



# Disaster Preparedness Commission

## 2018 Annual Report

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



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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

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## **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 2018 to enhance New York State's overall preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

## **STATE RESPONSE TO MAJOR EMERGENCIES**

In 2018, 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). During 2018, the State EOC was activated for 38 separate events, which are detailed below.

During steady state, OEM maintains the State EOC in a readiness posture. The New York 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 inter-agency operational activities, and facilitates situational information sharing between State agencies. The State EOC was activated to Level 4 on 25 occasions in 2018.

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 level 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).<sup>1</sup> ESFs group State

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<sup>1</sup> The 14 ESFs include: Transportation; Communications; Public Works and Engineering; Firefighting; Information and Planning; Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; Logistics; Public Health and Medical Services; Search and Rescue; Oil and Hazardous Materials Response; Agriculture and Natural Resources; Energy; Public Safety and Security; and External Affairs. More information can be found at: <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/planning/cemp/volume-2.cfm>.

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 13 occasions in 2018.

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, inter-agency Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) efforts may be required across all agencies. The State EOC was not activated to Level 2 in 2018.

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 level 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 list of all State EOC activations in 2018.

START DATE	END DATE	EVENT NAME	LEVEL
January 2	January 2	Erie County Blizzard	4
January 3	January 4	Winter Weather	4
January 15	January 15	Ice Jams/Flooding	4
January 28	January 28	Landslide (Schenectady)	4
January 31	January 31	Mohawk River Ice Jam/Flooding	4
February 6	February 7	Severe Weather	4
February 27	February 27	Rising Water Levels (Lake Ontario)	3
March 1	March 1	Winter Weather	3
March 5	March 5	Winter Weather	3
March 12	March 12	Winter Weather	3
March 21	March 21	Winter Weather	4
May 3	May 3	Flooding (Village of Saranac Lake)	4
May 4	May 4	Severe Weather	3
May 15	May 15	Severe Storms	4
June 18	June 18	Building Collapse (Poughkeepsie)	4
June 29	June 29	Heat Event	4
June 29	July 2	Heat Event (Cooling Centers)	3
July 25	July 15	Severe Weather (Rain/Flooding)	4
August 7	August 7	Severe Weather (Rain Event)	4
August 9	August 9	Train Derailment	4

August 13	August 19	Severe Weather	3
September 4	September 4	Excessive Heat	4
September 7	September 7	Tropical Storm Gordon	3
September 8	September 8	Tappan Zee Bridge Instability	4
September 13	September 13	Primary Day	3
September 13	September 15	Tropical Storm Florence	3
September 17	September 17	Severe Weather	4
September 26	September 26	Severe Weather	4
October 2	October 2	Severe Weather	4
October 24	October 24	Suspicious Devices	4
October 27	October 27	Coastal Storm	3
November 1	November 1	Weather Event	4
November 6	November 6	Election Day Monitoring	3
November 14	November 15	Winter Weather	4
November 22	November 22	Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade	4
November 26	November 27	Winter Weather	3
December 13	December 13	Statewide Bomb Threats	4
December 28	December 31	New Year's Eve	4

Among these incidents are a few notable events. In March, New York experienced a series of winter Nor'easters that brought significant power outages and tree and pole damage throughout the Hudson Valley. The Governor declared a State of Emergency and the State EOC was activated to Level 3. Several state agencies were mobilized to assist municipalities with preparedness, response, and recovery efforts resulting from the impacts of the winter/spring storms. As part of the State's response, more than 300 New York National Guard soldiers were deployed to areas impacted by the storm. The storms caused power outages for almost 600,000 New York homes and businesses, with some outages lasting for as long as 10 days.

In May, multiple tornadoes touched down in the Hudson Valley. These tornadoes included an EF-2 tornado with estimated peak winds of 110 mph in the Town of Kent (Putnam County), an EF-1 tornado with estimated peak winds of 100 mph in the Town of Patterson (Putnam County), an EF-0 tornado with estimated peak winds of 85 mph in the City of Newburgh (Orange County), and an EF-1 tornado with estimated peak winds of 90 mph that traveled from Ulster County to Dutchess County. At the height of the storm, over 200,000 utility customers were without power, mainly in the Mid-Hudson Valley Region. Not only did this situation initiate a wide-ranging recovery and response effort that involved multiple state agencies working to clear debris and maintain public safety, but New York's utilities also added 1,250 line, tree, and service workers from Vermont, Alabama, Canada, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maine, and Pennsylvania to their existing base of workers to restore power as quickly as possible.

In October, multiple tornadoes again touched down in the Hudson Valley and Suffolk County. The first tornado touched down in Rockland County with maximum winds of 100 mph. This tornado began in Harriman State Park and ended in the Town of Stony

Point, uprooting trees and creating a path of destruction approximately 100 yards wide in some places. Another EF-1 tornado touched down in the Town of New Castle in Westchester County, again damaging trees and structures with wind speeds of 110 mph. The Suffolk County tornado touched down in the Town of Ronkonkoma with winds estimated at 85 mph. This tornado lasted about 2 minutes and was approximately 400 yards long and 200 yards wide. The State EOC was activated to Level 3 for both the May and October tornado events, and the State mobilized and deployed resources from multiple state agencies in order to assist local governments with recovery efforts.

In August, a slow-moving storm system moved across the State bringing severe thunderstorms and heavy rains, which caused flash flooding in multiple locations. The State EOC was activated to Level 3 and multiple State agencies were mobilized in preparation of the storms. The most significant impact occurred in Seneca County, where rainfall rates exceeded more than two inches per hour. State agency personnel were deployed for over a month assisting with short-term rescue and recovery efforts, including evacuations of over 80 people from the shores of Seneca Lake. State agencies also partnered with local first responders to facilitate evacuations in Broome County. The Governor declared a State of Emergency for the region, and sought and received approval for a major federal disaster declaration. With this declaration, the affected regions are eligible for funding from FEMA to assist with recovery efforts. In addition to administering this funding and overseeing eligible projects, the State continues to assist those affected in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions with long-term recovery efforts.

During 2018, state agencies also responded to several man-made threats. In October, a series of bombs were mailed to public figures, politicians, and political commentators throughout the United States, including several in New York State. The State's public safety agencies partnered with federal and local authorities to provide a coordinated response, and the State EOC was activated to a Level 4 to provide additional situational awareness and support.

In December, emailed bomb threats were reported in multiple locations nationwide and Canada, with approximately 100 threats received by institutions and individuals in New York State alone. Multiple buildings were evacuated in various locations as authorities investigated and performed investigative sweeps. Again, state public safety agencies actively partnered with federal and local partners to coordinate the response to these threats. The State EOC operated at a Level 4 and staff assisted in tracking the events statewide and worked with county officials and local 911 call centers to help evaluate each threat. These email threats were ultimately deemed not credible, but a coordinated response and quick dissemination of intelligence allowed local law enforcement and targeted institutions to quickly assess each situation and return to normal operations.

## **STATEWIDE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING EFFORTS**

During 2018, 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 the development of agency specific Emergency Management Operation Protocols (EMOP).

The State CEMP details the hazard mitigation, response, and recovery roles and responsibilities for all emergencies. Over the last year, staff from DHSES, with input from all other DPC agencies, continued to build upon and refine the restructuring of the State CEMP. Throughout the year, staff from various DPC agencies met for multiple planning meetings. As part of an ongoing planning process, staff made significant improvements 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 April, OEM staff initiated a multi-pronged effort to improve continuity planning across all State agencies, including overseeing a COOP working group. The goals of the working group included providing 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 staff led three working group meetings last year, which were conducted in tandem with the State's two-day continuity planning course. The continuity planning course was delivered six times in the latter half of 2018. In addition to these efforts, DHSES staff also facilitated three rounds of continuity plan reviews with all DPC agencies, ensuring that their COOP plans were up-to-date and adequate.

