



Disaster Preparedness Commission

2019 Annual Report

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



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Patrick A. Murphy
Chairman

Members of the New
York State Disaster
Preparedness
Commission

Office for the Aging
Department of Agriculture and Markets
Office of Children and Family Services
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Division of Criminal Justice Services
Education Department
Empire State Development Corporation
Energy Research and Development Authority
Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Financial Services
Office of Fire Prevention and Control
Office of General Services
Department of Health
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Division of Homes and Community Renewal
Office of Information Technology Services
Department of Labor
Office of Mental Health
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Division of Military and Naval Affairs
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Public Service Commission
Division of State Police
Department of State
Thruway Authority
Department of Transportation
Office of Victim Services
American Red Cross

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
State Response to Major Emergencies	1
Statewide Disaster Preparedness and Planning Efforts	3
Agency-Specific Disaster Preparedness Activities	4
Office for the Aging	4
Department of Agriculture and Markets.....	6
Office of Children and Family Services	7
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision	9
Division of Criminal Justice Services.....	9
Department of Education	10
Empire State Development Corporation.....	10
Energy Research and Development Authority	10
Department of Environmental Conservation	11
Department of Financial Services	12
Office of Fire Prevention and Control.....	13
Office of General Services	13
Department of Health.....	14
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.....	16
Division of Homes and Community Renewal	19
Office of Information Technology Services.....	21
Department of Labor	23
Office of Mental Health.....	23
Metropolitan Transportation Authority	24
Division of Military and Naval Affairs.....	25
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	27
Office for People with Developmental Disabilities	27
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	28
Public Service Commission.....	30
New York State Police	31
Department of State.....	33
Thruway Authority	34
Department of Transportation	34
Office of Victim Services	37
American Red Cross.....	38

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; coordinating State 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, created the DPC and shifted the State's emergency management efforts from a civil defense strategy to an all-hazards approach. This report is produced pursuant to Executive Law Section 21(3)(i). This report provides an overview of the DPC's efforts during 2019 to enhance New York State's overall preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

STATE RESPONSE TO MAJOR EMERGENCIES

In 2019, DPC agencies responded to numerous events, both natural and man-made, that required a coordinated response. Pursuant to Executive Law Section 21(5), the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Office of Emergency Management (OEM) serves as the functional arm of the DPC. One core function of OEM is to operate the State Emergency Operations Center (State EOC).

The State EOC was operational for almost half of 2019. Out of the more-than 26,000 reports that the New York State Watch Center received during 2019 from various entities across the State, approximately half of those reports resulted in a State response. During the calendar year, the State EOC was activated for 16 separate events, which are detailed below.

During steady state, OEM maintains the State EOC in a readiness posture. The State Watch Center conducts surveillance and monitoring of potential or actual emergencies 365 days per year and 24 hours per day through reports from field staff, social media, news outlets, emergency notifications, dispatch centers, weather monitoring systems, and other sources of information.

The State EOC is activated to Level 4, or Enhanced Monitoring Mode, when there is a situation that requires additional monitoring and potential response coordination across State agencies. OEM staffs the State EOC, coordinates interagency operational activities, and facilitates situational information sharing between State agencies. The State EOC was activated to Level 4 on 13 occasions in 2019.

The State EOC is activated to Level 3, or Partial Activation, when multi-agency coordination is necessary to prepare for or respond to an incident. This requires the activation of several command and general staff positions, OEM staff, and a partial activation of the State's 14 Emergency Service Functions (ESF). ESFs group State resources and capabilities into functional areas to serve as the primary mechanisms for providing assistance at the operational level. The 14 ESFs cover all resource areas and expertise needed depending on the nature of the emergency, such as Transportation,

Mass Care, Logistics, and Public Health. During a Level 3 activation, the appropriate ESFs, along with their ESF Coordinators and select member agencies, will be activated. The State EOC was activated to Level 3 on three occasions in 2019.

The State EOC is activated to Level 2, or Full Activation, when an incident has the potential to cause or is causing significant impacts on the State. In such cases, OEM will activate all command and general staff positions, and most or all ESFs will be activated with member agencies, as conditions warrant. During a Level 2 activation, Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) efforts may be required across all agencies. The State EOC was not activated to Level 2 in 2019.

The State EOC is activated to Level 1, or Full State/Federal Response, when the incident's impact is so severe that federal agency resources and integration are required. During this activation, all ESFs and member agencies are present in the State EOC and are integrated with the corresponding federal ESFs. A State Coordinating Officer will be designated to work in unison with the Federal Coordinating Officer. The State EOC was last activated to Level 1 in October 2012 in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Below is a table of all State EOC activations in 2019, including Operational Periods (OPs):

EVENT NAME	START DATE	END DATE	LEVEL	OPs
Winter Storm	January 19	January 20	3	3
Flooding & Snow	January 24	January 26	3	5
Uncontrolled Vessels on Hudson River	January 25	January 25	3	1
Winter Storm	January 29	January 30	4	3
Ice Jams	January 30	April 24	4	83
Winter Storm	February 11	February 12	4	3
Wind Event	February 24	February 26	4	5
Lake Ontario	April 25	September 18	4	135
Coastal System	October 9	Ongoing	4	5
Wind Storm	October 31	Ongoing	4	47
Election Day	November 5	November 5	4	1
Snow Event	November 11	November 15	4	7
High Wind Event	November 26	November 28	4	5
Thanksgiving Day	November 28	November 28	4	1
Winter Weather	December 1	December 4	4	6
New Year's Eve	December 31, 2019	January 1, 2020	4	1
OPERATIONAL PERIODS				311
EOC ACTIVATIONS TOTAL				16

Among these incidents are four notable events, where the Governor declared a State Disaster Emergency, one of which resulted in a Federal Major Disaster Declaration (Oct. 31 Wind Storm).

On January 19, a winter storm impacted most of New York State, with snow and ice accumulations ranging from over 20 inches in the Adirondacks to several inches in the New York City Metropolitan Area. This storm caused short-term power outages, transportation delays, and closures of roadways, bridges, rail, airport, and other mass transit across the state. The Governor declared a State Disaster Emergency on January 19, 2019 (Executive Order 193).

In April, the impacts of rising water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River created flooding across more than 400 miles of shoreline impacting eight (8) counties. The incident resulted in 2,297 requests for State action or assistance, all of which were addressed and completed. The incident resulted in 24 sandbag fillers filling and deploying 1,174,665 sandbags. An additional 1,584,131 empty sandbags were requested by impacted municipalities. There was 10,384 feet of water bladder deployed, 500 Jersey barriers, 484 2" to 6" pumps, and 24 variable message boards, multiple vehicles, heavy equipment and personnel deployed in response. The Governor declared a State Disaster Emergency on May 20, 2019 (Executive Order 195).

On October 31, Upstate New York was impacted by a wind and rain event that caused significant flooding and damage, particularly in Central New York in the Herkimer, Oneida, Madison, and Montgomery County areas. There were major state and local road closures due to washouts, bridge damage, mud slides, and flooding. There were 215 requests for OEM to provide machinery, crews, equipment, or supplies in response and support of this incident. The Governor declared a State Disaster Emergency on November 1, 2019 (Executive Order 197) and a Federal Major Disaster was declared on December 18, 2019 (DR7772).

Lastly, on December 1, a winter storm impacted New York with snow accumulations of over 20 inches in the Capital and Hudson Valley Regions. This storm caused significant transportation impacts, particularly to urban areas in the Capital Region. The Governor declared a State Disaster Emergency on December 2, 2019 (Executive Order 199).

STATEWIDE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING EFFORTS

During 2019, the members of the DPC engaged in several initiatives that strengthened the State's preparedness posture and ability to respond to disasters, both natural and man-made. These efforts included updating the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), updating and enhancing the State's Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP), and updating agency specific Emergency Management Operation Protocols (EMOP).

The State CEMP details the preparedness, response, and recovery roles and responsibilities for all emergencies. Over the last year, DHSES, with input from the DPC

agencies, continued to build upon and refine the State CEMP. Throughout the year, staff from various DPC agencies met for multiple planning meetings, workshops, and exercises. As part of an ongoing planning process, DHSES continued to make refinements to all ESF planning documents, including testing of numerous operational guides, job aids, and checklists. During this process, training workshops, exercises, and real-world events were used to inform, adjust, and reinforce revisions to the CEMP.

In January, OEM initiated a multi-pronged effort to improve continuity planning across all State agencies, including leading a state agency COOP working group. The working group provided assistance and guidance on continuity planning, ensuring consistency across all state agencies, and identifying best practices to help agencies develop sound and actionable continuity plans. OEM led two working group meetings last year and hosted 22 continuity plan review sessions with state agencies to ensure that continuity plans were updated.

DPC agencies also worked to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery efforts through the update of EMOPs. Leveraging a common framework and guidance developed by DHSES, state agencies initiated their annual update cycle to the EMOPs. The EMOPs serve as a concise, user-friendly document that encompasses agency-specific efforts towards preparedness, response, and recovery activities in accordance with common emergency management planning principles. Throughout the planning and revision process, DHSES provided technical assistance and guidance to state agencies, while ensuring consistency across all agencies.

OEM led the state's efforts for reaccreditation under the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). EMAP is an independent non-profit organization that fosters excellence and accountability in emergency management and homeland security. To achieve accreditation, the state must demonstrate that its emergency management program meets or exceeds a set of 64 national standards through documentation and peer reviews. The State was reaccredited in December 2019. This accreditation is valid for 5 years and expires in December 2024.

AGENCY-SPECIFIC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

Each DPC agency engaged in several initiatives to improve their emergency management posture. The efforts by these agencies helped enhance the State's overall capacity to effectively respond to natural and manmade disasters.

Office for the Aging

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) produced an Emergency Management Operations Protocol (EMOP) document as part of the statewide effort to codify each agency's ability to respond to disasters. The EMOP, approved by the DHSES and State Operations, outlines the steps that NYSOFA management and disaster response staff will take to assist state efforts during emergencies and the aftermath as part of the human services core group of agencies. DHSES and State Operations approved the document in July 2019.

All state agencies were required to develop and submit a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), in accordance with specific guidelines provided by DHSES. The COOP provides a structure for responding to situations where routine office activities cannot be accomplished within the currently existing infrastructure; this may include events ranging from a temporary inability to operate from NYSOFA's offices in Agency Building Two, to catastrophic losses of the building or personnel. Every NYSOFA division was involved in the development of the COOP. DHSES approved this document in May 2019. Additionally, NYSOFA held a mandatory training for all agency staff on the COOP so that staff was familiar with the contents of the agency COOP and have the assurance that should an emergency occur, NYSOFA has plans developed to guide employees through the event. COOP training is mandatory for all new staff.

