

Michael A. Sprague
Director, Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services



Michael Sprague is currently the Director, Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications (OIEC) within the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), having been appointed to the position on July 14th 2016. In this position, he serves as the State Wireless Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and the Chair of the State Interoperable & Emergency Communication Board, the principle State body responsible for all interoperable and emergency communications issues within the state. This office and its director will oversee and direct the development, coordination and implementation of policies, plans, standards, programs and services related to such public safety communications issues.

Before his appointment to OIEC, he served as the Regional Director for Region IV Central NY for the New York State Office of Emergency Management within DHSES, having been appointed on May 21, 2012. He was directly responsible for the following 7 counties: Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego. The directors' position provides guidance and supervision to state delivered emergency management programs within the region, as well as support and training to the counties in support of their emergency management programs. During numerous Disaster operations, he performed as EOC liaison for the counties, to include: the Herkimer Active Shooter in 2012; State EOC Liaison to NYC during Sandy; the Mohawk Valley Floods in 2013; the North Country Ice Storm of 2013; the Lake Effect snow event of 2014; the tornado outbreak in Madison and surrounding counties in 2014; Flash Flood in Port Leyden. Support for these localities included planning for, response to, recovery efforts and assistance with navigation of the labyrinth of programs from FEMA and other Non-Governmental Organizations.

Michael Sprague has served in the emergency services community for 37 years and specifically in emergency management for 28 years. He began his emergency management career with Steuben County in 1989 and eventually became the Director of Emergency Management/Fire Coordinator for Steuben County in 1996. As such he was responsible for emergency management activities, fire service operations, EMS operations, Coroners operations and all Communications System management throughout his tenure. Steuben County was affected by 16 presidentially declared disasters during his 23 years and was very active in recovery and mitigation issues as a result.

Mr. Sprague is certified as a Regional Fire Instructor with the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, as well as a Com-L instructor for NYS OIEC. He is an instructor for the National Red Cross and has been an instructor for the NYS Office of Emergency Management. He is past Chapter Chair for the Greater Steuben County American Red Cross; past President of Environmental Emergency Services, a 501-C-3 Not for Profit local flood warning group; and past president of the NYS Emergency Management Association. He is the recipient of the Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award from the National Weather Association; the Maurice K. Goddard Excellence by a Water Management Professional Award from the

Susquehanna River Basin Commission; the National Weather Service Excellence in Emergency Management Award; and the NY State Emergency Management Office Organizational Award.

Mr. Sprague currently resides in Cohoes NY with his wife Ramona. Together they have 5 children and 7 wonderful grandchildren. He has his FAA Pilots license with many hours' flight time in single engine and hot air balloon, recently adding the drone rating to his license. He and his wife enjoys summers camping across the state in their 5th wheel rv.