DPC agencies worked to further enhance their preparedness, response, and recovery efforts through the development and implementation of EMOPs. Leveraging a common framework and guidance developed by OEM, state agencies developed EMOPs to codify and communicate agency operating strategies that establish a unity of effort within and across state entities through improved communication and coordination. Once completed, the EMOPs served 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 process, DHSES staff at the program and executive levels provided technical assistance and guidance to state agencies, while ensuring consistency across all agencies. Moving forward, each agency will annually review and update their EMOPs, with direction provided by DHSES.

During 2018, the State's response agencies continued to expand their use of the Disaster Preparedness Asset Tracking (DPAT) application. DPAT is a web-based and mobile application developed by the Office of Information Technology Services and the Division of the Budget that serves as the State's central repository of rolling-stock

assets that may be deployed during an emergency. Utilized by OEM and other response agencies, DPAT currently maintains data on more than 20,000 separate assets maintained by 18 state agencies. DPAT tracks specific data for each item including location, serial number, attributes, and status, among other points. The application also includes a picture of each item, and each asset is automatically updated in the tool whenever a data point is changed. DPAT is used by agencies to identify the assets nearest to an impacted area and which state agencies have an asset that may be needed for an emergency. In 2018, DPAT was used in numerous emergencies and assisted in OEM's efforts to coordinate resources as part of the State's response.

## **AGENCY SPECIFIC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES**

Each DPC agency engaged in several initiatives to improve their emergency management posture during 2018. As detailed below, the efforts by these agencies helped enhance the State's overall capacity to effectively respond to natural and man-made disasters.

### **Office for the Aging**

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) is continually expanding its preparedness to assist State efforts should an activation be needed to respond to a major storm or emergency event. NYSOFA is currently engaged in several ongoing activities to maintain a readiness posture, including: staff training; updating county Area Agencies on Aging information; participation in New York State OEM drills for radiological and other events; and partnering with other state agencies in providing training on access functional needs and points of dispensing.

NYSOFA partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and DHSES to offer a training entitled, "Elevating the Role of Senior Corps in Disaster in New York State." CNCS oversees Senior Corps which includes the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program. Training attendees learned how they can help communities in New York State prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters. The focus of this training was on how to elevate the role of national service in disaster response and recovery operations by engaging Senior Corps officials alongside state and community partners, with the support of the NYSOFA and DHSES. It was attended by staff from various agencies such as Senior Corps, AAA, DHSES, and NYSOFA. This was also the first time the CNCS Disaster Unit hosted a training in New York State.

Staff orientations have been held in all NYSOFA divisions to familiarize the entire agency with the agency's EMOP and to identify potential responders for the State EOC as part of ESF 6, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services.

Although NYSOFA was not activated in the past year, the Office maintained operational readiness by requiring all NYSOFA staff to complete the FEMA on-line training course IS-100.B and, when available, complete State EOC and NY Responds trainings provided by OEM.

In addition, NYSOFA required each of the 59 county AAAs to provide specific information on their strategies, partnerships, and trainings related to disaster preparedness as part of their 2018-19 Annual Evaluation. The agencies reported on their relationship with the local EOC; status of their 'registry of vulnerable older adults'; and, the procedures that they have in place to assist older adults with special needs during emergencies and disasters.

NYSOFA staff also participated in Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercises, including the federally-evaluated exercise for Indian Point in September. Aging services, as part of ESF 6, is tasked with providing information related to services for older adults within the evacuation areas surrounding nuclear facilities. This function is tested and evaluated during multiple exercises each year for all of New York's nuclear plants.

### **Department of Agriculture and Markets**

To build local capacity and capabilities, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) partnered with DPC agencies to support local County Animal Response Teams (CARTs) with animal response organizations across the State.

In January, the Oneida CART was activated to respond, in collaboration with the American Red Cross, to assist with flooding in the Town of Vienna. A cohabitated human-animal shelter was successfully set up for residents affected by the flooding.

In June, DAM offered free, two-day animal emergency sheltering training to CARTs across the State. The training was planned and coordinated with the assistance of OEM and DHSES' Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), along with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Mohawk Hudson Humane Society and the Altamont Fairgrounds in the Town of Guilderland. More than 20 animal response organizations participated in the training.

In September, the Onondaga CART offered a large-animal rescue class to responders. DAM coordinated with the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine to support the training by providing a location at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, as well as a life-sized replica horse from the Veterinary College.

DAM is also actively involved in animal disease responses. In September, DAM worked on a response plan for an avian disease outbreak with DHSES, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Nassau County Emergency Management, U.S.

Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Covanta at the private company's Energy-for-Waste location in Hempstead, as well as a New York City live bird market. New York State has the highest number of live bird markets in the country, most of which are concentrated in New York City. This two-day functional exercise included a focus on detection, investigation, response, depopulation, transportation, disposal, and cleaning and disinfection efforts in the event of an avian disease outbreak in the downstate region.

In December, DAM participated with DHSES, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Cornell's Animal Health Diagnostic Lab in a four-day, functional, multi-state exercise on foreign-animal disease preparedness hosted by the state of Kansas. DAM exercised animal-tracing capabilities, completed three farm-site investigations, and sent samples to the Cornell Animal Health Diagnostic Lab, which exercised their disease response plans.

### **Office of Children and Family Services**

Staff from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) participated in trainings and exercises focused on disaster training and response protocols, including participating in a tabletop exercise along with other agencies involved in ESF 6, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services. OCFS staff also participated in other OEM trainings, including courses focused on EOC operations.

OCFS supported the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management with Indian Point REP Training for childcare providers located in the 10 Mile Emergency Protection Zones in October, as well as FEMA's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Core Concepts Course in April.

### **Department of Corrections and Community Supervision**

Personnel from the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) Correctional Emergency Response Team were deployed on multiple occasions to assist with flooding in Seneca County and missing person searches in Clinton and Washington counties, as well as Thatcher Park in the Village of Voorheesville (Albany County).

DOCCS played a key role in assisting with the transportation of resources and assets during emergency situations. For example, DOCCS Food Production staff and equipment were utilized to deliver sandbags to the Town of Lowville and to move filled sandbags from the DHSES Oriskany stockpile to both Lowville and the DHSES Guilderland stockpile. Another 50,000 sandbags were transferred from the Chili stockpile to the Town of Newfane, and pumps from the Chili stockpile were delivered to the City of Buffalo.

DOCCS personnel also transferred light banks from the Willard Drug Treatment Center and Five Points Correctional Facilities to the Town of Lodi (Seneca County) following August flooding, and inmate work crews were used to demobilize aqua dams in Franklin, Clinton and Monroe counties, and to support Seneca County post-flood clean-up operations.

### **Division of Criminal Justice Services**

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) initiated and completed the transition to the new NY-ALERT notification system. The Missing Persons Clearinghouse at DCJS uses this system to issue missing vulnerable adult, missing child, and missing college student alerts, which are distributed to the public and other entities, such as hospitals, bus stations, and NYS Thruway Authority rest areas and toll barriers. DCJS also uses the system to send emergency alerts to employees, when appropriate, since DCJS has identified several essential functions that must continue 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. Additionally, a DCJS employee is assigned as a liaison to the State EOC.

DCJS staff reviewed and updated DCJS' Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan. The DCJS emergency management team coordinated recommended revisions and improvements to the agency's plan and identified an alternate work facility should the agency's offices at the Gov. Alfred E. Smith State Office Building be inaccessible or unusable. Finally, the DCJS Office of Human Resource Management ensured that all new agency staff receive COOP training and tracked the 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, where 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**

Empire State Development (ESD) continued to provide assistance to New Yorkers affected by the Lake Ontario floods in 2017 through the administration of the Lake

Ontario Small Business Recovery Fund. This \$15 million fund was created 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 raised level of Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence Seaway and surrounding waterways between January and August of 2017. The program compensates 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, and ESD has disbursed more than \$2.8 million since then.

### **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 Reserves 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 nearly three million gallons of gasoline and is located at an inland fuel terminal on Long Island. The Upstate Strategic Fuel Reserve contains 1.4 million gallons of diesel fuel and 1.4 million gallons of gasoline, located at six separate distribution terminals across Upstate New York. Given the fuel distribution disruptions experienced after Superstorm Sandy, this program is designed to fill supply gaps causing a fuel emergency. Upon declaration of a fuel emergency, gasoline and diesel fuel from the reserves may be released to meet fuel needs while the industry recovers from a disruption in routine fuel supply operations.