During the early November windstorm activation, NYSOFA staff provided full-time coverage at the State EOC. NYSOFA staff also provided support at the local centers in those communities impacted by the storm. Management and disaster response staff were among those assigned to Disaster Assistance Service Centers in Hamilton, Herkimer, and Oneida Counties.

NYSOFA worked to ensure that enough staff were trained and able to report to the State EOC in the event of a disaster. NYSOFA doubled the number of staff trained to work in the State EOC during disasters. NYSOFA also developed "go kits" for use by staff assigned to Disaster Assistance Service Centers following a major weather event or emergency. The kits contain a variety of materials on programs and services of most benefit to older adults as they recover from an event, along with basic office supplies. Ongoing plans include working with DHSES on geo-mapping congregate meal sites, central kitchens, and senior centers that are part of NYSOFA's network.

Each year, NYSOFA conducts on-site monitoring of county Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to ensure that programs and services meet federal and state regulations. During the 2019-2020 review cycle, monitoring included sections from the State Plan on Aging regarding local emergency preparedness coordination for older adults. As part of the AAAs' progress reports, each AAA provided information detailing their role in local emergency preparedness efforts. AAAs described how they coordinate activities and develop long-range emergency preparedness plans with local, tribal, and state government and emergency response agencies. The review included a description of procedures to anticipate and meet the needs of older adults with access and functional needs, including individuals with disabilities and those with dementia and related disorders, during a disaster.

NYSOFA staff also participated in radiological exercises, including the federal practice exercise for Indian Point in September 2019. Aging Services was tasked with providing information related to services for older adults within the evacuation areas surrounding nuclear facilities during multiple exercises each year for all of New York's nuclear plants. NYSOFA also participated in the biannual meetings of the Nuclear Operations Committee of the New York State Power Pool.

Department of Agriculture and Markets

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM), in partnership the Department of Environmental Conservation, Animal Health Diagnostic Lab at Cornell University, Cornell Waste Management, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) program, conducted a full-scale functional training exercise in early 2019 to prepare for and respond to a potential disease outbreak in bird populations. Responders were trained in incident command and human health and safety, as well as humane-certified foreign animal disease control techniques and practices.

Field staff received training on Foreign Animal Disease surveillance investigation and testing. Field veterinarians also received training on human depopulation, disposal, and decontamination techniques as approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association and USDA-APHIS. Trainings were held across the state through 2019 on safety, equipment use, and decontamination.

In June, AGM offered a free, two-day emergency animal handling and shelter training to Community Animal Response Team (CART) volunteers across the State. The training was planned and coordinated with the assistance of DHSES, OEM, the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, and the Albany Police Department – Mounted Division. Participants were certified in safe and humane small animal handling skills in the event of a severe weather or other emergency.

In October, the Onondaga CART offered a large-animal rescue class to responders. AGM coordinated with OFPC to support the training by providing a location at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse and a life-sized replica horse from the USDA Animal Import Center.

AGM field inspectors in the divisions of dairy and milk services, food safety, animal industry, plant industry, and weights and measures in Syracuse, Rochester, Albany, Brooklyn, and Long Island completed a clandestine lab awareness course administered by the New York State Police, giving staff the knowledge to understand the components of this type of operation, its inherent risks, and how to report them. The class also included attendees from Division of Military Naval Affairs, Suffolk County Police, and other local outside agencies in support of DSHES' Long Island Planning Committee.

AGM hosted a Managing Food Emergencies: Strategies for a Community Response (MGT-447) training course in September 2019, in conjunction with Louisiana State University. The course provided attendees highly technical guidance on developing plans to effectively respond to a large food emergency. The course encouraged multi-disciplinary, multi-agency planning to quickly mobilize resources in a food emergency. The course utilized a whole community approach combined with the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System (ICS), and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to respond to food emergencies and addresses each phase of

incident response and recovery. Participants were from AGM, NYS Department of Health, and the United States Food and Drug Administration.

In early November, AGM supported the activation of the State Emergency Operations Center in response to serious storm damage in the Mohawk Valley region. In addition to EOC staffing, AGM also staffed regional assistance centers over a period of several days.

In late 2019, with support of the DHSES Office of Interoperable Emergency Communications (OIEC), AGM launched an aggressive radio system replacement project at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. AGM deemed the previous, aging radio system obsolete since it had partial service coverage, no redundancy, and no provision to communicate with other local, state, and federal agencies in the event of a disaster.

AGM provided training to staff throughout the State in crisis de-escalation. This included providing the certified “Stop the Bleed” training, conducted in partnership with American Medical Response (AMR), to more than 200 staff members from Long Island to Buffalo. The program was also implemented at the State Fairgrounds, which included placement of bleeding control kits in every building. AGM also provided customized de-escalation training to the NYS Liquor Authority.

Office of Children and Family Services

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) maintained a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Emergency Management Operations Protocol (EMOP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) as well as a Ready Emergency Data (RED) book to support mission-essential, agency-wide operations. These plans are reviewed and updated annually. OCFS participated in the state EMAP and COOP accreditation processes.

OCFS updated its Emergency Response Plan for OCFS offices. This plan provided guidance for employees to respond to emergency situations. The rollout of this updated plan includes training at each of the OCFS offices that started in November 2019 and will continue through the first quarter of 2020.

To maintain its emergency response readiness, OCFS maintained a list of volunteers to staff the agency desk at the State EOC in the event of a statewide activation. OCFS also used desktop geographic information system (GIS) software packages and the web-based Critical Infrastructure Response Information System (CIRIS) to identify facilities and providers in impacted areas for disaster response. OCFS used OCFS NY-Alert as its primary notification system to contact employees in an efficient and simultaneous manner in the event of a work-related emergency. Additionally, OCFS used the Disaster Asset Management System (AMS) application for tracking agency assets deployed during disasters. OCFS participated in the AMS training leading up to its roll out.

In response to the October 31 severe weather event, OCFS deployed staff to the State EOC in support of the ESF 6 activation. OCFS staff were on duty from November 7, 2019 through November 14, 2019. OCFS deployed 13 volunteers to fill 40 site manager and

site support staff positions at the State Disaster Assistance Service Centers for the operational period.

During 2019, OCFS participated in the following trainings and exercises run by the Disaster Preparedness Commission, which focused on disaster training and response protocols: State Emergency Preparedness Assessment Update; DHSES THIRA Workshop; New York State Emergency Operations Center Course; New York Responds Course; and a Mass Casualty Planning Workshop.

OCFS also participated in Radiological Emergency Planning (REP) exercises. OCFS supported the Westchester County EOC activation for the Indian Point plume exercise. OCFS also supported the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management with Indian Point training for childcare providers located in the 10-Mile Emergency Planning Zones. OCFS also participated in the DOH Pediatric Surge Tabletop Exercise and the Pediatric Surge Annex Planning Group Workshop.

OCFS partnered with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), State OEM and the Office of Mental Health to present a COOP Workshop at the New York Public Welfare Association summer conference. OCFS, OTDA, and OMH also presented on the topic of selfcare at the conference.

OCFS' juvenile justice facilities participated in the New York State Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (NYS e-FINDS), the emergency location tracking system to track facility residents in the event of an evacuation.

OCFS also served as a member/participant in the following: NYS Emergency Support Function 6; Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee; NYS Nuclear Safety Subcommittee power pool bi-annual meeting; Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group; and DOH pediatric surge expert input planning group.

OCFS staff attended the annual Institute for Disaster Mental Health training and conference on supporting children after trauma and disaster: Protecting New York's Future.

OCFS and OTDA, as leads to the Disaster Assistance Center Group of the Emergency Support Function 6, developed a four-part training project to enhance the response capabilities of the Disaster Assistance Center group for future response. During previous disasters, OCFS identified a need to provide more detailed training to state agency volunteers that may be involved in the staffing and management of Disaster Assistance Center sites established following a disaster declaration.

- Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) Training for Local Jurisdictions - This training provides an overview of DRC considerations that local jurisdictions should be aware of in advance of the opening of these centers.
- DRC Training Overview (Volunteer Recruitment) - This training provides an overview of the DRC environment. This training is geared toward OTDA and OCFS

staff who are contemplating volunteering to work in a DRC to support operations, specifically in our intended capacity as site managers.

- DRC Training Provider Agencies - This training is for partner agencies from other state, federal, local, and non-governmental organizations that will be supporting DRC operations. This training will focus on what providers should expect at the DRC and will provide an overview of the services commonly offered at the DRCs.
- DRC Training for Site Management (OTDA/OCFS specific) - This training provides detailed information about DRC Operations and Management to OTDA/OCFS site management staff. This training will serve as a “How-To” guide to help site managers understand what is expected of them, from preparing the site for opening to supporting daily operations through the demobilization/closure of the centers.

Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) personnel supported emergency incidents as well as training and exercises to sharpen the agency’s response capabilities.

DOCCS and the Community Supervision Correctional Emergency Response Teams staff were deployed to assist with missing person searches in Minnewaska State Park and Chautauqua County.

To support ongoing flood mitigation efforts along the Lake Ontario shoreline, DOCCS staff and inmate work crews participated in the production and placement of sandbags and the placement and demobilization of water bladders to help prevent flooding.

DOCCS staff from Corcraft, Food Production, and various correctional facilities throughout the state were also deployed to pick up and deliver assets such as pallets, sandbags, pumps, etc. from various DHSES strategic stockpiles and deliver them to affected areas throughout the state.

DOCCS staff also participated in training and exercises related to disaster preparedness, including radiological exercises and FEMA evaluated exercises as well as participation in mass fatality response training, emergency assistance, and drone exercises.

Division of Criminal Justice Services

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) continued to utilize the NY- ALERT notification system to communicate information on missing persons. DCJS’ Missing Persons Clearinghouse used the system to distribute missing vulnerable adult, missing child, and missing college student alerts to the public, travel hubs, and other entities, such as hospitals, bus terminals, and New York State Thruway rest areas and toll barriers. DCJS also used the system to send emergency alerts to employees, when appropriate. The system allowed the agency to communicate with employees who performed several essential functions in the event of an emergency or disaster, including, but not limited to, processing of arrest fingerprints submitted by police agencies and administration and maintenance of the state’s Sex Offender Registry.

One DCJS employee served as liaison to the State EOC while another 18 employees trained as EOC volunteers, in case circumstances warrant extended activation of the EOC. DCJS was represented on the State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board and the state's Next Generation 911 Working Group.

