



New York's Critical Infrastructure Protection Program



New York's State Critical Infrastructure Protection Program is housed in the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT). It is responsible for coordinating critical infrastructure protection activities with public and private sector partners and conducts assessments of critical infrastructure and key resources, and helps to develop protections strategies.

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Program executes statutory mandates under New York State Executive Law 26 to §709 (j) Work with local, state and federal agencies and private entities to conduct assessments of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to terrorist attack, including, but not limited to, nuclear facilities, power plants, telecommunications systems, mass transportation systems, public roadways, railways, bridges and tunnels, and develop strategies that may be used to protect such infrastructure from terrorist attack.

Since January 2013, the Critical Infrastructure Unit has participated in over 60 site visits.

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit supports federal, state and local comprehensive risk analysis to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to terrorism and deny the use of critical infrastructure as a weapon by implementing plans and programs that identify, catalog, prioritize, and protect people and assets in cooperation with all levels of government and private sector.

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Critical Infrastructure Grant Program

The Critical Infrastructure Grant Program (CIGP) was developed by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) to support local first responder's efforts to mitigate risk and enhance protection capabilities at government owned critical infrastructure sites and special event or seasonal at risk locations.

As a part of the competitive application process, local first responders are required to identify a critical infrastructure site or special event or seasonal at risk location and complete a risk assessment at the selected location. Applicants are then required to complete a capability assessment to identify planning, equipment, training and/or exercise needs to prevent incidents and protect the selected critical infrastructure or special event or seasonal at risk location. Lastly, applicants submit a proposed budget which identifies how risk will be reduced and/or capabilities will be enhanced if their application is successful.

The FY 2013 CIGP application period closed on September 4, 2013. Over \$900,000 in funding was requested. New York State is pleased to announce the following awards for the FY 2013 CIGP and congratulates all successful applicants.

City of Albany \$50,000; Broome County \$50,000; Erie County \$50,000; Monroe County \$50,000; Nassau County \$50,000; Niagara County \$49,340; City of Syracuse \$100,000; City of Troy \$48,000; Wayne County \$49,932

DHSES is interested receiving your input regarding the CIGP. Please take 10 to 15 minutes to complete this brief survey [SURVEYLINK](#). If you have any questions regarding this program or would like to discuss your application, please contact the Critical Infrastructure Unit at CIP@dhses.ny.gov.

City of Albany—Critical Asset Assessment Team

In 2010, the City of Albany created the Critical Asset Assessment Team (CAAT), a multi-discipline team comprised of members from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Department of Building and Regulatory Compliance. The CAAT is responsible for conducting risk and threat assessments on critical infrastructure and key recourses, conducting directed patrol and observation of critical and sensitive locations and special events throughout the city. CAAT members participate in regional exercises along with members of the New York State Office of Counter Terrorism, New York State Police and other Federal, State, and local agencies.



The team has evaluated numerous facilities and emergency plans using an all-hazard, multi-discipline approach to identify readiness and capabilities to respond to any emergency within and around these valuable locations and special events. The team assists public and private entities with developing comprehensive emergency preparedness plans in addition to physical, cyber, and operational security enhancements.

School Safety – CAAT in Action

In response to the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut, the CAAT team was tasked with leading the City's school safety effort. CAAT conducted comprehensive threat and risk assessments at forty five schools within the City of Albany. Every building was reviewed, along with their operational and emergency response plans. The information gathered is being process and made available to respective emergency response agencies within the City. *(Continued on Next Page)*

City of Albany—Critical Asset Assessment Team *(continued)*

(Continued from previous page) CAAT members also prepared a binder of over 100 pages to provide each school with options of consideration to improve their safety, security, and operational practices. Included in this binder were materials provided by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and the Albany Police Department to supplement the CAAT review. In conjunction with the binder, all materials were presented to key personnel in each school in the form of an interactive PowerPoint presentation and discussion. The option to follow up with additional training and instruction on emergency planning, preparedness, response and functional operational drill was given to key personnel at each of these schools.



LT M. Bintz, PO L. Dorsey, Cmdr E Commerford, PO X. Kitonyi, SGT V. Thompson, Sen. Insp. D Sherman

Each member of the CAAT brings years of experience and training to the team. Several members are cross-trained to supplement each other's capabilities and provide a depth of understanding that would not be possible without this experience. CAAT members attend training as a team to gather the broadest possible wealth of knowledge. CAAT members are trained and experienced in counter terrorism, emergency management, critical incident management, physical and functional assessments, operation planning and numerous sub disciplines.

City of Syracuse—Central New York Critical Infrastructure Key Resources Protection Team

The Syracuse - Central New York Critical Infrastructure Key Resource Protection Team is comprised of multi-disciplinary representatives from the Syracuse Police Department, Syracuse Fire Department, City of Syracuse Bureau of Research, Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management, Syracuse University Emergency Management, New York State Police, Transportation Security Administration, and Madison County Sheriff's Department who possess knowledge, experience, training, education and expertise in various critical infrastructure sectors.

The Syracuse - Central New York Critical Infrastructure Key Resource Protection Team has worked diligently is to build a safer, more secure and more resilient local community by enhancing the protection of the community's critical infrastructure and key resources to deter, detect, prevent and mitigate the effects of natural, technological and man-made hazards (all-hazards approach) that can negatively impact the community; and to strengthen preparedness, timely response and recovery from any disaster, critical incident or other emergency.



Carrier Dome

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City of Syracuse—Central New York Critical Infrastructure Key Resources Protection Team *(continued)*

(continued from last page) The team provides a systematic and methodical process to assess site vulnerability, threats and all hazards. Using standard methodologies such as CARVER and MSHARP to assess risk, a more consistent vulnerability and threat assessment are achieved facilitating first responder disciplines with managing risk within their jurisdictions.