In collaboration with DAM and DHSES, Fuel NY is also assisting retail gasoline stations to comply with statutory requirements. Specifically, certain strategically located stations in New York City and Suffolk, Nassau, Westchester, and Rockland Counties must possess an emergency generator and have the capacity to deploy and install a contracted portable emergency generator in the event of a declared energy or fuel supply emergency.

With its Portable Emergency Generator Program, NYSERDA can mobilize the deployment and installation of portable emergency generators to facilitate gas station compliance with the law in a declared energy or fuel supply emergency.

NYSERDA continued to support station owner implementation costs associated with the installation of a transfer switch, electrical modifications needed to accept an emergency generator, and, through the Permanent Emergency Generator Initiative, the installation of permanent emergency generators for strategically located stations that preferred such an option.

As of December 2018, 891 gas stations in the downstate region had their own emergency generator or a contract to deploy an emergency generator. Of these

stations, 209 had permanent generators on site, providing consistent coverage in high vulnerability areas.

NY Prize is a first-in-the-nation community microgrid design competition that is conducted in three stages. In Stage 1, NYSERDA conducted feasibility studies for 83 community microgrid projects across New York. In Stage 2, 11 projects with detailed engineering designs and financial business models were selected. Stage 3 will conclude with approximately 3-6 projects constructed and advanced.

NYSERDA also has protocols in place to provide response to households affected by severe weather events through the EmPower New York and Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR programs.

### **Department of Environmental Conservation**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) led the New York State Interagency Workgroup on Crude Oil Preparedness and New York Foam Task Force. Other members of the Task Force include the State Department of Health and Transportation, DHSES, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard. As part of the Task Force, DEC reached out to and hosted meetings with four new counties to be included in the Geographic Response Plan (GRP) program, which is used for planning and preparing for any potential response to a crude oil accident. These counties will supplement the GRPs already existing throughout the State. DEC is also purchasing additional spill response trailers, supplementing the 24 trailers equipped with specialized spill response equipment that were previously deployed across the 21 counties in the crude by rail corridor.

DEC also developed and participated in spill response trailer training across the GRP counties that provided hands-on instruction for local first responders on how to utilize the trailer equipment safely and effectively. DEC also created and launched a live webpage that provides background information and guidance and allows users to access interactive versions of the GRPs and print out PDFs as needed.

Finally, DEC continued its Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) collection program. The program was developed and implemented with the help of the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC). 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. Approximately 33,000 gallons of foam was safely disposed of due to 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 Mid-Hudson, Finger Lakes, and Southern Tier regions who were affected by

flooding, tornadoes, and storms by deploying staff and utilizing DFS' Mobile Command Unit to help residents and business owners file insurance claims as needed. Additionally, DFS continued to assist Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria by sending bilingual examiners to assist the Insurance Department in Puerto Rico in responding to consumer complaints and questions.

DFS also directed insurers to update disaster response and recovery plans to ensure they are prepared to address consumer needs before a disaster strikes. The updated guidance for property/casualty companies now requires mortgage and title insurers to file a disaster response plan and questionnaire with DFS. DFS issued these updated requirements to include disasters that may occur outside of New York, such as hurricanes, terrorist attacks, or cybersecurity breaches, which could affect an insurer's ability to serve New York consumers.

### **Office of Fire Prevention and Control**

Throughout 2018, DHSES' 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; fire safety education to the public and target audience groups; fire inspections of designated occupancies; investigations of fires; and advice and technical assistance to all levels of government in emergencies and routine fire protection-related matters.

OFPC provides technical assistance to local responders in highly specialized areas including hazardous material and technical rescue incidents. Operational capabilities exist in-house that allow OFPC to provide technical advice or perform specialized response operations where required.

In 2018, OFPC responded to 149 incidents, including some that required the deployment of New York Task Force 2 (NYTF-2), New York 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. NYTF-2 was deployed 12 times during 2018 in response to severe weather-related events, including Tropical Storm Florence and the flooding event which impacted the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes Regions. OFPC's Swift Water Teams were also deployed to Schuyler, Broome, and Seneca Counties during this time.

Additionally, OFPC and NYTF-2 responded to technical rescue incidents including the search for a missing skier at Whiteface Mountain in Essex County, as well as missing person searches at Thatcher Park in Albany County, the Catskill Creek, and in the Town of Bethlehem. The team also participated in a structural collapse rescue operation in Poughkeepsie which included the successful rescue of a trapped individual. This was NYTF-2's first rescue of a live victim following a structural collapse.

Outside of its work with NYTF-2, OFPC responded to numerous other emergencies throughout the year, including a train derailment in Delaware County and a helicopter crash in Clinton County. OFPC also deployed Unmanned Aerial Systems 18 times in support of search and rescue missions, damage assessments, and fire investigations.

OFPC staff also supported fire safety and public protection operations at multiple mass-gathering events in 2018, including Jones Beach State Park Air Show on Memorial Day weekend, the Belmont Stakes in June, the Great New York State Fair in August/September, Saratoga Raceway in August, and the Westminster Dog Show in February. In addition, OFPC staff provided fire suppression support with a firefighting foam trailer at the NASCAR weekend at Watkins Glen International Speedway, as requested by the Schuyler County Fire Coordinator and the Watkins Glen Fire Department. Staff also provided Incident Command System-related support and public fire safety education during this event.

Pursuant to Executive Order 125, OFPC continues to assess risks posed by the transportation of crude oil by rail across New York State and enhance the State's capacity to respond to potential oil spills. In 2018, OFPC and partner agencies in the New York State Foam Task Force administered annual refresher training for firefighters and conducted drills with local first responders. In 2018, the Task Force was requested to support four emergency incidents.

OFPC staff participated in numerous preparedness exercises and activities in 2018. These included the Indian Point Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercise, a tabletop exercise at Watkins Glen International Speedway, the annual training of Erie County and surrounding ice rescue teams at the Coast Guard Station in Buffalo, Operation Gunwale 2018 which was held at the Port of Albany, the Annual Westchester County Haz-Mat Squad Drill, and the FDNY Incident Management Team full scale exercise.

### **Office of General Services**

The New York State Office of General Services (OGS) plays an important role assisting with various emergency requests and supporting the State's emergency preparedness and response posture. Program staff are trained and assigned to the following ESFs and are often called upon by the State EOC: ESF 3 (Public Works and Engineering), ESF 6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services), and ESF 7 (Logistics). In these roles, OGS supported emergency response activities 16 times in 2018, including transportation of various assets and resources such as generators, traffic control equipment, and water to affected locations, as well as participation in drills and dispatching of personnel to the State EOC during activations.

Additionally, OGS' Support Services programs support emergency preparedness and responses for state and local agencies. These efforts include the OGS Mail & Freight Center's support of the Department of Health's Office of Health Emergency

Preparedness as their primary shipper of emergency equipment and supplies going to and from the Medical Emergency Response Cache (MERC) warehouse and the Brentwood Consolidated Warehouse/Distribution Center (BDC). In 2018, OGS completed more than 20 deliveries of supplies and resources. The BDC securely stores MERC products and Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets that are deployable in a disaster, including a bio-terrorist attack. The BDC also assisted in the receipt and further distribution for 299 pallets of non-clothing items for delivery to Puerto Rico to support of the Hurricane Maria relief effort.

OGS Fleet Management (Fleet) plays 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 are tasked with protecting all employees, constituent commuters, and other drivers on the road, as well safeguarding OGS assets. Fleet takes a proactive approach in preparing for and managing its assets during an emergency, which entails a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, and evaluating assets to ensure effective coordination during incident response. In addition, Fleet attempts to identify any vulnerabilities in its operations so that it may take corrective actions in advance and avoid any shutdowns during an emergency. Ongoing inspections, maintenance, and testing programs, as well as training procedures, are in place so that all vehicles and equipment are usable, in proper working order, and available for immediate deployment.