DCJS staff also reviewed and updated the agency's COOP plan and its Emergency Management Teamwork with the Office of General Services to identify an alternate work location should the agency's offices at the Gov. Alfred E. Smith State Office Building be inaccessible or unusable. Finally, the agency was committed to ensuring that all employees receive COOP training. The Office of Human Resource Management oversaw this process, tracking training of all new employees and biannual training of current employees through the Statewide Learning Management System.

Department of Education

The New York State Department of Education (SED) participated in several disaster response exercises, including all the preparation and federally evaluated Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercises. SED continued to review and work with school districts to ensure their safety, continuity, and communication plans were up to date and submitted to state public safety agencies as appropriate. SED continued to work closely with public safety agencies including State Police, DHSES, and DCJS to enhance the overall safety of schools as part of the School Safety Improvement Team.

Empire State Development Corporation

Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) continued to help New Yorkers affected by elevated water levels in the vicinity of Lake Ontario and the Saint Lawrence River in 2017 and 2019 through its administration of the Lake Ontario Small Business Recovery Fund and the Lake Ontario Business Resiliency Program.

The Lake Ontario Small Business Recovery Fund was created in 2017 to provide grants to small businesses, not for profit organizations, farms, homeowner's associations, and owners of multiple dwellings impacted by flooding due to the elevated level of Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence Seaway and surrounding waterways between January and August of 2017. The program compensated eligible entities for physical damages caused by the flooding and revenues lost as a result of the flooding. All applications were due by the end of 2017. ESD has disbursed more than \$3.6 million.

The Lake Ontario Business Resiliency Program was similarly developed in response to the extended pattern of flooding along the shores of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The program will provide up to \$30 million in grant funding to eligible entities that sustained physical flood-related damage or possess a demonstrated vulnerability by compensating awardees for a portion of the costs of capital improvement projects that improve business resiliency. All applications were due on January 31, 2020.

Energy Research and Development Authority

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) administers the Fuel NY Initiative, which consists of two components: The Strategic Fuel

Reserve and the Gasoline Station Generator programs. As part of the Strategic Fuel Reserve, NYSERDA maintains two regional strategic fuel reserves. The Downstate Strategic Gasoline Reserve contains 2.5 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.

The Gasoline Station Generator Programs are the second component of the Fuel NY program. As of December 2019, the programs supported the deployment and installation of 851 transfer switches and 195 permanent generators to downstate retail motor fuel stations (i.e., Rockland, Westchester, Suffolk, and Nassau counties, plus New York City). The infrastructure investments at these locations has made hundreds of stations “back-up power ready” as well as ensure back-up power availability at strategic locations in times of power outage caused by an emergency. NYSERDA partnered with the Department of Agriculture and Markets to ensure successful implementation and operation of these programs.

In times of emergency response, NYSERDA has protocols in place to provide response to low- and moderate-income households affected by severe weather events through the EmPower New York and Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR programs.

Department of Environmental Conservation

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) developed an interagency, web-based system for reporting and communicating about Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) across the state, called NYHABS. NYHABS increased the efficiency of HABs communication between DEC, the Department of Health (DOH), and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), as well as with the public. NYHABS was also used to generate a HABs Report for DHSES Daily Report to communicate to the Executive Chamber and Regional Representatives.

Over 3,500 reports of HABs were entered through NYHABS on 180 waterbodies across the state in its first year of use. Of these waterbodies, 27 of them had public water supplies and 64 of them had public bathing beaches. The NYHABS system operated from June 1st to October 31st and received considerable use by the public with over 15,000 views on a single day in early August. Over the course of its first season, there were over 136,000 views of NYHABS. Several other states have contacted DEC for guidance in developing similar communication platforms, as NYHABS and the overall NYS HABs communications and response program has become a model program for the United States.

DEC led, planned, and coordinated a full-scale exercise that spanned two days in the Alexandria Bay and Clayton areas of the St. Lawrence River. Operation Secure the

Seaway (STS) included prevention, protection, mitigation, and response, and/or recovery to the following threat and hazards: an oil spill, radiation detection operation, hazardous substance plume, and crossing the international border to address the emergency. Based on real world intelligence the operation objectives of STS were to conduct a maritime based radiological detection exercise to help improve homeland security, test the St. Lawrence River/Seaway small vessel CONOPS, and improve the maritime safety on the St. Lawrence River coastal waters.

DEC led the New York State Interagency Workgroup on Crude Oil Preparedness. Other members of the Workgroup include DOH, DOT, DHSES, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard. DEC completed reviews of Geographic Response Plan deliverables for the original (21) crude-by-rail counties and added four new counties to the program. These deliverables will be used for planning and preparing for any potential response to a crude oil accident, as well as any other petroleum release along New York's major rail lines. DEC compiled specifications for outfitting two additional spill response trailers, supplementing the 24 trailers equipped with specialized spill response equipment that have been previously deployed across crude-by-rail corridors.

As part of the Geographic Response Plan (GRP) program, DEC developed and provided spill response trailer training in the GRP counties. The training provided hands-on instruction for local first responders on how to utilize the trailer equipment safely and effectively. The GRP online mapper was updated with the latest GRP revisions, and additional Emergency Response tools were added to the mapper for First Responder utilization.

DEC also continued its Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) collection program. The program was developed and implemented with the help of the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The goal of the program is to remove AFFF foam that contains harmful PFOA/PFOS from storage and circulation as well as prohibit its further use. DEC continues to coordinate foam pickup and disposal. Over 33,000 gallons of foam has been safely disposed of as a result of this program, which has become a model for other states.

Department of Financial Services

The New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) assisted New Yorkers in the Mohawk Valley following the Halloween storm by deploying staff and utilizing DFS' Mobile Command Unit to help residents and business owners file insurance claims. DFS' Consumer Assistance Unit also worked with Queens residents who were affected by a sewer main backup in Inwood.

DFS continued to direct regulated entities to update disaster response and recovery plans to ensure they are prepared to address consumer needs before and after disaster strikes. DFS also created a new Cybersecurity Division focused on protecting consumers and industries from cyber threats, the first of its kind established at a banking or insurance regulator.

Office of Fire Prevention and Control

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) supported New York State's citizens, fire departments, and fire service professionals through firefighter and professionals training programs; emergency response; public fire safety education; fire inspections of designated occupancies; fire investigations; and advice and technical assistance to all levels of government in emergencies and routine fire protection-related matters.

OFPC provided technical assistance to local responders in highly specialized areas, including hazardous materials and technical rescue incidents. Operational capabilities exist in-house that allow OFPC to provide technical advice or perform specialized response operations, based on State and local need.

OFPC responded to 168 incidents in 2019, several of which required the deployment of New York Task Force 2 (NYTF-2), the State's Urban Search and Rescue Team. NYTF-2 is a specialized team comprised of OFPC staff and local first responders skilled in structural collapse rescue, excavation emergencies, technical rope rescues, confined space rescue, and other specialized rescues. In 2019, NYTF-2 was deployed in response to high-water events, including the Lake Ontario flooding and response to the October 31st flooding. OFPC personnel completed 65 confirmed rescues in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. Additionally, OFPC also deployed Unmanned Aerial Systems in support of search and rescue missions, damage assessments, and fire investigations.

OFPC also supported fire safety and public protection operations at multiple mass gathering events, in 2019, including Jones Beach State Park Air Show on Memorial Day weekend, the Belmont Stakes in June, the Great New York State Fair, Saratoga Raceway in August, and the Westminster Dog Show. In addition, OFPC provided fire suppression support with a firefighting foam trailer, Incident Command System support and public fire safety education at the NASCAR weekend at Watkins Glen International Speedway.

OFPC continues to assess risks posed by the transportation of crude oil by rail across the state and enhance the state's capacity to respond to potential oil spills. In 2019, OFPC and partner agencies, which make up the New York State Foam Task Force, administered annual refresher training for firefighters and conducted drills with local first responders. OFPC staff also participated in numerous preparedness exercises and activities in 2019, including the Indian Point Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercise and a tabletop exercise at Watkins Glen International Speedway.

Office of General Services

The New York State Office of General Services (OGS) completed emergency requests during day-to-day operations or when a significant incident occurred. OGS program staff were pre-assigned to the State EOC and were available upon request by the DHSES-OEM. OGS engaged in emergency response operations 20 times through transportation of generators, sandbags, and bottled water, three EOC activations, and participation in annual REP exercises. OGS also received State assistance three times as DHSES

supplied bottled water, light towers, and cots to support the Empire State Plaza's July 4th Celebration event.

After a Category 5 hurricane struck the Bahamas, New York State initiated a drop-off donations drive at state facilities to supplement relief efforts. In response, OGS offered to accept and manage public donations at the Empire State Plaza (Albany), John J. Hughes State Office Building (Syracuse), and Walter J. Mahoney State Office Building (Buffalo). OGS staff reported a tally of donations daily to DHSES and transported donations from the collection boxes to sorting facilities.

OGS Mail and Freight Services was the primary shipper for the Department of Health's Office of Health Emergency Preparedness, including incoming and outgoing shipments of emergency medical equipment and supplies for the Medical Emergency Response Cache (MERC) warehouse in Guilderland and the Brentwood Consolidated Warehouse/Distribution Center (BDC). OGS completed more than 34 deliveries of medical supplies and resources. The BDC also securely stored medical products and Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets deployable in a disaster, including a bio-terrorist attack.

OGS Fleet Management (Fleet) played a centralized role in ensuring that all agency vehicle and equipment assets are available, deployable, and in good working condition in an emergency. Transportation professionals within Fleet were tasked with protecting all employees, constituent commuters, and other drivers on the road, as well as safeguarding OGS assets. Fleet took a proactive approach in preparing for and managing its assets during an emergency, which entailed a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, and evaluating assets to ensure effective coordination during incident response. Fleet attempted to identify any vulnerabilities in its operations so that it could take corrective actions in advance and avoid any shutdowns during an emergency. Ongoing inspections, maintenance, and testing programs, as well as training procedures, were in place so that all vehicles and equipment were usable, in proper working order, and available for immediate deployment. Lines of communication and protocols were established so that Fleet management principals were always reachable during an emergency and OGS fueling sites could operate on a round-the-clock basis. Staffing levels were increased when necessary.

OGS also provided several resources to assist state agencies, local governments, school districts, authorized users of state contracts, and the public during emergencies. Upon the Governor's declaration of a State of Emergency, OGS posted a guide to these resources on its website including information and links to construction emergency contracts, purchasing and service contracts, and hazardous incident response equipment. Lists of previously approved construction vendors were made available to municipalities and the public.