Since the Team's inception in 2010, the group has established relationships with members of the Central New York community to adopt a risk management framework to enhance the safety and security throughout the region.

The success of our team is directly related to the tremendous alliance, support, and collaboration of the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. The Enhanced Visual Assessment Program (EVAP) has provided the Syracuse - Central New York Critical Infrastructure Key Resource Protection Team with both technical guidance for the local mitigation planning process, as well as the data-gathering and management tools to support local emergency response efforts.

Some of the key critical infrastructures assessed by the Syracuse - Central New York Critical Infrastructure Key Resource Protection Team include:

- ◆ *NBT Bank Stadium*
- ◆ *The William F. Walsh Regional Transportation Center (RTC)*
- ◆ *The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority Transit Hub*
- ◆ *Destiny USA*
- ◆ *Carrier Dome*
- ◆ *Syracuse City Hall*
- ◆ *Clinton Square*



Destiny USA



Clinton Square

Some of the highlights of the Syracuse - Central New York Critical Infrastructure Key Resource Protection Team's achievements are:

- ◆ *Identified and prioritized critical infrastructures and key resource assets in the City of Syracuse and the Central New York Region.*
- ◆ *Acquired Risk Assessment training for team members in order to prioritize CIKR assets, consistent with state and federal methods, standards and practices.*
- ◆ *Conduct Risk Assessments of CIKR community assets.*
- ◆ *Entered and maintain critical infrastructure assessment data into the Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS).*
- ◆ *Acquired funding for CIKRP security enhancement projects.*
- ◆ *Provided CIKRP information to emergency management officials toward improving first responder tactical response plans, consistent with local, state and federal emergency management systems and practices.*
- ◆ *Coordinated regional CIKRP asset information and efforts with local, state and federal levels of government.*

How Is Your Jurisdiction Protecting Your Critical Infrastructure?

We would love to hear from you. Contact CIP@dhses.ny.gov.

Infrastructure Protection and Assessment Teams: Core Components to Success

The Office of Counter Terrorism has led, participated in and assisted with the development of infrastructure protection assessment teams at the Federal, State and Local levels. Through involvement in these partnerships, several core components to success have become evident. Below are some smart practices which should be considered while forming an assessment team.

Leadership Support: The first and most often the toughest component of getting an assessment team established and active is getting the proper agencies to buy into the importance of an assessment team. This buy-in is essential as they must be willing to share their employees and expertise for use on the assessment team.

Smart Practice: Take time early in the process to conduct proper research, preparation and planning to identify the key stakeholders needed to gain approval to move forward with the building and training of an assessment team. These Stakeholders might be the Mayor, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Commissioners, and Directors. They have the oversight of the members you will be seeking, so gaining their buy-in is of the utmost importance. Be prepared for them to ask “what is in it for me”, you will need to have this answer ready so you can gain their support. With a little work this step will help make the rest of the step go easy.

Team Selection: This component is where perspective member’s qualifications as well as their availability of time they are able to devote to the team are reviewed and the best qualified are selected.

Smart Practice: The leadership group identified above can be an excellent consultant group to identify proper team members. Some prospective team members may be capable of filling multiple roles. The following team member positions need to be filled and have the following skills:

Team Lead, is the manager and responsible for setting up all aspects of the assessment with respect to team and asset coordination. This individual should be a strong leader which has demonstrated these skills previously.

Physical Security Member, responsible for evaluating physical security. This individual needs a strong physical security background and must be current on security devices and systems. Often law enforcement personnel fill this role well.

Utilities Member, responsible for evaluating mechanical, electrical and plumbing components. This individual needs to understand and be able to evaluate the supporting systems which keep an asset operating. Often fire, public works and emergency management personnel have skill sets which are applicable here.

Information Technology Member, responsible for evaluating the technological systems utilized by an asset. This individual should have a knowledge base in information security and understanding of technological systems such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition systems. Most government organizations have information technology personnel which carry the skills sets required for this role.

Recognize a need for flexibility: The broad spectrum of infrastructure which assessment teams will likely face can be overwhelming. This variance often requires a slightly different approach and more diverse levels of research. It may also result in varying team sizes as well as the need for specialized subject matter expertise involvement to accomplish an accurate assessment.

Smart Practice: The Team Lead will need to research the site to be assessed and make sure that the team has the appropriate skill sets needed to conduct an assessment. The need might arise to reach out to a local agency to assist the team with a temporary subject matter expert from time to time to meet the skill set required for a certain site. Therefore, it becomes important to have a pool built of subject matter experts to utilize. Remember the right size team with the right skill set will conduct a more efficient assessment and cause less congestion and confusion on the site.

Train the Team: At this point you have selected perspective members who will bring skill sets with them; however they will require training together to grow as a team and conduct assessments effectively. A review of what skills the team has and which are still needed, should be conducted. Then a plan should be developed to overcome any training short comings. The training of the team should be an ongoing plan and set to keep the team current and competent on assessment skills.

Smart Practice: A vital part of sustaining a suitably trained assessment team is giving current and necessary training that will enhance the team strengths and cover any noted short coming found in after action reviews conducted after previous assessments. The Team Lead should plan out regularly team training days that will utilize the skills of the team members and subject matter experts and have them cross level their skill sets. The team should assign an additional duty of Training Manager to one member and have them regularly review the agencies that offer relevant training and consider recommending and sending members to be trained on courses that will enhance and reinforce the overall team’s readiness.