Lines of communication and protocols have been established so that Fleet management principals are always reachable during an emergency and OGS fueling sites operate on a round-the-clock basis, however, staffing levels may be increased when necessary.

OGS also provides 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 posts a guide to these resources on its homepage (<https://ogs.ny.gov/>). These resources include information and links to construction emergency contracts, purchasing and service contracts, and hazardous incident response equipment. Lists of previously approved construction vendors are made available to municipalities and the public.

## **Department of Health**

The Department of Health (DOH) responded to several emergencies in 2018 that ranged from disease outbreaks to natural disasters. Staff conducted emergency operations in support of the New York City Housing Authority activities during the first several months of 2018. In March, DOH worked with municipalities to respond to a Nor'easter, which blanketed much of the region in snow. Various levels of support were also provided to nine counties that grappled with flooding in Western New York and the Finger Lakes Regions.

DOH also provided operational support for Point of Dispensing (POD) operations providing post-exposure prophylaxis in Madison County for exposures to a case of bacterial meningitis at Colgate University, and in Chautauqua County for a foodborne disease outbreak at a McDonalds. Additionally, the Department responded to a suspected case of hantavirus at the Belmont Race Track.

DOH responded to a number of other emergencies in 2018 as well, including United Arab Emirates Flight 203 which landed at John F. Kennedy airport with reports of ill passengers and crew which required testing to rule out Middle East Respiratory Syndrome. DOH supported Rockland County's response to a measles outbreak beginning in October and continuing through the start of 2019 that included POD operational support for vaccination. DOH staff also responded to the scene of the Schoharie County mass casualty vehicular incident and deployed DOH's Mass Fatality Trailer per request from State OEM. Finally, the Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (eFINDS) was used during 11 emergency evacuations during 2018.

Coastal Storm Planning continues to be a priority for DOH and, as such, the Health Care Facility Evacuation Center (HEC) Plan and HEC Facility Guidance Document were both updated this year. In addition, the health care Facility Evacuation Planning Application (FEPA) was enhanced for all New York City health care facilities to be able to access and update facility specific data and send/receive arrangements, with 100% of NYC based facilities completing required planning activities in 2018. DOH continues to develop plans to ensure the capability of coordinating a multi-facility evacuation through a HEC Model in each DOH Region throughout the State.

In terms of strengthening preparedness activities and information sharing during emergencies, DOH continued to develop the Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) concept throughout the State. The Department also worked with OEM to further develop State ESF Plans and provide feedback on State level plans.

Through the Regional Training Centers (RTC), DOH conducted training sessions that included e-FINDS, Burn Life Support, Disaster Life Support, Trauma Care, HAZMAT, Stop-the-Bleed Train-the-Trainer (TtT), and Pediatric Disaster Response. DOH staff also participated in National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS), Disaster Mental Health and NY Responds courses.

At the local level, Volunteer Management Request Training and Psychological First Aid TtT were offered to Local Health Departments (LHDs) and facilities across the State. DOH staff also conducted monthly Clinical Operations and Medical Countermeasures trainings and Medical Emergency Response Inventory Tracking System (MERITS) training with LHDs.

Finally, HEC Application training was conducted for all partners providing staffing support to HEC operations and FEPA Training was conducted for healthcare facilities in NYC. In July, a Functional Exercise of the HEC was conducted to test the operational capability and capacity of the HEC Application (a web-based application to manage

evacuation operations). Throughout the rest of the year, the Department supported designated Ebola Assessment and Treatment Centers in exercising capabilities; sponsored the statewide annual public health emergency preparedness exercises, testing LHD capabilities to conduct Medical Countermeasure Dispensing operations; and traveled throughout the State to conduct CHEMPACK sustainment activities, to ensure that the CHEMPACK containers contain up-to-date Medical Countermeasures.

DOH staff also participated in a number of exercises, including federally-evaluated REP exercises, Iso Crossroads Tabletop exercises, and PanX 2018, a NYC based Pandemic Influenza tabletop exercise.

### **Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services**

During 2018, DHSES continued to play a prominent role in coordinating New York 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 on the 38 separate occasions described earlier in this report, OEM oversees the 24/7 State Watch Center and a regional field staff that continuously provide statewide situational awareness.

DHSES has developed an assessment tool and approach to help State and local stakeholders assess risk, capabilities, and the potential need for support and resources during emergencies or disasters. County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) provides for a standardized and repeatable process to understand capabilities at the county level and identify statewide trends and preparedness gaps. DHSES completed the second round of assessments for all of the counties (and NYC) in late 2018. The next round of CEPA sessions will begin in 2020. In addition to DHSES, several other DPC agencies regularly participate in the CEPA workshops held across the State.

OEM also conducted multiple training efforts in 2018 ranging from Radiological Emergency Preparedness training to general emergency preparedness trainings with local governments. The Emergency Management Certification and Training program was developed to support Governor Cuomo's strategy of creating unified emergency management training, education, communication, and response protocols. The 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 2018, more than 600 people attended one of twenty tier trainings offered or completed online training.

In 2018, the Radiological Emergency Preparedness program conducted one federally-evaluated exercise and two off-year exercises. On May 1, OEM conducted the Exelon

James A. FitzPatrick power plant State-evaluated off-year plume exercise with New York State and Oswego County. The exercise was successful and provided an opportunity for the State and county to practice operations preparing for the scheduled federally-evaluated exercise on June 25, 2019.

DHSES's Logistics Division operated 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 2018, items such as bottled water, cots, light towers, generators, pumps, sandbags, portable dams and chainsaws were deployed on multiple occasions in response to incidents across New York State.

DHSES also operates the State Training Preparedness Center (SPTC) in Oriskany, NY. During 2018, over 9,500 first responders were trained at the SPTC. Utilizing the state of the art facilities at the SPTC, DHSES conducted training courses on a variety of topics, including practical skills, such as Initial Response to an Active Shooter, Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack Program, Rescue Task for EMS, Officer Survival Tactics and Close response to an active shooter, and training for bomb squads and K9 teams.

The newly opened swift water training facility, located at the SPTC, is the nation's first facility dedicated to solely training public safety professionals in swift water rescue techniques. In its first few months of operations over 350 first responders were trained by OFPC staff, with a goal of training over 600 students in 2019.

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 640 students majoring in CEHC studies and nearly 400 students with a declared minor. DHSES has helped CEHC shape the next generation of leaders in these fields through the intern program. In 2018, DHSES hosted 58 student interns from CEHC, and over 130 since the program's inception. DHSES has also participated in CEHC's capstone courses that allow 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 the successful Red Team exercises. Partnering with local law enforcement and private businesses, OCT's Red Teams impacted over 1,000 industries to raise awareness of the precursors of terrorism and New York State's See Something Say Something campaign.

DHSES Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT) served as a go-to resource for county and local governments and non-Executive agencies and authorities to provide onsite and remote assistance with cyber incidents and investigations. On over a dozen occasions, the CIRT's staff worked on-site with local governments and agencies to provide investigation and remediation assistance following a cyber-attack. The CIRT continues to work with its partners to provide actionable cyber-intelligence to local governments and law enforcement organizations. The CIRT also, in conjunction with the

OCT's Critical Infrastructure Unit, has designed an in-depth Cybersecurity Risk and Vulnerability Assessment that is provided at no charge to local government entities.

Further, working with partners at the State and Federal level, the CIRT provided support for the State Board of Elections and various county boards of election during the 2018 election season to help ensure that New York State's election infrastructure was protected. Leading up to the 2018 election, the CIRT worked with the State Board of Elections to identify the specifications for and procure Intrusion Detection and Managed Security Services for all county boards of election that required them. Further, the State Board of Elections has instructed all counties to notify the CIRT directly of any cyber event that may affect Counties' election infrastructure so that it may take appropriate action.