Department of Health

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) conducted emergency operations in support of the Winter Storm Harper activation that included activation of multiple Regional

Operation Centers. In March, DOH was involved in developing a solution to an imminent shut down of a laboratory services company that would threaten the health and welfare of residents in several Nursing Homes. DOH also provided response to the Rockland County measles outbreak, the largest measles outbreak in the United States in 25 years. Point of Dispensing (POD) operations providing post-exposure prophylaxis were supported in Oneida County (September), Niagara County (November), and Onondaga (December). DOH also responded to extensive damage in North Country counties from a November wind and rainstorm that included the establishment of multiple Disaster Recovery Centers. The Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (eFINDS), a patient tracking system, was used during seven actual emergency evacuations during 2019.

From a planning standpoint, the Health Care Facility Evacuation Center (HEC) Plan and HEC Facility Guidance Document were updated. Coastal Storm Planning efforts resulted in 100 percent of New York City-based facilities completing the required elements of the health care Facility Evacuation Planning Application (FEPA) that includes send/receive arrangements and critical facility infrastructure information. DOH continued to develop the Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) concept throughout the state that supports multi-agency organizations responsible for regional Emergency Support Function (ESF-8) preparedness activities and information sharing during emergencies. DOH was involved with State OEM on further development of the state ESF plans and provision of feedback on state level plans. Updates to the Mass Fatality and Pandemic Flu plans were completed. Work continues on the State Burn Plan.

Through the Regional Training Centers (RTC), training sessions included, but were not limited to: COOP; e-FINDS; Burn Life Support; Disaster Life Support; Trauma Care; HAZMAT; Stop-the-Bleed Train-the-Trainer; Pediatric Disaster Response; and Disaster Triage. DOH staff participated in National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS), Disaster Mental Health, and NY Responds courses. Volunteer Management Request Training was offered and remains available to Local Health Departments (LHDs) and facilities across the state. Psychological First Aid Train-the-Trainer was offered to hospitals and LHDs statewide. DOH staff conducted monthly Clinical Operations and Medical Countermeasures trainings with LHDs. Medical Emergency Response Inventory Tracking System (MERITS) training was provided across the state to LHDs. HEC Application training was conducted for all partners providing staffing support to HEC operations. FEPA Training was conducted for healthcare facilities in New York City. Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) training was provided to and remains available for all Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities across the state.

DOH also participated in numerous exercises during the year to sharpen readiness. During the recent measles outbreak, DOH conducted a Measles Tabletop Exercise to prepare for a potential suspect case identified at a children's summer camp. Coalition Surge Tests were conducted in each Region throughout the State that involved a multi-facility evacuation scenario. DOH sponsored the statewide annual public health emergency preparedness exercises testing LHD capabilities to conduct Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Dispensing operations.

DOH participated in the FEMA Crimson Contagion Exercise. During that exercise DOH leveraged the players gathered and conducted a Pediatric Surge Tabletop Exercise, Vaccination of Critical Workforce facilitated discussion, statewide Interoperable Communication (IOC) Drill, and Health Operations Center (HOC) Drill. DOH supported designated Ebola Assessment and Treatment Centers in exercising capabilities. DOH staff traveled throughout the state to conduct CHEMPACK sustainment activities to ensure that the CHEMPACK containers contain up to date MCMs. DOH also conducted a full-scale MCM distribution exercise testing DOH ability to acquire, manage, transport, and track medical materials during an incident.

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) coordinates the State's efforts in preparing for, mitigating, and responding to emergencies throughout the State.

DHSES' OEM serves as the operational arm of the DPC and ensures that the State is appropriately trained and coordinated to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards that face the State. In addition to operating the EOC, OEM oversees the 24/7 State Watch Center and regional field staff responsible for coordinating with state and local partner and providing statewide situational awareness.

DHSES developed the County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) to assist State and local stakeholders with assessing their risk, capabilities, and the potential need for support and resources during emergencies or disasters. This assessment tool—provides for a standardized and repeatable process to understand capabilities at the county level and identify statewide trends and preparedness gaps. The next round of CEPA sessions began in early 2020 and will continue through 2021. In addition to DHSES, several other DPC agencies regularly participate in the CEPA workshops held across the State. Due to New York's success with the CEPA program, several other states are considering adopting the methodology for their risk and capability assessment efforts as well.

OEM provided multiple training opportunities for local governments including radiological emergency preparedness and general emergency preparedness. OEM is also responsible for the Emergency Management Certification and Training Program, which was developed to support Governor Cuomo's strategy of creating unified emergency management training, education, communication, and response protocols. This training is divided into three levels: Tier 1 for county chief executives, Tier 2 for county emergency managers, and Tier 3 for local public officials, local agencies, first responder leadership, and other partners. In 2019, OEM offered 26 tier trainings to more than 600 people.

OEM's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program conducted two federally evaluated exercises and one off-year exercise. On June 25, 2019, OEM conducted the Exelon James A. FitzPatrick power plant federally evaluated exercise with New York State and Oswego County. On August 20, OEM conducted the Exelon Robert E. Ginna

nuclear power plant federally evaluated exercise with Wayne and Monroe counties. These federally evaluated exercises provided additional training opportunities for staff. In addition, OEM conducted the Entergy Indian Point Energy Center off-year exercise with Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange counties on November 20, 2019.

DHSES' Asset Management Division managed the State's ten strategic stockpiles located throughout New York State. These stockpiles contain various items and equipment that can be deployed to assist in an emergency. During 2019, bottled water, light towers, generators, pumps, sandbags, portable dams, and chainsaws were deployed in response to incidents across New York State.

DHSES also operates the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) in Oriskany, NY. During 2019, more than 13,500 first responders were trained by the SPTC. Utilizing the state-of-the-art facilities at the SPTC, DHSES conducted training courses on a variety of topics, including Initial Response to Active Shooters, Rescue Task Force, Officer Survival Tactics, and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations and also provided hand-on training for bomb squads, canine teams, and tactical teams. The newly opened swift water training facility, located at the SPTC, is the nation's first training facility dedicated to solely training public safety professionals in swift water rescue techniques. In 2019, its first full year of operations, nearly 800 first responders were trained by the OFPC in the swift water venue.

DHSES continued its partnership with the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) at the University of Albany. Since its inception, CEHC has seen enrollment outpace expectations with over 650 undergraduate majors and 280 minors currently enrolled in the EHC major. CEHC absorbed the Informatics major in Spring 2018, for a total undergraduate population of approximately 1,100 students. DHSES helped CEHC shape the next generation of leaders in these fields through its internship program. In 2019, DHSES provided 49 internship opportunities for CEHC students, and over 155 since the program's inception. DHSES also participated in CEHC's capstone courses which allowed advanced students to work on a defined problem and present answers and potential solutions to DHSES staff.

DHSES' Office of Counterterrorism (OCT) continued to expand its successful Red Team exercises. In partnership with local law enforcement and private businesses, OCT's Red Teams worked to raise awareness of the precursors of terrorism and New York State's "See Something Say Something" campaign in over 1,000 industries.

In 2019, the DHSES' Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT) provided incident response support across New York State. CIRT continues to serve as a go-to resource for county and local governments and non-Executive agencies and authorities by providing onsite and remote assistance with cyber incidents and investigations. CIRT works with its partners to provide actionable cyber-intelligence to local governments and law enforcement organizations. DHSES also expanded its cybersecurity partnership with the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, a partnership started by Governor Cuomo in 2016. This team was fully integrated into DHSES' cybersecurity efforts and supported incident

response, outreach, and assessments. DHSES conducted multiple in-depth cybersecurity assessments for local governments. In addition, the CIRT led the effort to secure elections and served as an important resource for State and county boards of election.

DHSES' Office of Disaster Recovery supported New York State's request of a major federal disaster declaration for flooding, severe storms, and straight-line winds that affected 18 counties on October 31, 2019. The Recovery Office and the NYC Office of Emergency Management coordinated their efforts to obtain a United States Small Business Administration declaration for a Kings County apartment fire that occurred on April 3. In addition, the Recovery Office supported the Governor's Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant program by providing technical support to the Commission and five regions. The Recovery Office also provided assistance to Suffolk County regarding federal disaster grant eligibility determinations related to a severe storm caused by a microburst on June 30 and coastal erosion caused by a subtropical storm in mid-October. The Recovery Office continued to work on the major disaster declaration granted for flooding in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes Regions as well as the administrative closeout of legacy disasters.

DHSES' Office of Disaster Recovery continued to work with counties to update FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans, which identify risks and strategies and are essential to receive FEMA mitigation grants. Staff provided information on upcoming FEMA funding opportunities and assisted in application development for eligible projects. In September, seven applications were submitted to FEMA for more than \$4.7 million in acquisition and elevation projects. This outreach resulted in 29 applications for review and ranking for FEMA's nationwide annual hazard mitigation solicitation.

DHSES' Office of Disaster Recovery also provided support to applicants to maximize the amount of federal assistance available through FEMA disaster grants. Funds were used to assist in the recovery of State, local, and tribal governments, as well as private nonprofit organizations providing governmental services. Through the program, FEMA provided 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. This involved data collection on all infrastructure damaged during the Oct 31 storm, which was used to support Governor Cuomo's major disaster declaration request, which was subsequently approved on December 19, 2019. The Recovery Office continued to leverage FEMA major disaster grants for hazard mitigation measures to protect damaged facilities from future events, which includes increasing culvert capacity, reinforcing embankments, building floodwalls, elevating electrical components, and relocation of critical controls and facility support elements such as boilers and generators.

DHSES' Office of Disaster Recovery also processed \$734 million in reimbursement payments for Superstorm Sandy projects, including \$33.4 million for the Department of Transportation's statewide bridge scour project. Further, the Recovery Office processed approximately \$130 million in reimbursements across other open disasters. The Recovery

Office successfully closed one legacy disaster, which totaled \$4.7 billion in disaster project costs, while preparing to administratively close three disasters in early 2020. Finally, the Recovery Office successfully appealed FEMA denials to restore approximately \$1.7M in funding.

DHSES continued its Local Emergency Management Accreditation Program. Developed in 2017, this program was developed in partnership with the New York State Emergency Management Association to establish statewide standards and certification in emergency management. This program helped enhance the overall preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities of local communities throughout the State. Ten local emergency management organizations have received accreditation to date.

