CEDAR training and are prepared to respond should the need arise. An additional 48 individuals are currently completing the ICS courses. Once completed they will be added to the roster.

THE NEW YORK STATE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY PLAN

DHSES staff, in concert with state agencies, continued to improve the State's level of preparedness by completing the annual review and revision of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and supporting annexes, including posting to the DHSES website. This effort also included continued refinement of all planning guidance documents. An in-depth overhaul of the State's Cyber Response Plan was also conducted to address this emerging threat. Additional efforts will include plans for an Improvised Nuclear Device, and efforts to further refine the State's Branch-level response plans

Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)

The *Emergency Management Standard* by EMAP is the set of 64 standards by which programs that apply for EMAP accreditation are evaluated. [The Emergency Management Standard](#) is designed as a tool for continuous improvement as part of the voluntary accreditation process for local and state emergency management programs.¹ The State received accreditation in October 2014, resulting in the EMAP Commission granting the State full accreditation for the next five years. Agencies supported a required annual maintenance report in October to ensure that the State's accreditation is intact.

Enterprise Information Security

The Office of Technology Services Enterprise Information Security Office (EISO) developed uniform State security policies and standards, and enhanced information asset protection,

¹ <http://www.emaponline.org/index.php/what-is-emap/the-emergency-management-standard>

monitoring and detection capabilities in the Statewide Data Center. EISO routinely performs vulnerability and threat assessments, system security and critical infrastructure reviews to ensure adequate controls and resiliency. Additionally, EISO continues to develop and define cyber exercise plans, conducts cyber incident response exercises, supports planning, and participates in local government cyber incident response exercises.

Continuity of Government Planning

DHSES, in conjunction with state agencies has developed a robust State Program for Continuity of Operations Planning and a Continuity of Government Planning (COOP/COG). This effort consists of complete rewrites of the State's current guidance on COOP/COG, including sample plans to be used by State agencies and local governments. OEM Planning has provided guidance through several workshops to State and local agencies. Assistance is available for all agencies that are looking for guidance.

Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant (RCPG) Program

The base sample plans created under the RCPGP were completed in 2014, and were followed-up by a host of guidance documents and tools in 2015. Final efforts included various sample plans, improvised nuclear device (IND) guidance, tips to consolidate federal integration, and a concept document on Joint Field Offices (JFOs). The RCPG effort started in 2008, and ended in August 31, 2015 at the close of the grant cycle. The legacy information from the program is being hosted by the State OEM, and the NYC Office of Emergency Management.

2016 AND BEYOND

Governor Cuomo has proposed a bold agenda for 2016 and beyond with the goal of keeping New Yorkers safe. The threat of global terrorism to New York and the nation has required New York to remain on heightened alert. Plans for increasing New York's safety and security in the wake of global acts of terrorism include enhanced training and equipment to State Troopers and the consolidation of operational components of the Office of Counter Terrorism in DHSES within the New York State Police's Office of Counter Terrorism as recommended by former NYC PD Commissioner Ray Kelly. This shift will increase the efficiency of the State's counter terrorism functions by consolidating all intelligence and analysis resources within the New York State Intelligence Center, under the singular command of the New York State Police.

Governor Cuomo recently launched an aggressive series of statewide water quality initiatives to protect both the public health and the environment. The Governor is creating a Statewide Water Quality Rapid Response Team charged with identifying and developing plans to swiftly address critical drinking water contamination concerns, as well as related groundwater and surface water

contamination problems. The Governor is also proposing statewide regulations to strengthen oversight and safeguard natural resources.

This Disaster Preparedness Commission, under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, will continue to strive to make the safety, security and quality of life of all New Yorkers paramount. The Commission will continue to actively address emerging threats whether natural or man-made and will continue to enhance the state's plans for preparing for, responding to, recovering from incidents and will continue to implement strategies to make New York the most resilient state in the nation.