DHSES' Office of Disaster Recovery serves as the lead agency responsible for New York's State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). As part of those efforts, the 2019 New York State Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by the DPC in December 2018 and approved by FEMA. This plan qualifies the State for federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance program. Together, these programs provide significant opportunities to reduce or eliminate potential losses to State and local governments through hazard mitigation planning and project grant funding. Additionally, the 2019 SHMP permits New York to submit eligible mitigation opportunities through the federal Public Assistance (PA) program.

New York State received a major federal disaster declaration for flooding that occurred in the Central New York and Finger Lakes regions during the month of August. Additionally, the United States Small Business Administration issued disaster declarations for the same flooding events, as well as January flooding in the North Country. Recovery work continued on two other declarations granted for events that occurred in 2017, including flooding in the Finger Lakes, Central New York, Mohawk Valley and Capital Regions, as well as a multi-alarm fire in the Capital Region.

The Hazard Mitigation Unit continued to work with counties to update FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans, which identify risks and strategies and is essential to receive FEMA mitigation grants. Public Assistance (PA) grants are administered through DHSES. PA provides the maximum amount of federal assistance available through FEMA following a Presidential disaster declaration. Funds are used to assist in the recovery of State, local and tribal governments, as well as private nonprofit organizations providing governmental services.

Through the PA program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations. The PA program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures such as increasing culvert capacity,

reinforcing embankments, building floodwalls, elevating electrical components, and relocation of critical controls and facility support elements such as boilers and generators.

During 2018, the PA program secured approval of more than \$390 million in new obligations (federal share) for several Superstorm Sandy projects, including \$64 million for hazard mitigation on a Public Assistance project at the Owl's Head Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$56 million for hazard mitigation on a Public Assistance project at the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Plant, \$26 million for the New York City Office of Management and Budget to repair and mitigate damages to the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin Marina, and \$16 million for repairs and to mitigate damages to electrical vaults in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park (World's Fair Pavilion).

FEMA also approved and obligated an additional \$22 million in funding for projects related to the severe winter storm that impacted 30 counties, as well as another \$6.4 million under FEMA's new delivery model for 95 new projects related to flooding from Lake Ontario. Additionally, DHSES successfully closed six legacy disasters for a combined total of \$315.4 million. DHSES' newly formed appeals team successfully argued for approximately \$900,000 in funding that FEMA originally denied.

DHSES established the Local Emergency Management Accreditation Program in 2017. This program was developed in partnership with the New York State Emergency Management Association (NYSEMA) to establish statewide standards and certification in emergency management. This program helps enhance the overall preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities of local communities throughout the State. Five New York emergency management organizations received accreditation through this program from 2017-2018.

In April 2018, DHSES launched "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. In 2018, 25 NY SECURE exercises were conducted at different stations along the Amtrak corridor from NYC to Buffalo and on the MTA commuter lines. Participating agencies include DHSES, Division of State Police, Metropolitan Transit Authority, Amtrak Police, and several local law enforcement agencies.

During each exercise, the agencies perform 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 is 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 will be responding to emergencies at those locations. These exercises are conducted multiple times a month during the morning or evening commutes and will continue throughout 2019.

## **Division of Homes and Community Renewal**

In January, an ice jam in Plattsburgh caused severe flooding in Underwood Estates, a manufactured home park. Upon inspection, dozens of homes were badly damaged, and others were not up to code. The New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal and its local partners worked together to ensure residents had short-term housing while new homes were delivered, and the park was improved, including the reconstruction of its electric system. DEC also oversaw the construction of a berm paid for by the owner to protect the park from future flooding. All work was completed by the end of 2018.

## **Office of Information Technology Services**

The NYS 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 the 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) routinely provides GIS and mapping support to DPC agencies. GPO provides continuous support to OEM by updating software and data in the State EOC and by providing GIS specialists for mapping and spatial analysis support at the State EOC and State Incident Management Team (State IMT) deployments. GPO completed several rounds of training for new GIS specialists to increase the pool of staff available for the State EOC and the State IMT.

GPO staff also worked at the State EOC during three REP exercises, including mapping locations and status in the NY Responds Common Operating Picture map viewer, and the tracking of ice jams during January and February of 2018. During the reporting period, ITS upgraded the computers in the State EOC GIS room and GPO staff ensured proper configuration.

The GPO coordinated with the New York City Office of Emergency Management and DHSES on special event maps for the Fourth of July fireworks event to ensure a common operating picture. 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 GIS data from the CIRIS data repository.

GPO staff also worked with OFPC fire specialists to develop a digital form for collecting damage assessments. These forms were utilized during the October severe weather event in the lower Hudson Valley. In the fall, GPO worked with DHSES to develop

another digital form to enable Seneca County to update damage assessment and debris removal information relating to the August storms.

In 2018, ITS made multiple updates and improvements to the existing DPAT mobile app to improve the user experience and ensure the comprehensive collection of data. Specifically, ITS launched a companion website application to allow agency staff to more easily manage their assets. With the new website application, users may now enter and manage asset details from their computers, including adding/deleting images and downloading Excel spreadsheets. Additional enhancements during the reporting period included a new asset status of “Deployed-Active/Emergency Event,” new fields identifying the home location and county of an asset, updating the method, on both the mobile and website applications, by which a user may enter the physical location of an asset, and displaying the Asset ID on the website application. The team also worked to ensure the mobile app was consistently updated and compatible with the latest iOS operating system.

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 also routinely performed cyber security risk, threat, and vulnerability assessments and critical infrastructure reviews to ensure adequate controls and resiliency.

CISO continued to develop and define cyber exercise plans, and conduct or participate in federal, State and local cyber exercises, including monthly Cyber tabletop exercises at the monthly Information Security Community of Practice Meetings. CISO participated in tabletop exercises for attendees at the annual NYS Cyber Security Conference in June, with the State Board of Elections and county boards of elections, as well as risk assessment activities related to election systems, and the NYS Utilities Cyber Exercise at NY Independent Systems Operators in September.

Additionally, CISO maintained a robust awareness and outreach program promoting cyber security best practices, including the creation of a Local Government Cyber Security Tool Kit and participation in and support of national events such as National Cyber Security Awareness Month and the Kids Safe Online Poster Contest.

CISO also coordinated a variety of security training and education programs, including the 21st Annual NYS Cyber Security Conference, which provided keynotes from nationally recognized cyber security experts, more than 48 breakout sessions, sessions specifically designed for cyber concerns related to local government, education, energy, health sectors, and hands-on training.

## **Department of Labor**

The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) focused its efforts on development of and updates to emergency and disaster plans, assessment of communications capabilities and security needs, and strengthening workplace and employee resiliency. Staff conducted site inspections to identify and assist site managers with developing or updating office-specific all-hazard emergency action plans. DOL emergency management staff also assisted site locations in conducting and evaluating evacuation drills, providing health/safety training (AED/CPR), and performing air- and water-quality testing at DOL sites.

DOL mitigated radio communication gaps in two of its larger facilities. An analog repeater/antenna system was installed at the Glendale Telephone Call Center, and a UHF digital repeater/antenna system was installed at DOL headquarters in Albany.

## **Office of Mental Health**

Throughout any emergency, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) maintains close communication with mental health service providers to identify and correct issues with delivery of services. For example, during the January winter storms, OMH stood up a virtual Departmental Operations Center to manage communications and coordination among State-operated psychiatric facilities impacted by the storm. A preparedness briefing was sent to the providers of mental health services statewide providing information on storm expectations and preparedness best practices. Throughout and immediately following the storm, OMH monitored the status of community mental health services via liaisons at the New York City, Long Island, and Hudson River field offices. Similar operations took place during the March snow storms, as well as other winter weather events in November.

Additionally, OMH provided mental health responders to support those impacted by an emergency. Following the Schoharie County mass casualty vehicular incident in October, OMH deployed a team of disaster mental health responders, at the request of Montgomery County, to provide support to the Amsterdam funeral home staff who conducted the services for 18 of those who perished in the accident. Responders met with funeral home staff in a group setting, as well as individually with those who sought additional support for emotional challenges related to their efforts.