In 2019, DHSES conducted 47 exercises as part of "Operation NY SECURE" (Securing the Empire Corridor by Unifying Regional Efforts), a rail security initiative to promote better cooperation between law enforcement agencies and to improve the state's capabilities to respond to actual emergencies on rail lines. These exercises were conducted at different stations along the Amtrak corridor from NYC to Buffalo, and on the MTA commuter lines. Participating agencies included DHSES, Division of State Police, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police, Amtrak Police, and several local law enforcement agencies. During each exercise, the agencies performed counterterrorism and incident response activities such as heightened platform patrols, increased security presence onboard trains, explosives detection canine sweeps, and counter-surveillance measures. The goal of these operations was to improve coordination and response between the railroad police agencies that are responsible for each station, and the State and local law enforcement agencies that respond to emergencies.

Division of Homes and Community Renewal

The New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) managed the 2017 Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Seaway Flood Relief and Recovery Program, and the 2019 Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Flood Relief and Recovery Program.

HCR administered two residential flood relief and recovery programs to assist eligible homeowners who were impacted by flooding in Cayuga, Jefferson, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Oswego, St. Lawrence, and Wayne counties. Homeowners were eligible to receive grants of up to \$50,000 for flood-related repairs and recovery not covered by any other federal, state, or local recovery program or any third-party insurance. HCR contracted with four not-for-profit organizations to administer the program locally. Damage for the 2017 Program must have occurred between January 1 and August 31, 2017; and for the 2019 Program between January 1 and September 30, 2019.

HCR administered a program to facilitate the voluntary buyout of up to 13 flood-damaged homes in the Village of Hoosick Falls in Rensselaer County, NY which sustained damage as a result of devastating flooding that occurred in 2017. The homes were adjacent to a flood-prone brook and the buyout was part of a larger flood mitigation and stream restoration plan. HCR contracted with the Village of Hoosick Falls to administer the program locally.

HCR also administered a residential assistance program providing eligible homeowners in Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Seneca, and Tioga Counties with grants of up to \$50,000 to support repair and recovery of residences that sustained direct physical flood-related damage because of severe storms and flash flooding that took place in August.

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) continued to implement locally focused projects developed through the State's bottom-up NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program. Projects that were recently completed through the program include:

- The \$3.8 million Path to the Park Project transformed a beloved stretch of public greenway along the northwestern shoreline of South Valley Stream/ Hook Creek from the Mill River downstream to Cloverfield Road North. The project enhanced the Town of Hempstead's resiliency, promoted waterfront access, and provided additional opportunities for recreation along the Mill River.
- The \$8.5 million American Venice Bridges Project replaced two historic bridges spanning the Santa Barbara Canal in the Hamlet of Copiague, effectively increasing load capacity from 12 to 20 tons and serving as an important lifeline to approximately 600 homeowners in the community. Built in 1926 as the only means of vehicular access along East Riviera and West Riviera Drive, the original bridges could not sustain the passage of modern-day emergency vehicles, which slowed the pace of immediate response immediately after Superstorm Sandy.
- The \$7 million Freeport Channel Crossing Electrical Improvements Project installed new submarine cables underneath Freeport Channel to better distribute power to emergency facilities during future storm events. Widespread power outages affected approximately 3,700 customers – including firehouses and other critical buildings – after Superstorm Sandy.
- The \$3.5 million Refuse Garage Relocation Project constructed a new 12,500-square foot refuse garage for the Town of Union on a site outside of the floodplain. Built on a town-owned parcel at 2900 Wayne Street, the new facility is a more effective and reliable space to house staff, store critical equipment, and stage supplies in the event of future recoveries.
- The \$2.5 million Rome Dam Project successfully removed a structurally unsound 38-foot-wide high-hazard dam from a bedrock gorge on the West Branch of the Ausable River— thereby mitigating risk of failure.
- The \$952,000 Drainage Improvements Project replaced and enlarged critical culverts along Greene County Route 56 in Windham. The project also facilitated the extension of a drainage channel, the installation of riprap armoring, and modifications to the flow of an unnamed tributary.
- The \$1.5 million District #5 Wellhead Project instituted flood protection measures to ensure uninterrupted access to clean and potable water during future storm events. The more resilient well, located in the Town of Rotterdam, features elevated casing above the 100- and 500-year floodplains.
- The \$1.6 million Flood Control Along James Street Project transformed a critical connector road between Main Street and Route 32/ 213 in the Town of Rosendale.

- The \$277,000 Mount Marion Park Dam Project replaced a dam on Plattekill Creek in the Town of Saugerties, which dated back to the late 1800s and sustained damage from Hurricane Irene. The project additionally reestablished an adequate water supply to support the full capacities of the Mount Marion Fire Company, which serves 210 nearby homes and Mount Marion Elementary School.

Office of Information Technology Services

The New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) created new roles to support emergency operations, customer relations, and service delivery. Together, these positions enabled ITS to define and execute all technology support aspects of DPC agencies. ITS service areas provided trained staff, operational support, and services to State agencies to strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation during emergencies.

The ITS Geographic Information System Program Office (GPO) staff worked at the State EOC during six REP exercises. GPO staff supported ice jam tracking in January and February and responded to two winter storms. From late May to September, GPO provided GIS-based field data collection applications and web applications to assist DHSES' management of mitigation efforts for Lake Ontario flooding. GPO began developing a similar solution to improve future ice jam tracking. In November, several GIS specialists worked at the State EOC in response to the Halloween 2019 storms.

GPO supported State activities with the State Incident Management Team (IMT) for two events. In August, two GIS specialists deployed to Florida with the IMT ahead of Hurricane Dorian. In November, one GIS specialist deployed to Herkimer County with the IMT to support response activities following the Halloween storm. DHSES field workers collected and reported damage assessments using digital forms developed by DHSES and GPO.

GPO prepared maps for special events such as the New York City Marathon and the Times Square New Year's Celebration. Many 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 data from the CIRIS data repository.

ITS also supported 14 State EOC activations and seven exercises by providing an agency emergency management coordinator and statewide end user services support staff to assist with technology requests and concerns.

In September, the Disaster Preparedness Asset Tracker (DPAT) was replaced by the Asset Management System (AMS), a commercial software product hosted by the vendor in a cloud environment that allowed state agencies to track the physical location and deployment status of all mobile assets such as vehicles and boats. The new system enhanced disaster recovery capabilities and provided a platform in which maintenance and repair operations for those assets could be tracked. The AMS system was deployed both as an iOS mobile and website application and was used by 1,500 registered users at 21 State agencies and authorities, which allowed the State to maintain an updated

inventory of assets, allowing rapid response to emergencies with the appropriate equipment.

ITS provided support and training for the NY-Alert environment provided by Everbridge. As of December, DHSES, State Police, NYCOEM, and 44 county OEMs were authorized to use the IPAWS alert and notification system. The NYS Employee alert program experienced its highest activation year in 2019 with multiple State facility closures in December. The system handled messaging to more than 17,000 State employees for closures and was also leveraged for messaging related to the 40 North Pearl building closures in December. The success of messaging led several new agencies to join the program.

The ITS EMOP was updated, submitted, and approved. The EMOP was used in conjunction with the COOP and Disaster Recovery Plan to facilitate redundant methods for maintaining critical application access for DPC Agencies. Additionally, ITS has implemented policies that exclude network and application modifications during any EOC activation or response effort. ITS COOP contained 24 business unit plans at 100 percent compliance with audit requirements. In April, ITS began adding all ITS portfolios to its existing COOP Plan. Nine out of 12 portfolios were added, and one achieved 100 percent compliance with audit requirements. ITS continued to identify essential functions utilizing COOP software. Emphasis remained on maintaining COOP/Disaster Recovery teams and escalation process documents that identify communication process flow, involved leaders, teams necessary to fulfill mission-essential functions, and method of response to any emergency. ITS organized roles using the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS)/ Incident Command System (ICS) structure and maintained a critical contact list of senior staff and agency decision makers who could be involved in deploying resources to assist with any incident process.

The ITS Chief Information Security Office (CISO) developed and continued to maintain uniform State security policies and standards, information asset governance, risk management, compliance protocols, and enhanced proactive defenses, monitoring, detection, and alerting capabilities in the Statewide Data Center. CISO routinely performed cyber security risk and threat and vulnerability assessments and to ensure adequate controls and resiliency. CISO also continued to develop and define cyber exercise plans, and conduct or participate in federal, state, and local cyber exercises, including monthly cyber-security tabletop exercises at the Information Security Community of Practice Meetings and participation in the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's Grid Security Exercise after-action conference.

CISO participated in the evaluation of applications for the DHSES FY18 Cyber Security Grant Program, which was designed to support the advancement of cyber security preparedness capabilities in local governments.

CISO routinely provided critical resources and support through the NYS Cyber Command Center, Security Operations Center, Digital Forensics and Incident Response, and security services teams, during active incidents, periods of elevated threat, and special

events, including 24/7 elections security center support and enhanced threat intelligence related to monitoring of state systems and infrastructure for the 2019 NY State Primary and general elections, in collaboration with the State Board of Elections, NYS Intelligence Center and DHSES.

CISO also maintained a robust awareness and outreach program promoting cyber security best practices. This includes presentations and booth exhibits at a variety of engagements across the State, including the Local Government Cyber Security Tool Kit, distribution of awareness resource materials, cyber security tips newsletters, and cyber security bulletins to appropriate audiences, participation and support of national events such as National Cyber Security Awareness Month, Data Privacy Day, providing content rich materials for the ITS CISO awareness web pages, and relevant posts for ITS social media sites.

CISO also coordinated a variety of security training and education programs, including State Cyber Security Awareness Training offered to local governments, education entities and the public, including the secure coding training initiative, technical training offerings for staff on cyber security, and the NYS “Kids Safe Online” Poster Contest which engaged public, private, and homeschooled children in grades K-12.

Lastly, CISO hosted the 22nd Annual NYS Cyber Security Conference, which provided keynotes from nationally recognized cyber security experts, 52 breakout sessions, and 3 hands-on training sessions. Sessions included those specifically designed for cyber concerns related to local government, legal and insurance industries, education, and health sectors. The event had record-breaking attendance with over 1,500 attendees.

Department of Labor

The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) staff reviewed, revised, and updated Department-wide plans, policies, and procedures. DOL oriented new staff in regard to its emergency management program, their role in emergency preparedness efforts, and DOL’s role in support of the State’s emergency preparedness and response efforts.

Staff also conducted site assessments of new and existing office locations, including assisting site managers with preparing and updating their respective location emergency action plans. Staff assisted in conducting and evaluating fire drills at various DOL locations and provided AED/CPR training to 225 DOL and partner staff at locations throughout the state.

In November, DOL was activated in support of the weather-related emergency in Herkimer County. DOL staff were deployed to the State Emergency Operations Center and to various Disaster Assistance Service Centers that were established in affected areas.

