

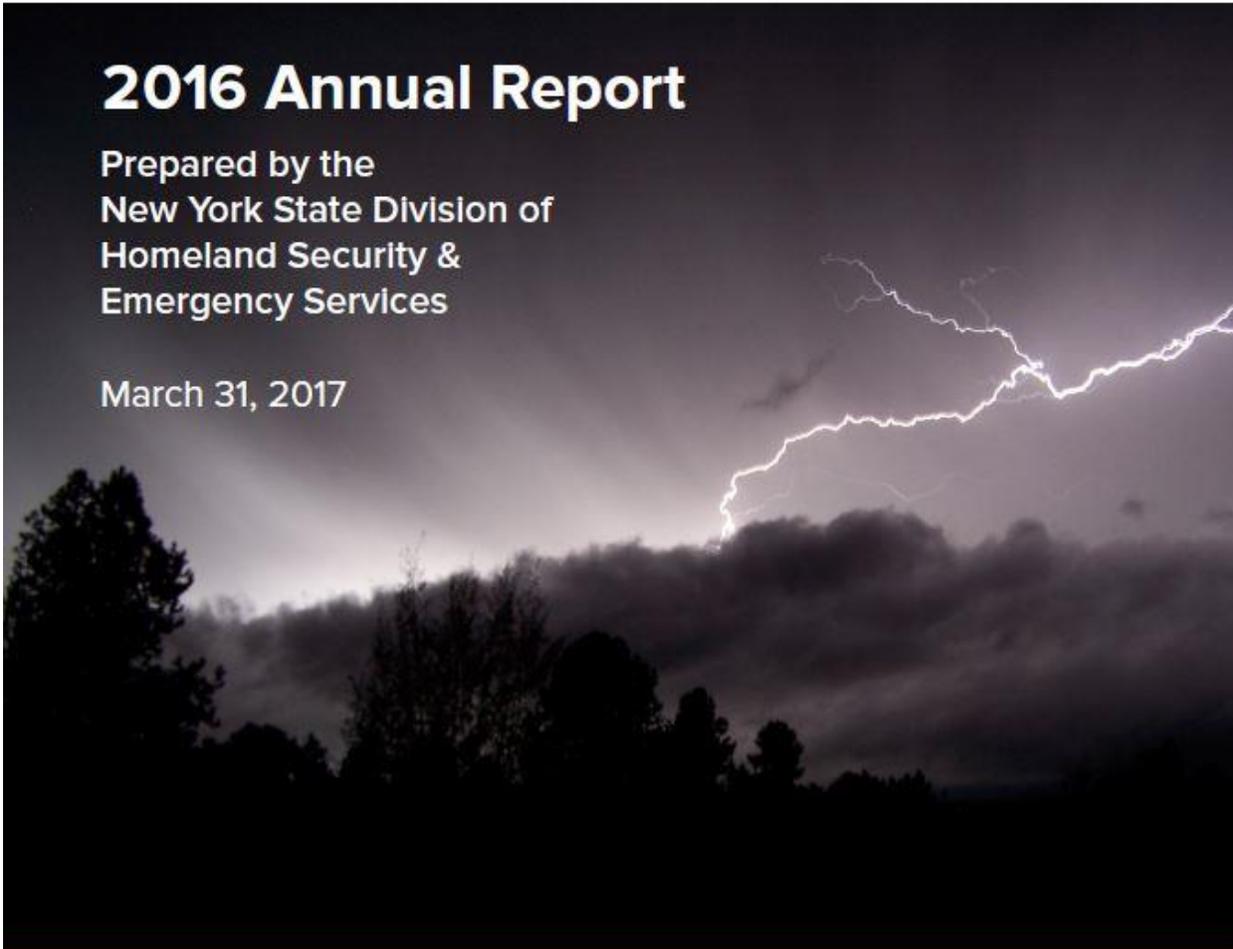


**Disaster Preparedness
Commission**

2016 Annual Report

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

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Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

John P. Melville
Chairman

**Members of the NYS
Disaster Preparedness
Commission**

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Department of Agriculture and Markets (Ag & Mkts)
Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)
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Thruway Authority
Department of Transportation (DOT)
Office of Victim Services (OVS)
American Red Cross

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC) is comprised of the commissioners, directors, and chairpersons of 29 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

As Governor Cuomo has often stated, we are living in a time where recurring severe weather events 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, as required by law, during 2016 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 the State's Zika virus plan, seasonal briefings by the National Weather Service, the development of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, First Net, and briefings on the current terror threat worldwide and in the State of New York.

The DPC member agency representatives also participated in several disaster response exercises, including “Mohawk Cresting”, a severe weather exercise that took place in July and simulated catastrophic flooding in the Mohawk Valley. This three-day event began with an initial response to a growing disaster on the state level and simulated needs and requests from counties to the forecasted storm. The exercise tested the full activation of the State's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with over 25 state agencies, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and simulated impacts from power failures, immediate water rescue needs, evacuations, sheltering, long-term housing needs, debris removal issues, and infrastructure damage and failure. The goal of the exercise was to evaluate preparedness and response capabilities before and during the event, as well as coordination with federal and local governments once a Presidential Declaration had been granted.

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.