OMH's Bureau of Emergency Preparedness worked with the Administrative Support Services Group to revise and update the emergency management planning guidance for all OMH psychiatric facilities to ensure compliance with newly issued Joint Commission standards for emergency management. The changes in Joint Commission standards reflected new rules for emergency management planning and response created the previous year by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In February, OMH co-sponsored training with the Department of Health that was simultaneously webcast to 60 psychiatric centers, hospitals, and local offices of emergency management throughout the State. The training – *Disaster Mental Health Response to a Mass-Shooting Incident: Victims, First Responders, and Community* – was produced by the Institute for Disaster Mental Health (IDMH) at SUNY New Paltz, and addressed the needs of a wide spectrum of individuals who are affected by a mass shooting event, including surviving victims, families of those wounded or killed, witnesses of the attack, and first responders. The training focused on mental health interventions for these groups and addressed characteristics that may shape the immediate response to mass shootings, including how law enforcement actions during the event may affect survivors' experiences, and how common politicization of these events may increase subsequent distress.

In response to the growing need to address psychological resilience in both the public health and mental health communities, OMH contracted with SUNY New Paltz IDMH to create a new classroom-based training in psychological first aid, an evidence-informed approach for assisting children, adolescents, adults, families, and responders in the aftermath of a disaster or emergency event. Organizations that work in emergency or disaster related areas such as public health, emergency response, hospitals and other healthcare organizations or even voluntary organizations that are active in disasters find psychological first aid helpful in avoiding stress and assisting others in need. The work with IDMH included the development of a both a basic participant curriculum in psychological first aid, as well as a companion train-the-trainer module.

OMH officers and staff participated in several training exercises including the revised State EOC and NY Responds trainings, the NYS Training and Exercise Planning Workshop, two federally-evaluated REP exercises and drills, and the annual New York City Healthcare Evacuation Center exercise.

### **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 & 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, including international and domestic terror events. MTA continually develops and improves emergency plans and enhances skills by participating in a variety of planning, mitigation, response, and recovery activities.

The MTA Chairman and executive team take active roles in emergency preparedness and response activities. The agency conducted numerous trainings and exercises in advance of the hurricane and winter weather seasons. Response priorities and communication strategies were developed and enhanced throughout the year to ensure that emergency response systems were in place and vital information was shared with the public, within the organization, and with other governmental entities. MTA has an

elaborate, multi-layered security system in place; the agency continued to work with the New York City Police Department and other law enforcement partners to keep the system secure, and to maintain the safety of customers and employees.

Major planning efforts involved 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 operations were engaged for the United Nations General Assembly, the Global Citizen Concert in Central Park, multiple sporting events and major mass gathering events such as New Year's Eve, the Presidential election, parades, and concerts. Finally, 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 New York City Office of Emergency Management, threat and hazard identification, and risk assessment updates.

MTA staff participated in more than 40 training programs to further enhance the organization's ability to prepare for and respond to numerous types of emergencies. Training ranged from general emergency and traffic management courses to programs on specific topics such as mass transit evacuations, active shooter response, cyber security and terrorism preparedness.

Additionally, staff played an active role in nearly 30 drills and exercises to enhance overall awareness and understanding of emergency plans and operationalize emergency training. The MTA participated in multiple drills with local OEMs and response organizations on topics such as severe weather response and mass evacuations, as well as specific threats such as cyber-attacks, hazardous material transport incidents, and Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercises.

### **Division of Military and Naval Affairs**

The New York National Guard, along with members of the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard, responded to three major winter weather emergencies in New York State, while members of the New York Army and Air National Guard responded to hurricanes in the Carolinas and Florida. A total of 1,768 soldiers, airmen and New York military force members responded to these missions.

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

Throughout the year, 700 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 12,186 missions, more than 7,500 of which were focused on bridge and tunnel security. JTFES members were on duty at key infrastructure sites daily and prepared to add additional forces when called upon. JTFES participated in 11 Multi-Agency Super Surge (MASS) security missions 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, as well as 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.

The course and materials, developed in partnership with DHSES, were delivered at in-person trainings across the State. 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 New York National Guard personnel conducted 762 classes, trained 34,516 New Yorkers and handed out 10,196 kits, filled with emergency preparedness supplies.

Since the program's inception in 2014, the New York National Guard, DHSES and the American Red Cross trained more than 270,000 individuals in-person and another 6,000 through an online course.

The New York National Guard maintains two Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (CSTs). CSTs are a high-priority response unit supporting civil authorities responding to a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) incident. The CST mission is to support civil authorities responding to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incident by identifying agents and/or 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 federal Department of Defense schools, along with other federal agencies such as FEMA, Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Education. Equipped with advanced detection, analytical, and protective equipment, the unit possesses satellite, secure, and cellular communications to provide connectivity with both civil and military forces.

The CSTs conducted 132 stand-by missions in which they deployed assets near the scene of a major event, as well as five assistance missions. Both teams conducted training regularly throughout the year, and the members of the 24th CST also conducted a regular certification in “helocasting,” which involved entering the water from a hovering helicopter.

New York and New Jersey National Guards also participate 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 System structure to better integrate the HRF element with civilian first responders. The HRF does not supplant state or local authority, but rather 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 conducted 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) prepared and deployed emergency equipment, resources, and personnel across the State in response to floods, technological hazards, and blizzards. Equipment and support included boats, marine patrols, light/medium duty plows, snowmobiles, 4x4 vehicles, ATVs and portable generators. Parks also staffed the State EOC and regional operation centers for emergency activations.

During 2018, Parks worked with OEM to update internal emergency management processes through revision of incident notification procedures, create an agency EMOP, and train more than 1,600 staff members on these procedures.

## **Office for People with Developmental Disabilities**

The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) prioritized and strengthened its approach to emergency management with the expansion of its emergency management office. OPWDD increased its staffing level of disaster preparedness program representatives to a total of 11 statewide. The primary objective of these staff members is to strengthen core capabilities through preparedness, planning, training, response, and exercise.

The OPWDD Communication Center was established to prepare for and respond to an emergency or disaster. The Center's primary responsibility is the collection and dissemination of information received throughout the State. The Center's operational responsibilities include monitoring for any potential or actual emergencies 24 hours per day, seven days a week that may impact OPWDD and utilizing EM Resource, a web-based application for regional coordination and response. The Communication Center also serves as point of contact for the New York State Watch Center if OPWDD needs to be activated by OEM.

The Communication Center was instrumental in centralizing a reporting method to help disseminate communications to agency leadership regarding emergency and non-emergency events, keeping them aware of regional emergencies.

Regional Emergency Planning Committees are comprised of staff members from applicable divisions within each region and provide planning and guidance for implementation in each of OPWDD's six regions. Their purpose is to identify OPWDD's emergency management policies and response strategies, ensuring a coordinated local approach to managing emergencies.

## **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**

All agency response plans and protocols were actively reviewed and updated to ensure that all flights to Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) airports or ships arriving at PANYNJ seaports were prepared for the arrival, treatment, and transfer of sick passengers to appropriate medical care centers. The agency's Emergency Management Operations Plan aligned PANYNJ efforts with appropriate local, State, and federal agencies to ensure that appropriate plans and protocols were in place for public health emergencies in accordance with best practices and lessons learned from recent events impacting the Port Region, including Ebola monitoring, measles, and the Emirates flight.

The Port Authority partners with other federal, State, and local agencies on a Joint Rail Initiative to protect the regional rail system, an interdependent network that provides support to both the traveling/commuting public and complex freight transportation around the region and throughout the nation. The Joint Rail Initiative seeks to improve

each partner agency's analysis, information sharing, planning, training, and exercising capabilities through each phase of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery). This effort included a dedicated analysis of cyber risks and threats to the rail infrastructure of the region.