Office of Mental Health

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) maintained close communication with mental health service providers to identify and correct issues with delivery of services. During several events, OMH stood up its virtual Departmental Operations Center to

manage communications and coordination among state operated psychiatric facilities in affected areas. Preparedness briefings were sent to all psychiatric facilities and Field Offices to provide situational awareness and provide preparedness reminders, and OMH actively monitored the status of community mental health services via liaisons at several locations.

The OMH Bureau of Emergency Preparedness (BEPR) worked with the Division of State Operated Children's and Adult Services and Counsel's Office to develop a template for the temporary use of OMH facilities by local mental health and healthcare organizations in the event of an emergency evacuation. The template provides all OMH facilities with a standard instrument that can be utilized to support local and regional emergency planning and meet increased standards for emergency management planning created by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. OMH BEPR also led an initiative to revise and update the agency's COOP, and agency senior managers assist in evaluating and developing plans in response to various threat conditions.

In March, OMH co-sponsored a training with the NYS Department of Health that was simultaneously webcast to 60 psychiatric centers, hospitals, and local offices of emergency management throughout New York State. The training – Assisting Children Following Disasters & Large-Scale Traumatic Events – was produced by the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz (IDMH). The webcast focused on how participants can support the needs of children following disasters and other collective traumatic events in a developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed manner. It also addressed the potential mental health consequences for responders when assisting or treating children following a traumatic event.

OMH partnered with the Institute for Disaster Mental Health to develop a training for DHSES personnel statewide regarding the emotional well-being of their emergency response workforce. The workshop – Managing Staff Stress & Promoting Workforce Resilience – was piloted in December in Albany.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and its operating agencies – Metro-North Railroad (MNR), Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), New York City Transit (NYCT) Subway and Bus, MTA Bus, MTA Bridges and Tunnels (B&T) – continued to prepare for a wide range of emergencies that could impact the New York City Metro area. The MTA was impacted by a variety of incidents, both international and domestic, and developed and improved emergency plans, enhancing skills by participating in a variety of planning, mitigation, and response/recovery activities.

The MTA Chairman and executive team played active roles in emergency preparedness and response activities, such as numerous trainings and exercise throughout the agency in advance of hurricane and winter weather seasons. Response priorities and communication strategies were developed and enhanced to ensure that emergency response systems were in place and vital information would be shared with the public, within the organization, and with other governmental entities.

Major planning efforts included annual updates to a variety of plans including winter operations, coastal storm evacuation, biological preparedness, business impact analysis, business continuity, HQ Situation Room Concept of Operations, and bridge and system closure protocols. Additionally, event planning was conducted for World Pride, the UN General Assembly, the TD Five Borough Bike Tour, multiple parades, events, and concerts, and activities including the New York City Marathon, Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run/Walk, Belmont Stakes, PGA events, Yankee Stadium, Citi Field, and Barclays Center events.

Disaster-based planning activities were also conducted, including hurricane evacuation planning (including development of a GIS-based hurricane evacuation model), contingency planning for chemical and biological incidents, Maritime Evacuation Planning with NYCOEM, and threat and hazard identification risk assessment updates.

MTA staff participated in numerous training programs that enhanced the organization's ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Training ranged from general emergency and traffic management courses to specific topics such as passenger train emergency response, license plate reader training, and security awareness training. MTA staff were also involved in numerous functional and discussion-based exercises during 2019 including 30 or more training events.

Division of Military and Naval Affairs

New York National Guard soldiers and airmen, and members of the New York Naval Militia and New York Guard responding to State weather emergencies do so in State Active Duty status. National Guard soldiers and airmen also deploy outside New York State in State Active Duty (SAD) status under the terms of federal Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMACs).

The New York Army and Air National Guard, New York Naval Militia, and New York Guard responded to six weather emergencies; four winter weather events, a windstorm and long-term flooding along the Lake Ontario shoreline. A total of 2,158 New York Military Forces members were placed on state active duty to assist in these responses. Another 309 New York Army and Air Guard members responded while in Title 32 status.

The New York National Guard conducted several regular, ongoing civil support missions with standing forces, including Joint Task Force Empire Shield (security augmentation force on duty in New York City around the clock), two Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, and the Citizens Preparedness Training Teams.

Throughout the year, the members of Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTFES), a force of New York Army and Air National Guardsmen were on duty in New York City, augmenting security at airports, train stations, and other key transportation infrastructure hubs. JTFES conducted 6,210 missions and was also responsible for two Military Emergency Boat Service missions conducted by members of the New York Naval Militia. The New York Naval Militia's Patrol Boat 440 conducts maritime operations in New York

Harbor in conjunction with the Coast Guard. Another boat conducts a randomized anti-terrorism program by placing a patrol boat in the waters off the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan. JTFES participated in 23 Multi-Agency Super Surges in which many law enforcement entities increased personnel assignments to detect, deter, disrupt, and defeat potential terrorist threats. JTFES also participated in Random Antiterrorism Measures Program operations. Finally, JTFES took part in Operation RAILS SAFE missions that involved coordinated patrols of railroad and subway stations and rights of way, as well as providing an increased security presence on trains.

The New York National Guard continued to support Governor Cuomo's Citizens Preparedness Corps program, which trains individuals to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster or emergency. A fundamental portion of the course taught attendees about items that they should have for emergencies. At these trainings, a free disaster preparedness kit is given to each participant to ensure they each have the necessary equipment and supplies to maintain their safety during an emergency. Throughout the year, 21 Army and Air National Guard members conducted 747 training sessions, trained 31,896 people, and handed out 11,477 kits filled with emergency preparedness supplies.

The New York National Guard maintains two Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, more commonly known as the Civil Support Teams or CSTs, which are high-priority response units supporting civil authorities responding to a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) incident. The CST mission is to support civil authorities at a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) incident by identifying CBRN agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for state support to facilitate additional resources.

The CSTs participate in both military and civilian emergency response training. Instruction is provided from several Department of Defense schools, along with other agencies such as FEMA, Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy. The CST is equipped with high-end detection, analytical, and protective equipment, as well as satellite, secure, and cellular communications to provide connectivity with both civil and military forces.

The 2nd CST took part in 59 standby missions, four assist missions, and one response mission. The response mission involved hazardous materials at Stratton Air National Guard Base. The team also conducted 13 major team training operations.

The 24th CST took part in 129 standby missions and conducted 9 full-up collective training exercises that involved the entire team. The team conducted one response mission. When a fire broke out on October 15 in the vicinity of a training exercise the CST was conducted, the team responded when asked to produce a plume model for the smoke from the blaze. The team also assisted in post-fire hazardous substance identification.

New York and New Jersey National Guards also participated on the Homeland Response Force (HRF), a 1,200-member Soldier/Airmen force. The HRF increases the focus of

military CBRN response forces for saving lives and enhances operational flexibility for additional CBRN resources in support of governors responding to CBRN incidents in their state. Members of the HRF conducted specialized training to familiarize members with response needs of a CBRN environment, utilizing comparable civilian hazardous materials response equipment, and the incident command structure to better integrate the HRF element with civilian first responders. The HRF does not supplant state or local authority; it supplements it by providing response, rescue, relief, and recovery capabilities that states, localities, and other federal agencies may lack in a CBRN event. HRF units conduct unit training for CBRN response in addition to the unit's wartime mission requirements.

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks) deployed equipment, resources, and personnel in support of the Lake Ontario flooding as well as support to ice storms, Long Island coastal storms, and the October 31 floods. Equipment deployed included boats, swift water rescue resources, drones, snowmobiles, saw crews, and chippers. Parks also supported numerous State Emergency Operations Center and Regional Operation Center activations.

Parks revised the Agency COOP in support of OEM's Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) re-certification, created individual COOPs for Park Regions, completed the annual revision of the Agency EMOP, completed the DHSES Office of Counter Terrorism threat assessment for Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), implemented standardized Incident Action Plan review procedures for all concerts at Art Park, Jones beach, and SPAC, integrated the Park Police Niagara Swift Water Rescue team with Emergency Support Function 9 (Search and Rescue) and trained additional agency staff on OEM SEOC/ NYResponds/ ESF roles. Additionally, OPRHP reversed FEMA's denial of funding for Sandy Island Beach State Park dune restoration as a result of a successful presentation of the case to the Civilian Board of Contract Arbitration in Washington D.C.

Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

The NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) responded and assisted the State EOC and staffed Disaster Assistance Service Centers (DASCs) to help affected communities from the Halloween storm. OPWDD also participated in multiple exercises through the year, including a federally evaluated REP exercise for Indian Point.

OPWDD strengthened its Emergency Management Program by ensuring the guidance document for the agency, the EMOP, was reviewed and updated for 2019. The agency's COOP and its supporting Annexes were also completed and implemented within the agency. To help support these plans, staff conducted trainings and exercises statewide. Partnerships with external stakeholders at the county and state levels were enhanced by collaborating on and taking part in exercises.

OPWDD developed and continued to maintain uniform safety and security policies and procedures in the rollout of a Threat Assessment Policy, utilizing current best practices.

OPWDD staff provided a variety of training and exercise programs to assist agency leadership in maintaining a robust awareness when encountering threats. The agency also coordinated safety and security training and education programs, including the Safety Officer Training Academy, which provided new recruits opportunities to learn more about how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies as they relate to OPWDD facilities.

The OPWDD Communication Center, established in 2017, continued to be a critical asset for consolidating the collection and dissemination of emergency information received from OPWDD facilities statewide. This information collection allowed for accurate and timely reporting to the State EOC and the Governor's Office, and it enabled OPWDD to coordinate response efforts while having a centralized emergency management reporting tool.

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority) developed Emergency Operations Plans detailing roles, responsibilities, and procedures for emergency response functions to effectively and efficiently respond and recover from service disruptions to Port Authority facilities. To ensure each plan reflected updated procedures, operations, orders, and supporting documentation, Port Authority's Office of Emergency Management solicited contracted support to provide a formal review and update to each facility's plan.

The Port Authority's Office of Emergency Management ensured the continuation of several multi-hazard-based assessments including an update of the quadrennial agency-wide terrorism risk assessment, expansion of a fully probabilistic tropical cyclone risk assessment to account for joint probability distributions, and development of a comprehensive natural hazards risk analysis. The Port Authority expanded components of its existing risk management methodology to include new tasks, including an evaluation of terrorism risk from insider threats at the World Trade Center and the development of a revised risk-based methodology to evaluate security capital project prioritization. The results of the assessments provided a comprehensive understanding of risk for all critical Port Authority assets and will serve as the baseline risk data set from which detailed cost benefit analysis can be applied to understand the value of proposed mitigation projects and initiatives.