DPC member agencies made great strides in 2016 in improving the State’s emergency preparedness capabilities to respond to future events by embracing Governor Cuomo’s major initiatives in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. At the direction of Governor Cuomo, the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission has taken active steps to prepare for and mitigate against natural and man-made disasters that could impact the State.

While New York State did not have a disaster in 2015 requiring the Governor to request a Presidential Declaration for FEMA reimbursement, the State, along with DPC agencies, in coordination with local, and, in the case of the Chelsea bombing, federal partners, responded to several storms, an act of terrorism, and other significant events. Member agencies also made great strides on preparedness and mitigation projects and continued to work with local and federal officials on many ongoing recovery efforts.

RESPONSE EFFORTS IN 2016

Throughout 2016, the state was impacted by a variety of incidents, the majority being weather related. The table below shows the incidents where the State EOC was in an enhanced monitoring posture or activated during 2016.

Date	Incident Name
Jan. 13-14	Winter Weather (Level 3 Activation)
Jan. 22-24	Winter Weather (Level 3)
Feb. 12-15	Hoosick Falls Water Contamination (Monitor)
April 19	Indian Point Exercise (Exercise)
June 24	Heritage of Pride Parade (Monitor)
June 28	Indian Point Federally-Evaluated Exercise (Exercise)
July 4	Independence Day (Monitor)
July 12-14	Mohawk Cresting Exercise (Exercise)
September 4-5	Tropical Storm Hermine (Level 3)
Nov. 7-8	Election Day (Monitor)

Nov. 20-21	Lake Effect Snow (Monitor)
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day (Monitor)
Dec. 6	Nine Mile Point Off-Year Exercise (Exercise)
Dec. 8-9	Winter Weather (Level 3)
Dec. 11	Winter Weather (Monitor)
Dec. 31-Jan.1	New Year's Eve (Monitor)

During the winter of 2016, several significant snow events triggered the activation of the NYS EOC to coordinate state resources and oversee operations.

Winter Weather

On January 13-14, heavy lake effect snow dumped up to two feet of snow in the western portions of the state, and due to hazardous travel conditions, the Thruway Authority announced a restriction on long tandem tractor trailers along I-90 in both directions from exit 31 (Utica – NY Routes 8 & 12 – I-790) to exit 42 (Geneva – Lyons – NY Route 14).

Another severe Nor'easter impacted the downstate regions of New York City, Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley on January 22-24. Dubbed “Winter Storm Jonas” by the media, Jonas dumped 27.5 inches of snow, making the January 22-23 storm the biggest blizzard to hit the city since recordkeeping began in 1869, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Due to blizzard conditions downstate, Governor Cuomo issued a state of emergency for New York City as well as Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange and Putnam Counties and issued a travel ban for all local and state roads in New York City, the Long Island Expressway and the Northern State Parkway on Long Island, and Port Authority’s trans-Hudson crossings. Additionally, the MTA suspended above-ground subway service as well as LIRR and Metro-North service. At the request of Governor Cuomo, and with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's concurrence, the Port Authority issued a travel ban on the George Washington Bridge, Lincoln Tunnel, Holland Tunnel, Bayonne Bridge, Goethals Bridge and Outerbridge Crossing.

Workers from the Department of Transportation and the Thruway Authority worked tirelessly to keep roadways clear. State resources included nearly 600 plows and 150,000 tons of road salt. Additionally, 95 members of the New York National Guard were deployed to the regions along with high axle vehicles, snowmobiles, tracked SUVs and over 1,200 personnel to assist localities in the regions.

Water Quality

Several water issues were dealt with throughout 2016, including lead in schools, Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) in Hoosick Falls and Petersburg, and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in Newburgh. In January, Governor Cuomo initiated a series of aggressive water quality initiatives to protect both the public health and the environment. To address the water supply contamination, the State Department of Health is conducting a risk analysis examining the latest national research to establish a drinking water guidance level for PFOA. Other actions included an emergency regulation to classify PFOA as a hazardous substance through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This provides DEC with the legal authority to pursue State Superfund designation and cleanup of the site using State Superfund resources. Further, the state classified the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corporation's McCaffrey Street Plant in Hoosick Falls and other possible sources of contamination as State Superfund sites to unlock state funding resources under the State Superfund Program to address the contamination in the community.

Other actions included the creation and deployment of the Statewide Water Quality Rapid Response Team led by the DEC, which was created and charged with identifying and developing plans to swiftly address critical drinking water contamination concerns, as well as related groundwater and surface water contamination problems. Other actions included voluntary blood-testing of community members, installing filtration systems and retesting private wells.

In March 2016, Governor Cuomo directed the Department of Financial Services to deploy the Mobile Command Center (MCC) in Hoosick Falls, the site of PFOA-contaminated municipal water, to provide information and answer questions related to mortgage lending and refinancing and property and health insurance issues. Located within the Hoosick Falls Armory, alongside representatives from the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation, DFS representatives were available from Saturday, March 19, through Saturday, April 16, 2016, to assist with insurance questions and issues.

In August, DEC designated Stewart Air National Guard base in Newburgh as a Class 2 State Superfund site, identifying the U.S. Department of Defense as a potentially responsible party, and unlocking the full authority and resources of the State Superfund law to ensure comprehensive and expedited clean-up of contamination in the area.