The SIGMA program, developed by Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), entered the capabilities transition phase for PANYNJ. The program is administered by Two-Six Labs in Arlington, Virginia and was finalized by the end of 2018. The transition consisted of SIGMA D3S detectors, mobile detectors, static emplacements, training, sustainment and services supporting the operation. PANYNJ fulfilled the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with DARPA and the Domestic Nuclear Detective Office (DNDO), and implemented and deployed SIGMA D3S radiological detection equipment and accessories to police officers at each PANYNJ facility. The program deployed 1,100 spectroscopic personal radiation detection devices, each paired with an Android Smart phone, nine mobile detection police vehicles, and three large static detectors. The Strategic Preparedness Unit supported this effort with logistical deployment of these technologies to each police command.

PANYNJ's Geographical Information System (GIS) program also shared spatial analytics and data visualization information with OEM in 2018. The program maintains local geographic databases pertaining to PANYNJ facilities, aerial imagery, assets, infrastructure, transportation, and other resource information to assist with daily operations as well as disaster mitigation, planning, response, and recovery. Data was accessed from servers within the Port Authority network, as well as web mapping services from other organizations.

Additionally, the Authority's Strategic Preparedness Unit managed the application of a rigorous Mitigation and Risk Management program that enhances the decision-making capabilities of senior management and executive staff. Through the production of updated research findings and quantitative data regarding applicable hazard and threat scenarios, the Unit advised decision-makers on where to focus capital and operational efforts to ensure the protection of the agency's key assets – its patrons, staff, and physical infrastructure.

The Risk Management Program, utilizing the System-wide Multi-hazard Risk Tool (SMRT) methodology for the basis of analysis, was a multi-tier effort that supported long-term strategic planning efforts. The program was also sufficiently agile to support detailed assessments of specific proposed mitigation projects and/or specific hazards of concern. At the highest tier, SMRT was applied to conduct periodic assessments of risk across all units and facilities to establish or update the agency-wide baseline risk profile. Additionally, PANYNJ used SMRT to conduct detailed, asset-specific risk analyses of specific hazards or threats. SMRT was then used to conduct evaluations of the effectiveness of specific proposed mitigation projects and evaluate the return on investment of proposed projects. The flexibility of SMRT to holistically support the Risk Management program, along with its ability to respond to simultaneous demands for

both simplistic and complex analyses, made it the ideal framework to guide risk management activities within the agency.

The Strategic Preparedness Unit provided subject matter expertise to guide security strategies amongst the various line departments and facilities, including direct analysis of threats, vulnerabilities, and recommendation and evaluation of potential mitigation actions. Additionally, the Unit supported the planning and development of security standards and practices, as well as the implementation and deployment of operational countermeasures.

Finally, the Port Authority Flood Advisory System (PAFAS), a storm surge modeling system, provided key information to decision-makers regarding impending storm surge events and high-resolution visualizations of flooding extents. The four-day prediction horizon provided forecasts at varying statistical confidence intervals. The system is composed of 13 water monitoring stations and a supercomputer to generate probabilistic storm surge models. The data is accessed by the end user through an interactive web map that depicts the predicted flood extents and flood depths.

### **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 events 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 DHSES to assist with utility crews entering the United States from Canada to assist with restoration efforts.

In March, Governor Cuomo directed DPS to investigate each electric utilities' preparations and response to two winter storms that affected the State in March. In April, as part of its investigation, PSC directed the State's major electric utilities to immediately improve communications and coordination with municipal officials as part of the utilities' post-action reviews following the two storms. It was determined that some utilities failed to communicate adequately with municipalities during the storms. Other issues still under investigation include the extended length of time to restore power and failure to adequately inform customers about estimated restoration times.

In advance of an emergency, DPS contacted utility senior executives to ensure that utilities were ready to minimize outages and accelerate outage restorations. Electric and

gas utilities, as well as telecommunication service providers, such as Verizon, enlisted additional personnel to minimize service disruptions.

New York's utilities have an existing base of workers available for restoration efforts. The utilities are on alert during these events and will 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.

### **Division of State Police**

The Division of State Police (State Police) play a prominent role in the State's response to almost all incidents and are the lead DPC agency in the State's law enforcement function. In addition to the prominent role in emergencies that affect transportation, the State Police also responded to various weather-related events. In mid-August, severe flooding occurred throughout the State, specifically in Wayne and Broome counties. The State Police's Underwater Recovery Team (URT) responded with airboats and swift-water inflatable boats to both locations. URT divers from other troops assisted in response to both locations and remained on-scene for multiple days until floodwaters receded. This was a multi-agency response with the URT working closely with DEC, OFPC, and local agencies.

In mid-September, severe flooding occurred again across the State, specifically in Broome County. The URT responded with airboats and swift-water inflatable boats and staged in the immediate area. As flooding worsened overnight, URT members responded to multiple locations and supported nine rescues.

In May, the Mobile Field Unit (MFU) conducted Exercise "Clean Sweep 2018," a two-day operational readiness exercise to test the ability of the MFU to deploy and effectively deal with a variety of weapons of mass destruction and civil disturbance scenarios requiring law enforcement intervention to restore public safety and preserve law and order. MFU personnel reported to the Troop G Range in Guilderland to participate in a variety of tactical scenarios. New abilities for this exercise included Unmanned Aerial Systems, Department of Corrections and Community Supervision response teams, and State Police command vehicles.

Additionally, the State Police participate in the Radiological Interdiction Detection and Enforcement (RIDE) Program which is designed to deploy, evaluate, and assess advanced radiation detection technologies for the purposes of detecting illicit radiological materials in the State. The program is administered by DHSES in collaboration with State and local partners. It works in conjunction with and supported by the Securing the Cities program, a federally-funded program operated by the New

York City Police Department to detect and interdict illicit radiological materials in the New York City region.

The 2018 RIDE training activities included a certification training for Personal Radiation Detector, Radiological Isotope Identifier, and Primary Screener Backpack training at the State Preparedness Training Center and NYPD Counter Terrorism Facility. The State Police also conducted a training for response to a radiological WMD, and a FEMA Radiological Accident Assessment course at SUNY University at Albany.

The State Police also participated in RIDE exercises during 2018, including tabletop exercise at Fort Drum with partners from the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, and Canadian, State and local law enforcement agencies. The exercise simulated the response to a stolen commercial radioactive shipment from Canada being hijacked and intended to be used as a dirty bomb at the State Capitol.

Members conducted radiation interdiction and detection details during Fourth of July celebrations in New York City and New Paltz, the Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cooperstown, the New York State Fair, September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Ceremonies, the Thanksgiving Macy's Day Parade, and the New Year's Eve Celebration in New York City.

The New York State Police/OEM Liaison Program consists of 10 lieutenants and one captain assigned to work with OEM. These officers are co-located in ten Regional Response Zones throughout the State, as well as OEM Headquarters. The lieutenants are assigned to work with OEM Regional Directors to reduce response times to ongoing incidents, emergencies, and disasters. Since the program was instituted, 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 served on several field level working groups that plan for future events. They worked with schools on safety plans, assisted OFPC with geographical response plans, and assisted each State Police Troop and other agencies with major event planning, including the New York State Fair in Syracuse, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cooperstown, and the Jones Beach Air Show in Bethpage.

The OEM captain was assigned to several executive level planning groups within OEM and is a member of the New York State Emergency Management Accreditation Council. Additionally, the captain and three of the lieutenants are part of the State Incident Management Team (State IMT). Beyond these members, four additional sergeants with duties tied to emergency management were added to the State IMT.

## **Department of State**

The Code Enforcement Disaster Assistance Response Team (CEDAR) continues to be the New York State Department of State's (DOS) primary support function in response to disasters. The CEDAR Team has nearly 300 code enforcement officials and design professionals trained to conduct rapid safety damage assessments following a disaster. The CEDAR program has 100 damage assessment kits available to be deployed. In 2017, the kits were placed in vehicles located in the Capital, Central New York, and Western New York regions. DOS added two additional vehicles to the CEDAR program, which are in the Southern Tier and Western New York regions to carry equipment used in a deployment. DOS also deployed four staff under the CEDAR program to provide technical assistance to communities impacted by severe storms in Seneca and Broome counties.

DOS presented a two-hour in-service training course on disaster response awareness for code enforcement officers at conferences across the State. The training reinforces the code enforcement officer's role in a community's response to a disaster.