The Strategic Preparedness Unit managed the application of a rigorous Mitigation & Risk Management Program that enhanced the decision-making capabilities of senior management and executive staff. The program utilized the System-wide Multi-hazard Risk Tool (SMRT) methodology for the basis of analysis, a multi-tier effort to support long-term strategic planning. The program also supported detailed assessments of specific proposed mitigation projects and/or specific hazards of concern. SMRT was applied to conduct periodic assessments of risk across all line departments and facilities to establish or update the agency-wide baseline risk profile. Additionally, the Port Authority used SMRT to conduct detailed, asset-specific risk analyses of specific hazards or threats, and

then to conduct evaluations of the effectiveness of specific proposed mitigation projects, and evaluating the return on investment of proposed projects.

Through participation in the Climate Resilience Working Group, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) contributed towards an agency-wide Hazard Mitigation and Climate Resilience Plan that focuses on the agency's risk profile, capacity to adapt, focused mitigation actions, and a method and process of implementing the plan and measuring its success. Port Authority OEM developed the natural hazards risk profile, guiding development, and implementation of mitigation actions, and monitoring for funding opportunities. The Plan also contributed to the States of New York and New Jersey's hazard mitigation plans.

Port Authority OEM played a key supporting role with the Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) detection and response for the Port Authority Police Department and the Agency. Support to the CBR programs included representing the agency's interests within the Bio-Watch Advisory Committee (BAC), providing subject matter expertise toward the testing, acquisition, installation, and long-term operation of CBR detection technologies, and coordinating research and testing efforts with federal, state, and local partners.

Port Authority OEM assisted CSO Security Technology Programs with developing a Safety Act Application (SAA) for the SMRT Risk Assessment Methodology to include the CBA process, security project plan (SPP) process, and the security capital program project prioritization process used by the Port Authority. Safety Act Applications to date have been for venues, i.e. each facility, while this effort seeks to provide a global SAA designation or certification across all facilities. This SAA enabled the Port Authority to continue to significantly lower their insurance liability due to all hazards covered by the risk assessment.

The Port Authority fulfilled the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with DARPA and DND and has implemented and deployed SIGMA D3S radiological detection equipment and accessories to Port Authority Police Department officers at each Port Authority facility. The program has deployed 1,800 spectroscopic personal radiation detection devices, each coupled to an Android Smart phone, nine mobile detection police vehicles, and three large static detectors. The Strategic Preparedness Unit supported the logistical deployment of these technologies to each police command.

Sensors and structural, electrical, and communication components were installed at seven Port Authority facilities to provide the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) with post-event data sets following a disaster. The program was authorized per a Memorandum of Agreement between the DOD Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the Port Authority.

The Port Authority's Office of Emergency Management provided assistance to Houston Texas and San Juan Puerto Rico after the events of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria. The Strategic Preparedness Unit provided both in office and field

support on planning, logistics, and finance. OEM continues to supply support for deployment efforts.

The Port Authority incorporated Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) capabilities into its operations. Data gathered from the sUAS will be used to provide time sensitive imagery to Emergency Managers and responders to enhance preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.

Public Service Commission

New York's electric utilities are statutorily required to file annual emergency response plans for review and approval by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC). The plans define the electric utilities preparation and restoration actions in response to weather events or other incidents resulting in numerous power outages. Additionally, the plans define communication methods to coordinate information sharing to public officials and the public, as well as detailing the utilities' required interactions with critical facilities and customers on life support equipment. PSC has the legal authority to approve a utility's emergency response plan or to direct that the electric corporation amend the plan. Prior to and during an event, the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) works closely with the electric utilities to ensure that the utilities are prepared, including obtaining outside resources through mutual assistance agreements and other means. The utilities may reach out to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to assist with utility crews entering the United States from Canada to help with restoration efforts.

In April, the Public Service Commission announced completion of a detailed and thorough Department of Public Service (DPS) investigation into the preparation and response of the State's major utilities to five major storms that swept through New York in 2018, each leaving more than 100,000 customers without electricity. As a result of the investigation, utilities' shareholders could face potential storm-related financial penalties for failing to comply with their state-approved emergency plans.

Given these past experiences of severe-weather events, and its impact on utility systems, the Public Service Commission established the Office of Resilience and Emergency Preparedness (OREP), dedicated to ensuring that the State's utilities prepare for and respond appropriately to severe weather and other emergency events. In advance of an impending weather event or other known emergency, DPS OREP contacts utility senior executives to ensure that utilities stand ready to minimize outages and accelerate outage restorations. Electric and gas utilities, as well as telecommunication service providers, such as Verizon and Frontier, enlist additional personnel to minimize service disruptions. In addition, DPS OREP oversees, assesses, and audits utility physical and cyber security preparedness, programs, and protections.

New York's utilities have an existing base of workers available for restoration efforts. The utilities are on alert during these events and deploy restoration crews where needed. Utilities are prepared to respond 24-hours a day to power disruptions and are mandated to implement their emergency response plans, when needed, which includes contacting customers on life-support equipment and other critical customers. When there is

potentially significant inclement weather, DPS may expand its Call Center Helpline hours to assist consumers with storm response and restoration efforts.

New York State Police

New York State Police (State Police) personnel participated in numerous exercises and training activities to ensure readiness to respond to any type of emergency. The State Police also work closely with State Office of Emergency Management staff and participated in activations and exercises in 2019.

The State Police conducted “Clean Sweep 2019” in May to test the ability of the Mobile Field Unit to deploy and effectively deal with a variety of WMD and civil disturbance scenarios requiring law enforcement intervention to restore public safety and preserve law and order. Mobile Field Unit personnel reported to the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany to participate in a variety of tactical scenarios. The two-day exercise included over 250 participants responding to four unique scenarios spread over the two-day event.

The State Police also participated in a Medical Countermeasures (MCM) distribution exercise in September in support of the Strategic National Stockpile. The exercise was facilitated by the State Department of Health in order to satisfy federal requirements to conduct an exercise into the readiness of the Strategic National Stockpile every five years. The State Police provided escorts to CDC vehicles, credentialing at the primary point of distribution, and site security for county level distribution points.

During the year, the State Police also participated in exercises and trainings associated with the Radiological Interdiction Detection and Enforcement (RIDE) Program. State Police personnel conducted certification training for the Personal Radiation Detector, Radiological Isotope Identifier, and the Primary Screener Backpack at the State Preparedness Training Center and NYPD Counter Terrorism Facility.

Nine members conducted the Personal Radiation Detector Train the Trainer course in Nevada, which enables the State Police to train and certify members to use these devices. More than 250 members, which includes 164 members in Troop New York City, completed Personal Radiation Detector certification. During the training, eight members were certified as Radiation Safety Officers allowing them to transport radiological sources and use them for training.

The State Police also participated in the Secure the Seaway exercise in Alexandria Bay. The exercise, led by DHSES, included law enforcement partners from local, state, and federal levels including the U.S. Coast Guard. The exercise tested law enforcement’s ability to detect and seize a radiological source that could be smuggled on or across the St. Lawrence Seaway.

During the year, members conducted numerous radiation interdiction/ detection details, and responded to threats. The State Police responded to a radiological dispersal device (dirty bomb) threat at the Sangertown Square Mall in the Town of New Hartford. The State

Police conducted details at the U.S. Open at Bethpage; the Fourth of July celebrations for New York City and New Paltz; the Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Cooperstown; the State Fair in Syracuse; the September 11th memorial ceremonies for New York City; the Thanksgiving Macy's Day Parade in New York City; Black Friday shopping at Woodbury Commons; and on commuter traffic to New York City for New Year's Eve celebrations.

In 2019, the State Police Underwater Recovery Team completed all three phases of airboat training, with 36 members trained as airboat operators. The two and a half-week training included operations on the upper Hudson River in North Creek, which required an extremely high level of expertise. 43 State Police Underwater Recovery Team members also attended swift water technician training at the State Preparedness Training Center. This training prepared the members to respond to an extreme flood emergency.

In October, Troop D Underwater Recovery Team members assisted with the flooding response in Herkimer County. Member's recovered one drowning victim who was swept away in flood waters and rescued four residents trapped in their residence. Underwater Recovery Team members were also staged at numerous locations throughout the state for possible swift water rescue response.

The State Police continued to maintain its strong ties with the State Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to help reduce response times to incidents, emergencies and disasters. The State Police Office of Emergency Management Liaison Program consists of 10 lieutenants and one captain assigned to work with OEM. These officers are co-located in 10 Regional Response Zones throughout the state as well as OEM Headquarters. The lieutenants have been assigned to work with OEM Regional Directors to speed response times to emergencies. Since the program began, members of this detail have responded to several major incidents including prison escapes; civil disturbances; forest and other fires; regional winter storms; flooding incidents; and lost/missing person incidents.

The OEM lieutenants also serve on several field level working groups that plan for future events. They work with schools on their safety plans, assist OFPC with their geographical response plans, and assist each State Police troop and other agencies with major event planning that included the Great New York State Fair, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, and the Jones Beach Air Show.

The OEM captain is assigned to several executive level planning groups within OEM and is a member of the State Emergency Management Accreditation Council. The captain, two lieutenants, and four sergeants continue to support the State Incident Management Team.

During 2019, members staffed the required Emergency Support Functions (ESF) in the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for 16 activations and supported or participated in 78 exercises.

In addition to the activities above, Division Members assigned to Emergency Management also assisted with the coordination efforts at the State EOC and in the field to locate, stop, and eventually recover several vessels that broke free from their moorings on the Hudson River due to ice jam flows. Members also assisted with the planning and execution of a large-scale active shooter exercise on the grounds of West Point Military Academy.

State Police members assigned to the State Incident Management Team participated in a large-scale exercise and training event by working with the FDNY Incident Management Team to manage the activities of the New York Wildfire & Incident Management Academy on the grounds of Brookhaven National Laboratories on Long Island. This was a two-week long event involved rotating personal through different roles to gain further training and refine previously trained skills.

During the Halloween flooding incident, State Police members assigned to the State Incident Management Team deployed to assist the Herkimer County Office of Emergency Management with flooding response.

Department of State

The Department of State updated and submitted its EMOP for approval by DHSES and the Director of State Operations. In addition, the Department of State completed its COOP following the model provided by the New York State Office of Emergency Management. The plan was approved by the State Office of Emergency Management in April. The Department of State COOP is reviewed and updated routinely.

The Code Enforcement Disaster Assistance Response (CEDAR) Team was the Department of State's primary support function in response to disasters. The CEDAR Team trained nearly 300 code enforcement officials and design professionals to conduct rapid safety damage assessments following a disaster. The volunteers were not employees of the Department of State, but rather they are municipal and private sector employees who are willing to volunteer to assist in-state after a disaster. The CEDAR program identified 100 damage assessment kits that were available to be deployed. The Department of State developed a three-hour team update course to be presented to team members beginning in 2020.