The State's Water Quality Rapid Response Team made great progress throughout 2016. Construction of a permanent Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system at the City of Newburgh's water treatment plant began in September and is on track to be fully operational by October 2017. Under terms of an agreement with the City, the State has committed to fully funding this large-scale system and will pay for the operation and maintenance for as long as it is needed.

State-wide Zika Response

The Department of Health led the statewide response to the Zika Virus beginning in February and continued through the year. Zika Action Plans were developed by State Health and all local health departments. A call center was activated and Zika Rapid Response Teams (ZRRTs) were developed and provided with training for deployment to areas of local transmission. Additionally, a tabletop exercise involving the activation and deployment of ZRRTs was conducted with New York City in July.

Swine Brucellosis Outbreak

In March of 2016, Brucellosis suis was identified in a NY State resident by the NY State Department of Health. Brucellosis suis is a bacterial infection whose primary host is swine, but can be transferred to both dogs and humans. The United State is currently considered B. suis free in commercial swine for the purposes of international trade. The Department of Agriculture and Markets was alerted by the Department of Health and began a joint investigation with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Through testing and epidemiological tracing, 50 herds in 13 states were identified as at risk, with nine herds testing positive. Six New York State herds in three counties were found to be infected. Depopulation, disposal and decontamination were completed by September of 2016. These activities were overseen and indemnified by Agriculture and Markets and the USDA with cooperation between State Health and DEC. Efforts focused on biosecurity, public outreach and follow-up surveillance continue.

Tropical Storm Hermine

Tropical Storm Hermine formed off the west coast of Africa on August 16 and set course for the United States, intensifying as it meandered through the Atlantic Ocean. As it moved west, the possibility of the storm hugging the east coast of the United States and impacting New York became a grim possibility. As August ended and September began, the National Weather Service issued Tropical Storm Warnings for New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley. Storm surge and flooding were predicted for the Long Island Sound.

On September 2, Governor Cuomo activated the State EOC and directed State officials from responding agencies to immediately be on alert in advance of Tropical Storm Hermine. State Emergency personnel actively monitored the storm as it approached, and stockpile resources in the downstate region – including sandbags, high-axle vehicles, pumps and generators – were prepared for deployment. As forecasters became more certain that the storm would impact Southern Westchester, New York City and Long Island, assets such as personnel, utility linemen, loaders and dump trucks, water pumps, swift water rescue teams and the National Guard were staged throughout the regions.

By September 4, Hermine was downgraded to a Post-Tropical Storm as it lost intensity. Hermine took a northeast turn predicting Hermine to move further offshore than the previous forecasts indicated. Minimal impacts were experienced.

Chelsea Bombing

New York State still remains one of the top targets for terrorism in the country. During the evening hours of September 17 an explosion was reported in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York City. The bombing was quickly linked to a bomb that exploded in Seaside Park, NJ. Immediately, the Governor directed the State Police and National Guard to deploy an additional 1,000 uniformed officers, out of an abundance of caution, to high-profile locations across the state. 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, and police canine teams and emergency service units provided extra protection, as well as a noticeable sign of increased security. State agencies, including the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, the New York State Police, National Guard, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, remained on a heightened state of alert. From September 18 through November 12, 970 Soldiers and Airmen of the New York National Guard responded to New York City in support of security activities in response to the bombing in the Chelsea District of Manhattan, conducting over 600 missions. The suspect for the bombings was identified as Ahmad Rahami. He was captured on September 21 in Elizabethton, NJ.

In response to the Chelsea Bombing, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie announced an agreement to help small businesses, homeowners and renters access state funds for uninsured losses and physical damage they had incurred as a result of the Chelsea explosion. Additionally, The Department of Financial Services worked directly with businesses and residents to submit insurance claims. The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) began working to determine how many victims were impacted and the severity of injuries. Over the next few days, OVS worked with local, state and federal law enforcement officials to obtain a definitive list of those victims. OVS also directed its local Victim Assistance Programs (VAPs) to reach out to any such victims and their families and offer direct victim services or assistance in applying to OVS for reimbursement of crime-related expenses. In all, there were 11 claims submitted to OVS.

Following the bombing in the Chelsea area of New York City, staff from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Individual Assistance (IA) program worked closely with NYC OEM and the U.S. Small Business Administration to coordinate relief efforts for those affected. After Governor Cuomo announced a grant program to assist both Chelsea residents and businesses directly affected by the bombing, IA staff worked with DHSES Management and DHSES Counsel to develop a program application and program guidance.

Election Day Security

New York State took early steps to prepare for and prevent both a physical and cyber-attack to disrupt the voting process in the days and weeks before the 2106 Presidential election. Early in November, U.S. intelligence warned the public that al Qaeda could be planning attacks in New

York on the Monday before the 2016 presidential elections. The report noted Virginia and Texas were also possible targets. Additionally, there were reports of potential cyber-attacks on local and state Board of Elections Offices throughout the country.

The Governor directed the New York State EOC to begin enhanced monitoring activities before Election Day. 700 National Guard troops were already on duty in the New York City region from the Chelsea bombings and the State Police had five regional Special Operations Response Teams, as well as Bomb Disposal Units and 90 canine units prepared to respond to any incident that could occur throughout the State.

The New York State Intelligence Center's Cyber Analysis Unit coordinated with the State Board of Elections, federal Department of Homeland Security and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to monitor threats until November 9. Additionally, the Intelligence Center's hotline was made available on a 24/7 basis to the county Boards of Election in case of a cyber-attack.

New York State Information Technology Services (ITS) monitored for all potential cyber threats related to Election Day. The State's Chief Information Security Officer assembled a response team made up of experts from across multiple disciplines and coordinated an all-day conference bridge which allowed for uninterrupted communication between key agency personnel.

Planning and Preparedness in 2016

New York State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

The New York State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and its associated subsidiaries identify agency roles and responsibilities for hazard mitigation, response, and recovery for emergencies, including hazardous materials releases.

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services staff, in concert with state agencies, continued to improve the State's level of preparedness with significant refinements to the State (CEMP) and supporting annexes, including posting to the DHSSES Website. This effort also included an in-depth, overall plan to create a new state cyber security annex, and efforts have begun to develop 14 multi-agency emergency support functions (ESFs) consistent with the federal response structure.

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. The State received its accreditation in October 2014, and is required to complete an annual maintenance report to the EMAP Commission. The report was provided to the EMAP Commission in October, 2016. This re-affirmed the State's accreditation. The accreditation is valid for five years.

Continuity of Government Planning

DHSES, in conjunction with state agencies made great progress in developing a robust State Program for Continuity of Operations Planning and a Continuity of Government Planning (COOP/COG). This effort consisted of multiple executive-level COOP workshops, and several deliveries of workshops aimed at supporting continuity planning. The State's COOP guidance has been completely modified, and now includes new sample plans to be used by State agencies and local governments. More training is being developed, and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services will provide the training to all State and local governments when complete.

Strategic Fuel Reserve and Gas Station Back-Up Power Program

The Fuel NY Initiative consists of two components: The Strategic Fuel Reserves and the Gasoline Station Generator programs.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) maintains two regional strategic fuel reserves. The Downstate Strategic Gasoline Reserve contains nearly three million gallons of gasoline and is located at an inland fuel terminal on Long Island. The Upstate Strategic Fuel Reserve contains 1.4 million gallons of diesel fuel and 1.4 million gallons of gasoline, located at six separate distribution terminals across Upstate New York. Given the fuel distribution disruptions experienced after Superstorm Sandy, this program is designed to fill supply gaps causing a fuel emergency. Upon declaration of a fuel emergency, 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.

In a collaboration among NYSERDA, the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Fuel NY is also assisting retail gasoline stations to comply with statutory requirements that certain strategically located stations in New York City and Suffolk, Nassau, Westchester and Rockland Counties be prepared with an emergency generator, or to deploy and install a contracted portable emergency generator in the event of a declared energy or fuel supply emergency.

NYSERDA supports station owner implementation costs associated with the installation of a transfer switch and associated electrical modifications needed to accept an emergency generator. With its Portable Emergency Generator Program, NYSERDA can mobilize the deployment and installation of portable emergency generators to facilitate gas station compliance with the law in a declared energy or fuel supply emergency. Through the Permanent

Emergency Generator Initiative, NYSERDA is also supporting the installation of permanent emergency generators for strategically located stations that prefer such an option.

As of December 31, 2016, 720 gas stations in the downstate region had their own emergency generator or a contract to deploy an emergency generator, including 70 stations with emergency generators on site. An additional 180 gas stations were also selected by December 31, 2016 for funding to install a permanent emergency generator by the end of 2017.

Crude Oil Transportation

Transportation of crude oil by rail nationwide, specifically oil produced from the Bakken Oil Fields concentrated in North and South Dakota and adjoining areas of Canada, has grown exponentially in recent years from approximately 8,500 railcar loads in 2008 to more than 400,000 in 2013.

A significant percentage of the crude oil produced from these fields is transported through New York State by two primary routes, which include:

- Along the CSX rail line from the west through Buffalo to Albany, generally following the Thruway (I-90)/Mohawk Valley Corridor. From Albany, the crude oil is transferred onto ship or barge at the Buckeye Terminal for movement by water down the Hudson River, or the shipment continues south down the Hudson Valley by rail along the CSX line. CSX reported an average of 20 to 35 trains per week traveled from the west to Albany, with one to five of them ending their journeys at the Buckeye Terminal. The remaining trains continued south through the Hudson Valley.
- Along the Canadian Pacific (CP) rail line south from Canada through the Champlain Valley to Albany, where it is transferred onto a barge for movement by water down the Hudson River. CP reported an average of five to nine trains per week going south along the west shore of Lake Champlain and ending at the Global Terminal in Albany.

Destinations for both routes include refineries on the East Coast of the U.S. and Canada.

In a proactive response to this issue, Governor Cuomo signed Executive Order 125 on January 28, 2014 directing specific state agencies to examine the problem and to provide a comprehensive report with recommended actions to mitigate the situation. This direction resulted in *Transporting Crude Oil in New York State: A Review of Incident Prevention and Response Capacity*^[1], a coordinated review by the New York State DEC, DOH, DOT, DHSES, and NYSERDA. The agencies work together to integrate planning, preparedness, and agency-level response to promote a single coordinated response to any crude oil incident.

The New York State Interagency Workgroup on Crude Oil Preparedness

[1] <http://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/archive/assets/documents/CrudeOilReport.pdf>

Comprised of DEC, DOH, DOT, DHSES, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Coast Guard, the NYS Interagency Workshop on Crude Oil Preparedness was formed in 2015 to further support the efforts of Executive Order 125. As a result of the collaboration of the workgroup, 24 trailers equipped with specialized spill response equipment were deployed by the DEC across the 21 counties in the crude by rail corridor.

This Crude Oil Working Group, through a multi-agency, multi-discipline effort led by DEC and its contractors, completed 328 Inland Geographic Response Plans (GRP) covering the transportation corridors used to transport crude oil by rail across 21 counties in New York State. These plans were developed through meetings with each of the counties and their personnel, including local and emergency managers, fire departments, hazardous materials teams, departments of public works and planning officials. The plans include site-specific guides that, depending on the region, focus on high-risk areas, sensitive populations and/or environmental receptors. Additionally, generic, county-wide plans covering areas of the rail corridors not addressed in site specific GRPs provide guidance to assist local and county officials with protecting both the public and the environment during the initial phases of any incident involving the transportation of crude oil by rail.

While primarily intended to address crude oil incidents, the guidance included in each plan also addresses protecting the public through evacuation or sheltering in place, fire suppression and spill response, which has the added benefit of improving planning, preparedness and response efforts for any incident on the rail lines involving hazardous materials. Furthermore, Executive Order 125 spurred the creation of a multi-agency Plume Modeling Working Group established under the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to predict and prepare for the effects of a plume of hazardous materials on surrounding areas in the event of a rail disaster. The workgroup produced a report with findings and recommendations that will help build and establish a robust capacity for New York State to conduct plume modeling for Bakken Crude Oil emergencies, and to support incident response involving other types of hazardous materials. Participating agencies include DHSES and its OEM, Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), and Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT) divisions; in addition to DEC, DOH, DOT, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA), the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Office of Response and Restoration.

Foam Trailer Task Force

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) completed the delivery of all remaining foam trailers for pre-positioning with local and county agencies that entered into written agreements with the State to participate in the Foam Task Force. Eighteen (18) foam trailers equipped with 660 gallons of Class B foam and the equipment necessary to apply foam to ignitable liquid spills and fires have been pre-positioned along major transportation corridors, including those used to transport crude oil by rail. The trailers have been positioned with the goal of providing a response time of two hours or less to any incident along those transportation corridors from the time of activation. This has improved the State's ability to supplement and support local foam

capabilities for any incident involving ignitable liquids including crude oil, ethanol and gasoline. An additional foam trailer and foam resources are available to be deployed directly by OFPC as part of the Task Force's response capabilities.

Participating agencies have agreed to respond with that equipment upon activation by OFPC and can use the foam trailers and equipment for local incidents at their discretion, pursuant to the provisions of the written agreement with the State. OFPC has also provided initial training and is administering an ongoing program of refresher training, drills and exercises to sustain the Task Force's operational capabilities.

On March 1, 2016, the New York State Foam Task Force was activated for a derailment involving a freight train which occurred in Ripley (Chautauqua County). The Task Force foam trailer assigned to the Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Team was deployed by that team and utilized to apply foam to an ethanol spill which resulted from the derailment. An additional Task Force foam trailer operated by the Olean Fire Department (Cattaraugus County) was deployed to the incident in case additional foam assets were needed. OFPC staff and foam equipment also responded to this derailment as part of the Task Force activation.

Additionally, local and county agencies participating in the Foam Task Force deployed their assigned trailers or associated equipment for local responses five times during 2016. These incidents, which did not require activation of the State Foam Task Force by OFPC, included a transformer fire in Rockland County and a gasoline tanker rollover in the City of Utica, Oneida County.

Citizen Preparedness Corps Trainings

Launched in February 2014, the Citizen Preparedness Corps provides New Yorkers with tools and resources to prepare for natural and man-made disasters to respond accordingly, and to recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. New York National Guard (DMNA), working with experts from DHSES OEM and OFPC and local county emergency management personnel, educated participants about how to develop a family emergency plan and stock up on emergency supplies, among other critical precautions. A key component of this training was distribution of free New York State Disaster Preparedness Kits to participants at public regional events listed on the prepare.ny.gov website. The kits contained important items to assist individuals in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

Since its inception, more than 145,000 residents of New York State have participated in the Citizen Preparedness Corps training classes either through the efforts of DHSES and DMNA, the American Red Cross, or via the online training module. Classes were held in Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Haitian Creole, Burmese, Karen and Russian and for those needing special accommodations, Braille and large-print materials were disseminated and where requested, an American Sign Language interpreter was provided as well as enhanced listening devices for the hard of hearing.

New York State Preparedness Training Center

The New York State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) in Oriskany continues to serve as the State's multi-disciplinary training center for local, State, and Federal first responders. Given the current threat environment, the demand for high-end, hands-on, scenario-driven training has increased dramatically in New York State. The SPTC is the premier location to conduct such training and continues to research, develop and expand upon existing offerings to provide first responders with the best quality instruction available.

Students come to the SPTC from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, including police, fire, EMS, and emergency management, from across New York State and beyond. The SPTC prepares responders to address the most pressing threats facing the State, including terrorists' use of firearms and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). For example, this year, the SPTC began offering the State's four-week Basic SWAT Operator course to increase the number of certified Tactical operators in the State. Additionally, the SPTC continues to emphasize integrated, multi-disciplinary training for first responders.

The Center offers Advanced Active Shooter Scenarios (A2S2) training, which features the integration of Law Enforcement and EMS responders into a Rescue Task Force to ensure victims are treated more efficiently after an event. In 2016, the SPTC launched a new initiative to train responders from a given region together in A2S2; the pilot regional offering was given to responders from the Rochester area and their feedback on the training was excellent. In addition to training courses, the SPTC also supports several large-scale training events. For example, in September, the SPTC hosted the Excelsior Challenge, which is designed to increase interoperability between Bomb Squads, Explosive Detection Canine Teams, Tactical Teams, and EMS providers. More than 120 responders from over 40 different organizations across the State participated in this event.

The Excelsior Challenge featured seven unique scenarios based on real-world events, including terrorist attacks in Paris, San Bernardino, and Brussels. New this year, EMS responders were included for the first time; NY-Responds was incorporated through the use of Mutualink; students from UAlbany's College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity served as role players; and responders tested their radiation detection capabilities using equipment previously provided by DHSES.

The Excelsior Challenge leveraged strong partnerships from across the Division and with local, State, and federal partners to ensure the highest quality training experience for law enforcement and EMS responders that participated.

NY-Alert

NY-Alert is a subscriber-based service in that constituents must “opt-in” in order to receive notifications. Subscribers can select to receive alerts related to imminent threats (e.g. weather related, earthquakes, man-made, radiological and maritime advisories), transportation/traffic, medical/public health (e.g. boil water advisories, sewage discharge), missing persons (Amber, Silver and vulnerable adult alerts), sex offender relocation notifications, Orders of Protection (Family Court and Criminal Court), DMV renewal reminders (license, registration and inspection) as well as consumer protection advisories (e.g. scams and data breaches). Additionally, the State University and City University of New York use NY-Alert to notify students, faculty and staff of campus closures. NY-Alert employs multiple technologies to alert the public, including: reverse 911 mass dialers for voice communications, SMS text messaging, email, facsimile, RSS feeds, website postings and social media (Twitter). NY-Alert is also the primary gateway (interface) to FEMA’s Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). As of August 2016; NYS DHSES, NY State Police, NYC OEM and 26 county OEM’s are authorized to use IPAWS with six additional county OEM’s and NYS DMNA applications pending approval.

GIS Program Office

The ITS Geographic Information System (GIS) Program Office (GPO) routinely provides GIS and mapping support to the Disaster Preparedness Commission. GPO provides continuous support to NYSOEM by updating software and data in the State EOC, providing GIS specialists for mapping and spatial analysis support and NYS Incident Management Team (IMT) deployments. In 2016, GPO staff worked at the State EOC during four radiological emergency preparedness (REP) exercises as well as the Mohawk Cresting drill. GPO staff supported NYS activities related to the water supply contamination issues in Rensselaer County. During the response to the Sam’s Point wildfire in Ulster County in April, GPO staff mobilized to the site with the NYS IMT. In October, GPO staff participated in the NY Wildfire Incident Management Academy as both support staff with the IMT and as students.

Map or data products were provided in support of numerous efforts, including DHSES’ work with communication consortia, State Police support of county dispatch systems, development of the NYS Mesonet, and mapping OVS programs. The GPO coordinated with NYC OEM and DHSES on special event maps for NYC for the 4th of July and Times Square New Year’s Eve to help ensure a common operating picture. In addition, GPO staff were able to provide data needed to restore the GIS data repository at OEM after the related server failed. Many of the datasets created for these events were made available through the Critical Infrastructure Response Information System (CIRIS). NY-Responds Common Operating Picture draws most of its needed GIS data from the CIRIS data repository.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross serves New York State residents by helping them prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, as well as providing lifesaving blood products and health and safety classes.

Red Cross has focused on three disaster preparedness initiatives across New York State. In 2016, volunteers and AmeriCorps members trained 24,561 New Yorkers through the Governor's Citizen Preparedness Corps program, which highlights action steps needed to prepare individuals and families for disasters.

In 2014, the Red Cross launched the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign. This initiative focuses on providing education on how to prepare for and what to do in case of a home fire as well as installing free smoke alarms in homes. In 2016, 44,728 smoke alarms were installed across New York State. Two lives in Utica have been saved by the smoke alarm installs.

The third preparedness initiative sponsored by Disney is the Pillowcase Project. This program focuses on children creating go-kits with pillowcases and teaches children how to prepare for disasters. In 2016, the program has educated 13,221 children on how to prepare for disasters.

Red Cross responded to 3,326 local disasters (over 9 disasters per day) assisting 16,593 individuals. Volunteers helped support immediate needs by providing shelter and financial assistance for items such as food, clothing and bedding.

Red Cross participated in NYS Human Services Leadership and continues to serve as the co-lead for State Mass Care. Red Cross participated in State programs including Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercises, Training and Exercise planning workshop, participation in Mohawk Cresting exercise and the development of the exercise Gotham Shield.

Red Cross supported State Emergency Operation activations, which included events like the standup for Hurricane Hermine and Matthew. Red Cross pre-deployed human and material resources in anticipation of each event and coordinated efforts with State partners.

In the spring of 2016, the Red Cross hosted two disaster institutes. The disaster institute in Manhattan trained over 180 volunteers during a three-day period. In Upstate New York, the Red Cross partnered with NYS OEM to utilize the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany to offer three days of training to over 150 volunteers.

Red Cross continues to collect blood donations to provide blood products to individuals in need. The Red Cross is a full service blood center that stands ready 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week to provide blood to meet normal, special and emergency needs in both large trauma centers and small local hospitals, in the quantities necessary, by the blood types required to help save lives. Red Cross collected nearly 320,000 blood products to support these needs.

Lastly, Red Cross health and safety programs trained more than 298,000 individuals in CPR, First Aid, use of automated external defibrillators, aquatics and other health and safety courses.

RECOVERY IN 2016

Mitigation Efforts

This year, mitigation efforts continued with a strong emphasis on supporting and completing projects submitted under grant cycles tied to Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, the three largest Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) natural disasters in State history. This includes property acquisition in the Mohawk Valley-Upstate Flooding Buyout Program, in which the owners of flood prone properties will close a significant chapter in their lives when their homes are acquired and destroyed and the land is left as open space in perpetuity. All told, 310 homes will be purchased with \$37,033,477 and \$5,541,410 in FEMA and New York State funds, respectively.

The State's Superstorm Sandy HMGP lock-in stands at \$1.44 billion, and all projects were submitted to FEMA on September 30, 2015. Many of these large-scale and complex undertakings have received Part 1 approval to perform needed engineering, studies and design development work and will receive Part 2 construction approval once they are deemed to be cost-effective. Submitted projects and requested funds include:

- Generators at downstate gas stations on evacuation routes (expanded to upstate): \$25.9M;
- Upgrade 106 Scour-Critical Bridges Statewide: \$518M;
- Mesonet Statewide Weather Monitoring System: \$30.5M;
- Western Bays Resiliency Initiative (Bay Park WWTP): \$150M;
- LaGuardia Flood Control: \$30.5M;
- Suffolk County Resiliency Project: \$266.7M;
- Breezy Point Risk Reduction Systems (4300 residents): \$43.5M;
- Spring Creek Wetland and Upland Restoration (151 acres) to Protect Neighborhoods: \$3.3M

Finally, work continued with counties to update their FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans, which identify risks and strategies and serve as the lynchpin for receiving for FEMA bricks-and-mortar grants. In 2016, DHSES had the following activity:

- Eight planning grants submitted in the national annual Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) cycle;
- Five planning grants approved from the 2015 PDM grant cycle;
- Seven multi-jurisdictional plans covering 170 jurisdictions approved by FEMA in 2016.

Public Assistance

Public Assistance Grants are administered through the DHSES' Public Assistance (PA) Section, which strives 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 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 more than \$200 million in additional FEMA funding for the PANYNJ Holland Tunnel repair, completion of the \$4.5 million Schoharie County Office Complex flood wall, approval of South Nassau Community Hospital's Alternate Project to replace the Long Beach Medical Center (\$174 million), dedication of the new Owego-Apalachin Elementary School (with special recognition of DHSES on its dedication plaque), dedication of the new Glen Aubrey VFD building, the return of more than \$15 million in improper reductions to State and local applicants through innovative joint errors and omissions review, and approval of the Sea Gate Association's \$4.6 million sewer repair project. These projects are each critical components to the well-being of their communities' social, cultural, economic, and public safety networks.

Public Assistance Disaster	Incident Period	FEMA #	Federal Share	State Share
Terrorist Attack	Sep. 11, 2001	DR-1391	\$4,689,036,038.86	\$0
Severe Storms and Flooding	May 13-June 17, 2004	DR-1534	\$18,396,230.10	\$5,957,709.33
Severe Storms and Flooding	Aug. 13-Sep. 16, 2004	DR-1564	\$13,991,657.63	\$4,523,210.37
Tropical Depression Ivan	Sep. 16-24, 2004	DR-1565	\$11,505,299.21	\$3,710,757.00
Severe Storms and Flooding	Apr. 2-4, 2005	DR-1589	\$51,562,329.41	\$16,531,665.46
Severe Storms and Flooding	Jun. 26-Jul 10, 2006	DR-1650	\$215,294,818.19	\$62,639,589.62
Severe Storms and Flooding	Oct. 12-25, 2006	DR-1665	\$110,848,510.71	\$36,269,440.18
Severe Storms and Flooding	Nov. 16-17, 2006	DR-1670	\$29,819,007.52	\$8,825,980.91

Severe Storms and Inland and Coastal Flooding	Apr. 14-18, 2007	DR-1692	\$83,289,085.17	\$25,723,085.91
Severe Storms and Flooding	Jun. 19, 2007	DR-1710	\$11,801,583.80	\$3,739,169.83
Severe Winter Storm	March 4, 2009	DR -1827	\$17,953,077.27	\$5,701,210.75
Severe Storms and Flooding	Aug. 8-10, 2009	DR-1857	\$33,628,568.98	\$11,302,219.08
Severe Storms & Flooding assoc. w/ TD Ida and Nor'easter	Nov. 12-14, 2009	DR-1869	\$4,461,884.90	\$1,487,295.06
Severe Storms and Flooding	Mar. 13-31, 2010	DR-1899	\$78,805,422.89	\$26,887,226.34
Severe Storms, Tornadoes & Straight-line Winds	October 14, 2010	DR-1943	\$22,111,062.15	\$7,218,972.44
Severe Winter Storm & Snowstorm	Dec. 26-27, 2010	DR-1957	\$37,824,530.98	\$8,407,785.46
Severe Storms, Flooding, Tornadoes & Straight-line Winds	Apr. 26-May 8, 2011	DR-1993	\$33,016,062.77	\$10,685,946.18
Hurricane Irene	Aug. 26-Sep. 5, 2011	DR-4020	\$452,860,910.27	\$46,650,269.27
Tropical Storm Lee	Sep. 7-11, 2011	DR-4031	\$174,523,284.01	\$47,020,862.67
Hurricane Sandy	Oct. 27-Nov. 8, 2012	DR-4085	\$5,435,384,287.17	\$7,340,821.84
Severe Winter Storm & Snowstorm	Feb. 8-9, 2013	DR-4111	\$21,558,524.12	\$2,407,658.42
Severe Storms and Flooding	Jun. 26-Jul. 10, 2013	DR-4129	\$33,010,277.11	\$2,377,432.46
Severe Storms and Flooding	May 13-22, 2014	DR-4180	\$19,349,196.48	\$6,291,066.47
Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm and Flooding	Nov 17-27, 2014	DR-4204	\$20,324,495.59	\$6,351,975.77
TOTAL			\$11,620,356,145.29	\$358,051,351.00

Other Notable Recovery Efforts in 2016

- The New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) chairs the State-led Disaster Housing Task Force and, in that capacity, coordinates member agencies and organizations to develop strategies for long-term housing recovery following a disaster event. This includes working with federal counterparts to coordinate the receipt of federal resources that support housing recovery.

- On May 10, 2016 at the request of the Governor, the Small Business Administration issued a Disaster Declaration for Kings County with contiguous counties of New York, Queens, and Richmond for a multiple building apartment fire.
- The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) continues to administer a special \$235.4 million Social Services Block Grant to address losses caused by Superstorm Sandy. OCFS is the lead state agency on the project with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), Office of Mental Hygiene (OMH), Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Office for the Aging (SOFA), Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), and Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuses Services (OASAS). Funding supports the delivery of social, health, and mental health services, and the upgrade of damaged public and private facilities that provide these services. To date, over \$200 million of the funds have been spent and OCFS has made over 450 awards to providers, who provided over 5,000,000 individual Social Service Block Grant-type services and completed building repairs and/or renovations. The funds were mostly distributed in New York City and Long Island. A two-year extension was granted until September 30, 2017. Unspent funds are being repurposed to provide services and meet the ongoing needs of individuals and families impacted by the storm through June 30, 2017.
- NYSERDA has protocols in place to provide response to households affected by severe weather events through the EmPower New York and Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR programs.
- Through the NY Prize initiative, 83 community microgrid feasibility assessments were funded, all of which included at least one piece of critical infrastructure. In the next phase of NY Prize, NYSERDA will provide support for an audit grade design and engineering assessment for a select number of studies.

2017 AND BEYOND

Governor Cuomo has proposed a bold agenda for 2017 and beyond with the goal of keeping New Yorkers safe. The threat from cyber-attacks remains, and the Governor is creating a new Cyber Incident Response Team to provide cybersecurity support to state entities, local governments, critical infrastructure and schools. The team will strengthen cyber preparedness and response through outreach, coordinated exercises, and best practices at non-executive State agencies, authorities, local governments, and critical infrastructure. Housed within the DHSES Office of Counter Terrorism, the team will be the first responder to reported cyber incidents and will work with the targeted organization to regain normal operations.

Additionally, plans are well underway to increase State Police and National Guard presence in New York City as part of the Governor's New York Crossings Project. The State Police and the Division of Military and Naval Affairs will assign 150 members and 150 National Guardsmen to bolster security and conduct anti-terror exercises at nine MTA-operated bridges and tunnels.

IN 2016, DHSES conducted over 600 “Operation Safeguard” counter terrorism exercises with state, federal, and local law enforcement partners to test suspicious activity reporting and in 2017, these essential security assessments will continue at critical infrastructure sites in each of the State’s 16 Counter Terrorism Zones.

DHSES OEM will provide direct training to civilian airport employees focused on increasing security awareness and active shooter preparedness, emphasizing the importance on their role in reporting potential threats and appropriately responding during an emergency.

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, and recovering from incidents, and will continue to implement strategies to make New York the most resilient state in the nation.