## **Thruway Authority**

In addition to supporting activations of the State EOC, the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) activated its Headquarters and Division Operation Centers to facilitate response to significant weather events. The Operations Centers were staffed by trained NYSTA staff, State Police management personnel, and staff from partner agencies when necessary.

NYSTA maintains a cadre of trained individuals to serve in incident management roles for Thruway operations and as liaisons to the State or county EOCs. These staff ensure close working relationships are maintained with key partners at the Department of Transportation, DHSES, and the National Weather Service, among others, to closely coordinate responses to events impacting the State's transportation infrastructure. NYSTA also retained contracting resources in each division to assist in response to unanticipated infrastructure demands and supplement resources during large-scale incidents created by severe weather or accidents.

NYSTA continued to coordinate statewide preparation and planning with partner agencies. To meet this goal, NYSTA conducted a statewide review of its road closure procedures, including site visits of closure points to inspect closure devices, as well as participated in a simulated road closure drill in Western New York with OEM, the State Police, the Department of Transportation, and county and local partners. Additionally, NYSTA convened a statewide meeting of all winter maintenance personnel to discuss operations and required all key staff to retrain in both the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System. Highway safety awareness training was also provided to more than 300 first responders from 33 different fire companies in Western New York. NYSTA leadership met with 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 multiple storms and emergencies in 2018, and the Emergency Transportation Operations program continued preparedness planning, coordination, training, and exercise activities.

During 2018, DOT responded to 20 significant events, out of which 10 were winter storm responses including ice jam monitoring and response activities. Additional activations included high winds, tornadoes, wildfire, and flooding. DOT coordinated efforts as the lead for ESF 1 (Transportation) during two State EOC activations. Response and recovery activities continued into October for the flooding event and included DOT's assistance to local governments to restore infrastructure. Another notable response effort was the Clinton County wildfire in July during which DOT crews supported the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), firefighters, and patrols at the Altona Flat Rock State Forest to provide access and equipment.

DOT's Emergency Relief Unit continued to seek reimbursement for approved Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief and FEMA Public Assistance events on behalf of DOT, the Thruway Authority, and local governments. Progress was made on numerous projects that stemmed from more than 15 disasters and emergency events, including, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, Hurricane Sandy, the March 2017 blizzard, and several other natural disasters.

As part of the planning process, committees such as the ICS Community of Practice (CoPs), NY Responds Working Group, ESF 1 Transportation Working Group, Emergency Response System Working Group, and the newly formed Road Status Damage Assessment (RSDA) CoPs strove to develop standards for efficient emergency response. The teams developed comprehensive training programs, procedures, and tools for emergency response. Key accomplishments included statewide NY Responds training, a statewide NY Responds drill, and standardization of the model for the ESF 1 (Transportation).

A major preparedness improvement was the development of a new Road Status and Damage Assessment (RSDA II) tool that allowed DOT to utilize mobile technology to capture and transmit damage to State and local roads. RSDA II has both a mobile app for field data collection and a website where comprehensive event information can be viewed, added, or updated. The RSDA CoPs team was formed and provided feedback to the vendor for necessary product modifications and developed a training plan/material. They also serve as trainers for this new software.

To manage emergency road closures, additional key interstate routes were equipped with closure systems at strategic ramp access points, including I-495 (Long Island

Expressway), I-84 in the Hudson Valley, I-81 (south of Syracuse), and various routes in the Buffalo area. These highways were selected based on the prevalence of lake effect snows, significant grades, or high traffic volumes. The Regions involved practiced closure activities to ensure readiness if closure plans are implemented.

The DOT Fleet maintained a 98% availability for priority equipment, including equipment used primarily 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 equipment availability. Every effort was made to ensure uptime regardless of local weather conditions since all assets are considered Department assets and may be needed at a moment’s notice.

DOT participated in several conferences, meetings, and presentations, which included the annual New York State Emergency Management Association conference and the Unmanned Aircraft System Summit. DOT also collaborated with DHSES and DEC to collect the most updated Emergency Action Plans for all Class C and B dams in the State.

Along with internal coordination among regions, the Emergency Transportation Operations unit also interacted with numerous State and local agencies, and emergency response partners. DOT held several meetings to discuss agency capabilities as well as communication and collaboration during response activities. Participants of these meetings included multiple agencies from the federal, State and local levels.

DOT’s Regional Emergency Managers coordinated with various State and local agencies within their Regional boundaries and provided Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training for tow companies, participated in dam drills, and held 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 both incident management and construction coordination. DOT and NITTEC continued to refine the Regional Expressway Closure Guidelines for transportation agencies and first responders, including OEM, the 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 DOT and responder resources needed during major incidents. DOT and NITTEC coordinated and participated in regional stakeholder workshops and TIM training for first responders as part of the partnership. Four crash investigation sites, located at the I-90/I-290 interchange, were implemented to assist first responders and improve traffic flow. DOT also installed signage along emergency detour routes on I-90 and a portion of I-190. NITTEC was also 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 several 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 are relayed to the public and motorists across all jurisdictions.

In addition to TRANSCOM, DOT also coordinated with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Vermont Agency of Transportation in a peer exchange to review snow and ice response. DOT routinely coordinated with these partners on preemptive truck restrictions and potential closures for planned and unplanned events.

The TIM Steering Committee provided the means 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 46 formal multi-disciplinary training classes were held within the State. To date, 7,500 first responders in New York have been trained in TIM principles and safety.

Statewide training was provided to staff on numerous emergency response topics, including DPAT, Renting Equipment for Emergencies, the ICS Response Toolbox, ICS Environmental Permitting and Damage Assessment Documentation and Reporting, and ICS Communications and Reporting. Additional training by the Emergency Transportation Operations team was conducted on DOT's SharePoint site – Emergency Response System (ERS) – to improve event reporting.

DOT conducted numerous exercises, tabletops, and drills, both statewide and regionally. The annual statewide drill in April and June focused on utilizing the ERS as the new reporting tool before it officially rolled out in July. Additionally, each DOT region held smaller localized exercises and training in areas such as Statewide Emergency Event Resource Tracking (SEERT), staging areas, ICS 100, 200, and 300 classes, Personnel Monitoring Center exercise, Indian Point exercise, and DMNA's coastal storm planning.

The Department also administers the statewide Critical Bridges Over Water (CBOW) program, an initiative to harden 106 at-risk bridges against extreme weather, including scour and flooding. In nine separate contracts, 37 bridges 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. The funding approval for the last bridge in the program was received on November 22. Construction was completed for 100 of the bridges. The other six bridges were opened to traffic with construction scheduled to be completed in 2019.

## **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 funded 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.

In October, OVS and OVS-funded victim advocates responded to assist family members of those killed in the Schoharie County mass casualty vehicular incident. Since the incident was deemed a crime, OVS was able to process several claims related to this event and reimbursed over \$180,000 in expenses to the victims' families.

OVS also established a pilot partnership with Albany Medical Center to develop protocols and policies for responding to criminal mass casualty incidents. In addition, the agency's director and senior staff met with their counterparts from other states, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, as well as the FBI, to exchange processes and procedures for responding to criminal mass casualty events.

## **American Red Cross**

In 2014, the Red Cross launched its Home Fire Campaign to reduce fire-related deaths and injuries and end home fire tragedies in local communities across the country. Through year-round home fire safety events, the Red Cross and its partners focus on providing education to help people prevent and prepare for home fires, as well as installing free smoke alarms for those in need. In 2018, Red Cross volunteers and partners installed over 39,000 smoke alarms across New York State.

The Red Cross also partnered with DHSES and the National Guard to present the Governor's Citizen Preparedness Corps Training to New Yorkers which teaches the basics for how to prepare themselves for an emergency.

## **CONCLUSION**

In 2018, the Disaster Preparedness Commission agencies responded to several incidents throughout the State and helped New Yorkers recover. These agencies also engaged in extensive training and outreach to ensure that New York will be prepared for any hazard that may arise in the future. Based upon these efforts, the DPC and its member agencies are ensuring that New York is prepared, resilient, and safe.