The Department of State continued to present a two-hour in-service course on disaster response awareness for Code Enforcement Officers at conferences across the state. This course reinforced the Code Enforcement Officer's role in a community's response to a disaster. A one-hour follow-up course was developed and will be offered in 2020.

The Department of State was included on the committee that is rewriting the state's Mass Fatality Plan, and Department of State Division of Cemeteries was included as a resource in the draft plan.

The Department of State worked with DEC's Office of Climate Change to develop recommendations for additional resiliency elements in the state Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.

All Department of State vehicles listed in the DPAT system were successfully transferred to the Asset Management System (AMS) in September. Staff completed the training offered by the Division of Budget and the Department of Transportation.

The Department of State participated in the annual Westchester County tabletop exercise. Representatives from the Department of State presented information on damage assessment capabilities and resources available to assist communities post-disaster.

Thruway Authority

The New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) responded to multiple storms and emergencies on a local and system-wide basis. NYSTA supported the State EOC for two major snow events, one major flooding event and one wind event, and it activated its Headquarters and Division Operations Centers for 11 snow events, one flooding event, and three non-weather-related incidents. These Operations Centers were staffed by trained NYSTA personnel, State Police, and representatives from partner agencies when necessary. In addition, NYSTA staffed several State Regional Operations Centers (ROCs).

NYSTA also supported the State's response to Lake Ontario flooding, monitored, and reported conditions as part of the Ice Jam Task Force, and supported and responded to the October Wind event and subsequent Stream Task Force.

NYSTA continued to coordinate statewide preparation and planning with partner agencies including DOT. NYSTA executive staff conducted a statewide review of its road closure procedures, including site visits of closure points, as well as attended meetings with all winter maintenance personnel to discuss operations and response and ensuring all key staff remained current in both ICS and NIMS.

NYSTA participated in a simulated road closure drill in Western New York (Niagara County) with State OEM, State Police, DOT, and county and local partners. NYSTA continued to provide highway safety awareness training for fire companies that respond to traffic incidents on the system and outside response partners, including authorized towing garages and emergency response personnel, to enhance critical incident response.

Department of Transportation

The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) responded to 15 significant events, 12 of which were winter storm responses including ice jam monitoring and response activities. Additional events included high winds, a hurricane, and flooding. DOT coordinated efforts as the lead for transportation emergency functions during three events – the mid-January winter storm, the late January winter weather event, and November flooding in the Utica area. Response and recovery activities continued through the remainder of 2019 for the Utica flooding event, including DOT's assistance to local governments to restore infrastructure. DOT also supported the 2019 Lake Ontario

flooding event with sandbag production and the transportation of full sandbags and other equipment and materials to help mitigate rising floodwaters. In response to ice jams, DOT rented 15 long reach excavators and staged them at various locations across the State. DOT deployed excavators with operators as needed to break up several ice jams.

DOT contracted with the University at Albany Center of Excellence to develop webpages and dashboards for weather forecasting that leverage information collected from the 126 Mesonet stations across NYS. The information was used to produce roadway condition risk assessment tables and maps showing severity and time ranges for weather events for operational decision-making. Storm and Winter Season Severity Indices were developed for program performance analytics.

DOT installed electrical disconnects for priority traffic signals to allow them to be powered by generators in a prolonged power outage. The Department installed 1,093 of the 3,757 traffic signal disconnects planned as part of this initiative, which is expected to be completed in 2021.

DOT worked to ensure plans were in place and that its team was well trained to respond to emergencies safely and efficiently. Key to the planning process were committees such as ICS Community of Practice (CoP) Groups, NY Responds Working Group, Emergency Support Function – Transportation Working Group, and Emergency Response System Working Group. The ICS CoP groups were established to ensure standards are developed for efficient emergency response, and they developed comprehensive training programs, procedures, and tools for emergency response. Key accomplishments included an update of DOT's COOP, a statewide Road Status/Damage Assessment (RSDA II) drill, and mandatory basic Incident Command System (ICS) training for all employees.

A major preparedness element in 2019 was the further development of the Road Status and Damage Assessment (RSDA II) tool. The RSDA CoP group developed web and mobile application training material including PowerPoint presentations and user guides, as well as best practices, a standard "go bag", and a statewide RSDA II summer exercise and fall drill. The Department also completed detour maps for all DOT-owned Interstates and the majority of the DOT-owned parkways. These maps show the beginning and ending of the road closure, as well as signals and additional signage needed along the detour route.

The DOT Fleet maintained a 98% uptime for priority equipment during snow and ice season. DOT placed a high priority on "in service" (uptime) on needed equipment, including required overtime of employees, overtime of vendors for commercial repairs, and overnighting of parts to ensure quick availability. Every effort is made to ensure uptime regardless of local weather conditions since all assets may be needed at a moment's notice.

DOT held several meetings to discuss agency capabilities as well as communication and collaboration during response activities. DOT participated in event coordination calls with

National Weather Service, State Office of Emergency Management, Thruway Authority, Transportation Management Centers, as well as other state and local emergency response agencies. To help improve efficiency for the National Weather Service, DOT worked well as Thruway Authority and State OEM to consolidate statewide weather calls. DOT's Regional Emergency Managers (REMs) coordinated with various state and local agencies, within their Regional boundaries, providing Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training for tow companies, participating in dam drills, and conducting winter operations meetings with other State and county partners.

In Western New York, DOT's coordination with the Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC) included daily coordination and communication regarding traffic management issues for incident management, construction coordination, and special event planning. DOT and NITTEC continued to utilize past experiences to refine the Regional Expressway Closure Guidelines for transportation agencies and first responders, including State OEM, Thruway Authority, county departments of public works, county and local emergency management, law enforcement agencies, and fire departments. The installation of gates at expressway access points made closure plans more efficient and reduced resources required by DOT and first responders during major incidents. Coordination and participation in regional stakeholder workshops and TIM training for first responders were part of the collaborative partnership between DOT and NITTEC. An example of this effort is the initiative to build four permanent crash investigation sites at the I-90/ I-290 interchange, which provide a place for drivers to pull off the highway, improving safety and traffic flow. DOT also installed signage along emergency detour routes on I-90 and a portion of I-190. NITTEC was responsible for organizing and facilitating conference calls during major incidents, including weather events, to ensure state and local response plans were coordinated.

The Transportation Operations Coordinating Committee (TRANSCOM) served as a conduit for coordinating response plans between multiple transportation agencies in the tri-state area. Through the TRANSCOM Operations committee, DOT worked with various agencies to develop plans to address emergency closures on bridges and highways, including mitigating the impact to connecting routes in the system, both within and outside State boundaries. This also served as a critical conduit for ensuring coordinated messages were relayed to the public and motorists across all jurisdictions. In addition to TRANSCOM, DOT also coordinated with the transportation agencies of the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont to review snow and ice response, and traffic management strategies. DOT coordinated with these partners on pre-emptive truck restrictions and potential closures for planned and unplanned events.

The New York State Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Steering Committee provided a forum to bring together State agencies typically involved in emergency response, as well as organizations associated with the first responder community. In addition to ongoing coordination efforts, the committee provided outreach on incident management principles and practices across numerous disciplines involved in emergency response. A total of 53 formal multi-disciplinary training classes were held within the State, including a one-day symposium for over 160 responders to meet, learn, and discuss current best

practices. To date, more than 9,000 first responders in New York have been trained in TIM principles and safety.

Statewide training was provided in Basic Emergency Response (ICS) for all employees, Asset Management System (AMS), Road Status and Damage Assessment II (RSDA II), Snow University, ICS Environmental Permitting and Damage Assessment Documentation and Reporting, ICS Communications and Reporting and Active Shooter. Additional training was provided related to the agency's SharePoint site and Emergency Response System (ERS) to help improve event reporting, including REMs/Deputy REMs, NYC on-site ERS, all main office logistics and planning staff, and Advanced SharePoint.

DOT conducted numerous exercises, tabletops, and drills, both statewide and regionally. The annual statewide drill focused on utilizing the new RSDA II tool. In July and August, DOT regions trained staff and participated in several small exercises in preparation of the September statewide drill. Each region also held localized exercises and training, such as Statewide Emergency Event Resource Tracking (SEERT), event staging areas, ICS 100, 200, 300, and 400 courses, Personnel Monitoring Center (FEMA Exercise), an Indian Point exercise and DMNA Coastal Storm Planning. DOT also performed a staging area exercise in October, which included participation from several partner agencies (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhnurzpuU84>).

DOT also administered the Statewide Critical Bridges Over Water Program (CBOW), an initiative to harden 106 at-risk bridges against extreme weather, including scour and flooding. 37 bridges in nine separate contracts were upgraded through the Design/Build procurement process and 69 bridges in 32 separate contracts were upgraded through the Design/Bid/Build process. DOT received funding approval from FEMA for all bridges in the program totaling \$518 million. All 106 bridges in 41 contracts have been awarded and construction is complete. Administrative and financial closeout for the entire program will be completed by December 30, 2020.

Office of Victim Services

The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) continued to engage with DHSES and local emergency management professionals across the State to make them aware of the agency's services in the event a mass casualty incident is determined to be a crime. The agency awarded record funding levels to more than 250 victim assistance programs across the State to provide direct services to crime victims and, in partnership with other State agencies, could mobilize and provide assistance on-site in the event of a criminal mass casualty incident.

The agency's director and senior staff continually monitored for mass incidents and other high-profile victimizations, using such incidents to activate, test, and/or update OVS' EMOP. OVS also continued its pilot partnership with Albany Medical Center developing protocols and policies for responding to criminal mass casualty incidents.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross focused on three disaster preparedness initiatives across New York State:

- In 2019, volunteers and AmeriCorps members trained 30,739 New Yorkers through the Governor's *Citizen Preparedness Corps* program;
- In 2014, the Red Cross launched the *Home Fire Preparedness Campaign*, which 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 2019, 27,100 smoke alarms were installed across New York State; and
- The third preparedness initiative aimed at youth populations was the *Pillowcase Project*. This program focused on children creating go-kits with pillowcases and taught children how to prepare for disasters. In 2019, the program educated 10,869 children on how to prepare for disasters.

In the spring of 2019, the Red Cross also hosted two disaster institutes. The disaster institute in Manhattan trained more than 300 staff and volunteers and, in Upstate New York, Red Cross partnered with OEM to offer three days of training to more than 150 volunteers at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany.