



Disaster Preparedness
Commission

2022 Annual Report

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



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Introduction

The New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC) is comprised of the Commissioners, Directors, and Chairpersons of 30 State Agencies and two volunteer organizations: the American Red Cross and 2-1-1. 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.

This report is produced pursuant to Executive Law Section 21(3)(i) and provides an overview of the DPC's efforts to enhance New York State's overall preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

In December, 2-1-1 was added to the DPC as a member, via legislation, to facilitate efforts to coordinate 2-1-1 services and local emergency management offices when responding to non-emergency requests for assistance.

State Response to Major Emergencies

Critical situational awareness and information gathering efforts included major incidents such as the following:

- Hudson Valley Ice Storm (February)
- Racist Mass Shooting in Buffalo (May)
- Hudson Valley Wildfires (August)
- Hurricane Fiona (September)
- Hurricane Ian (September)
- Suffolk County Cyber Incident (September)
- Lake Effect Snowstorm (November)
- Winter Storm Elliott (December)

State Emergency Operations Center

Pursuant to Executive Law Section 21(5), DHSES' Office of Emergency Management (OEM) serves as the operational arm of the DPC. One core function of OEM is to operate the State Emergency Operations Center (State EOC).

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

During 2022, the State EOC was operational for 12 events, detailed in the table below.

The State EOC is activated to Level 4 or Enhanced Monitoring Mode when a situation requires additional monitoring and potential response coordination across State agencies. The State EOC was activated to Level 4 on five occasions in 2022.

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. During a Level 3 activation, the appropriate Emergency Support Function (ESF) is activated to support operations. The State EOC was activated to Level 3 on six occasions in 2022.

The State EOC is activated to Level 2 or Full Activation when an incident may cause or is causing significant impacts on the State. During a Level 2 activation, Multi-Agency Coordination efforts may be required across all agencies. The State EOC was not activated to Level 2 during 2022.

The State EOC is activated to Level 1 or Full State/Federal Response when federal agency resources and integration are required due to the severity of the incident. The State EOC was activated to Level 1 on one occasion during 2022.

Below is a table of State EOC activations in 2022, including Operational Periods (OP).

Event Name	Start Date	End Date	Level	OP
2020-01-04 Novel Coronavirus	1-Jan-22	11-Mar-22	3	48
2020-12-29 Statewide Mass Vaccination PoDs	1-Jan-22	11-Mar-22	3	48
2022-01-05 Winter Weather Event	5-Jan-22	7-Jan-22	4	3
2022-01-16 Winter Storm	16-Jan-22	17-Jan-22	3	2
2022-01-28 New York City Winter Storm	28-Jan-22	30-Jan-22	4	4
2022-02-02 February Winter Weather Event	3-Feb-22	6-Feb-22	4	6
2022-02-11 Peace Bridge Protest	12-Feb-22	14-Feb-22	3	3
2022-02-24 Winter Storm	24-Feb-22	26-Feb-22	4	4
2022-04-19 Winter Weather Event	19-Apr-22	21-Apr-22	3	3
2022-05-16 Severe Thunderstorm Event	16-May-22	16-May-22	4	1
2022-11-17 Western New York Snow Event	17-Nov-22	23-Nov-22	3	8
2022-12-22 Statewide Weather System	23-Dec-22	31-Dec-22	3	16
OPERATIONAL PERIODS				146
EOC ACTIVATIONS TOTAL				12

2022 New York State Emergency Operations Center Activations

The State EOC activation for Novel Coronavirus began on March 4, 2020 and ended on March 11, 2022 for a total of 757 operational periods. The State EOC activation for Statewide Mass Vaccination PoDs began on December 29, 2020 and also ended on March 11, 2022 for a total of 456 operational periods.

Statewide Disaster Preparedness and Planning Efforts

DPC agencies engaged in several initiatives to strengthen the State's preparedness posture and ability to respond to a wide variety of disasters. These efforts included updating and enhancing Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs), Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP), and Emergency Management Operation Protocols (EMOP).

The State CEMP details the preparedness, response, and recovery roles and responsibilities for all emergencies. DHSES, with input from DPC agencies, continued to build upon and refine the State CEMP.

The New York State Watch Center continued to serve as a vital hub for the State, for receiving and disseminating information on planned events, emergency incidents and disasters. State Watch processed over 264,000 emails and more than 1,000 requests for State resources in 2022.

Other OEM activities included:

- Conducted a review of State EOC operations and organizational structure to enhance EOC functions and the process for meeting federal credentialing requirements.
- Refined ESF 7 to align roles and responsibilities to improve efficiency, tracking and coordination.
- Conducted training and multi-agency exercises to evaluate and incorporate into the 2023 updates of the State CEMP and associated annexes.
- Coordinated delivery of 330 trainings to more than 6,000 people, including 128 different courses in topics such as Incident Command System, EOCs, Exercise Design, Incident Response and Coordination, and Planning.

To maintain an overall state of readiness, OEM partnered with local, county, State, and federal agencies on drills and exercises throughout 2022. These included regular communications drills with the State Watch Center as well as facility continuity of operations drills. OEM also facilitated several disaster-simulation exercises, which included the State Watch Center, State EOC and ESFs with DPC agency participation.

Citizens Preparedness Corps

The Citizen Preparedness Corps trainings give residents the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster or emergency, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

There are two types of in-person events provided: Public events are led by the New York National Guard working with experts from OEM and Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC); sessions are coordinated with local county emergency management personnel at various venues such as armories, community centers and other locations statewide, including the New York State Fair. Private events, trainings that are not open to the public requested by organizations such as schools or corporations, are given by the New York National Guard and the American Red Cross.

The Citizens Preparedness Corps program resumed training events statewide in August after pausing operations in March 2020 due to COVID-19 precautions. DHSES and the Division of Military and Naval Affairs conducted 141 training sessions, trained 3,927 people, and distributed 826 Disaster Preparedness Kits. The American Red Cross events resumed in November with 1071 individuals trained at six events.

Agency-Specific Disaster Preparedness Activities

Office of Addiction Services and Supports

The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) system of care includes approximately 1,700 Substance Use Disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery programs serving more than 700,000 individuals per year. The OASAS provider system cares for approximately 100,000 people a day, which includes more than 11,300 people in bedded and medically managed/supervised and monitored services, and more than 40,300 receiving daily medication via an Opioid Treatment Program. OASAS also directs the operation of 12 Addiction Treatment Centers where its doctors, nurses, and clinical staff provide inpatient and residential services to approximately 8,000 individuals per year.

As part of ESF 8, OASAS is the single designated State agency responsible for coordination of State-Federal relations in addiction services.

OASAS provided trainings and prepared its Addiction Treatment Centers (ATCs) on the Evacuation of Facilities in Disaster System (eFINDS). It also followed up with all residential service providers to ensure they were equipped with the knowledge and supplies needed for a successful evacuation in the event it was necessary.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OASAS adjusted and provided new forms of service delivery such as guidance, policies and protocols on infection control, proper sanitization, social distancing, infectious disease testing, vaccinations, and more, related to the pandemic response. OASAS also conducted virtual visits for the monitoring of providers without putting staff and clients at risk and maintained constant

communication with its provider network on updates to newly developed policy and procedures and assured adherence.

Additionally, OASAS secured and distributed more than 60,000 rapid test kits to its Addiction Treatment Centers and provider system. The Emergency Management Operation Protocol (EMOP) and Continuity of Operations Protocol (COOP) for Communicable Diseases was revised and updated.

Office for the Aging

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) Emergency Management team continued to support the DPC in 2022, marked by two paths of readiness. The first is through continued participation in State EOC drills and exercises to prepare and practice functions of response specific to mass care. NYSOFA participated in tabletop radiological events and large-scale traffic accidents. NYSOFA also participated in regularly scheduled leadership and synchronizing meetings to strategize with partner agency resources and capabilities during various activation scenarios.

NYSOFA also participated in another emergency preparedness initiative – the multi-agency Extreme Heat Action Plan Work Group (EHAPWG). This group, led by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the State Department of Environmental Conservation, convened to explore and develop immediate recommendations to combat the impact of extreme heat. The first report, released in summer of 2022, not only recommended steps to mitigate the effects of extreme heat on all New Yorkers, but it also identified specific interventions emphasizing the dangers of extreme heat on vulnerable and marginalized populations throughout the State. The EHAPWG met monthly to expand upon initial strategies and develop additional long term and sustainable initiatives addressing extreme heat.

Over the course of 2022, the NYSOFA Emergency Management team identified and responded to an increased number of emergency events from 2021. Early in the year, there were two extreme weather activations. The first coordinated response came from a significant ice storm in the Mid-Hudson Valley, followed by two unprecedented winter storm events across Western New York. The last of these events, over the Christmas holiday, brought the NYSOFA emergency team, staff from partner State agencies, and the local Erie County leadership, to develop a coordinated response effort to make thousands of follow up calls to local Buffalo residents and assist in the triage of persons still in need of local assistance. Given the profound need and personal stories of loss encountered by the team while calling the residents, NYSOFA coordinated follow-up mental health check-in calls to all the emergency response callers with professionals through the New York State Office of Mental Health.

In addition to weather related emergencies, there were two man-made disaster events where NYSOFA worked with the local Area Agency on Aging as they responded. In St. Lawrence County, dozens of older adults and vulnerable persons were evacuated and provided shelter when there was significant fire in a high-rise residential building. The Office for Aging Director provided experienced leadership in addressing multiple mass care functions. In the other event, another high-rise senior housing building in Rensselaer County was evacuated and sheltered while the building had a multi-day interruption in utilities. In this case, the Rensselaer County Office for Aging Director provided the onsite coordination and provided many of the wrap around services, such as transportation, meals, and recreation to the sheltered older adults.

NYSOFA also worked with the local Erie County Office for Aging Commissioner in the emergency response to the Buffalo Hate Attack. NYSOFA supported the response through information sharing, providing resources on mental health services to survivors and responders, as well as supporting local feeding operations to older adults in the community hardest hit by the interruption of the grocery services and an overall increase in food insecurity.

In addition to responding to isolated emergency events, NYSOFA continued to be an active member of the DPC and participated in quarterly DHSES Multi-Agency Planning Meetings. These meetings allow all State agencies an opportunity to discuss emergency operations activities with DHSES and DHSES OEM. Through these meeting updates, NYSOFA remains updated on activities and training opportunities for disaster planning. During the historic Lake-Effect Winter Storm in Western New York, the Multi-Agency Planning group met daily over the course of a week to provide real time weather and traffic updates, as well as requesting each member agency to report out what each agency was contributing to the event response. NYSOFA provided daily updates from the local Area Agencies on Aging as to interruptions in services, service modifications, and ongoing strategies to check on the welfare of vulnerable older adults during the event.

Lastly, NYSOFA completed a Triggering Event appendix to the Emergency Management Operations Plan (EMOP) in 2022. The document had just been submitted to DHSES for review and approval when a workforce strike began at the SYSCO Foods organization in Western New York. This was the first instance of NYSOFA utilizing the event and the likelihood of a mass food service delivery system interruption as a triggering event to alert DHSES. This communication provided DHSES with information allowing for an assessment of what other State entities may be impacted. NYSOFA was able to preemptively canvas the aging network to determine the scale of potential service disruption. Fortunately, the strike ended before any effects were realized.

NYSOFA also reached out to the 59 Area Agencies on Aging whenever circumstances indicated the likelihood of an interruption of services or other impacts critical to the safety and security of older adults. Most recently, NYSOFA requested information on warming shelters during the February frigid weather event. These data were shared with DHSES OEM and the State Watch Center.

Department of Agriculture and Markets

In February, The Department of Agriculture and Markets' (AGM) Division of Animal Industry (DAI) detected the first case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in New York State. HPAI is a foreign animal disease with high consequence for international trade and zoonotic potential. DAI, in partnership with United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services (USDA-VS), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and other State and local agencies, successfully detected and stamped out eleven (11) HPAI detections across the State and continues enhanced monitoring.

In March, AGM Emergency Management Division (EM) hosted a week-long Incident Command System (ICS) 300 and 400 classes to further develop the agency's Plant Industry and DAI divisions ICS capabilities and to further enhance the agency's ability to deploy staff in an Incident Management Team structure to eradicate invasive species. Other agencies that attended this training were DEC and active members from the New York State National Guard Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

In response to the racist mass shooting in Buffalo in May, AGM emergency funds were directed to help combat food insecurity in the neighborhood directly impacted by the store's closure. "FreshConnect" funds were used to assist residents and local organizations via timely distribution of critical resources and by supporting numerous community-based response activities. Financial support included providing \$10,000 to the Massachusetts Avenue Project to fund the "Free Farm Stand," which put New York produce in the hands of residents affected by the tragedy. "FreshConnect" funds were also used to procure \$20,000 of New York-grown produce for food boxes created by Headwater Food Hub. AGM also worked with three local restaurants to help fill ongoing community need for food. AGM recruited a local vendor to set up a pop-up distribution site for hot meals to serve residents that had challenges accessing groceries or cooking facilities. An estimated 2,000 meals were served to community members over the two days of the offering. AGM also worked with two local restaurants over a two-week period to deliver meals to students not served from the Buffalo School District lunch program. Through this effort, approximately 3,000 meals were delivered.

In October, AGM EM division participated in the James A. FitzPatrick State Evaluated Exercise, along with other DPC executive agencies, as the ESF 11 (Agriculture)

coordinator and ESF 6 agency participant. AGM EM division also participated in the 2022-23 Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Ingestion Pathway planning meetings for the Federally Evaluated Post Plume - Ingestion Pathway Exercise Program scheduled for June 2023. AGM's participation will include practicing deployments to dairy producer locations to sample milk for testing at the New York State Wadsworth Lab. This exercise occurs every eight years.

In October, AGM EM division responded to Puerto Rico's Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request to New York State by sending one representative as part of the State's Incident Management Team to support Puerto Rico's recovery efforts from Hurricane Ian/Fiona. The AGM member conducted agricultural damage assessments, coordinated with regional foodbanks, and supported Puerto Rico's EOC.

In October, AGM DAI hosted a two-day, Technical Large Animal Emergency Response Awareness (TLAER) training for first responders and County Animal Response Teams (CART). The training was held at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse where over sixty professional and volunteer personnel attended from thirty agencies, including New York State Police and New York Police Department Mounted Horse Units.

In October, AGM DAI hosted a CART Technical Large Animal Emergency Recovery tabletop exercise (TTX) in Northern New York. The TTX consisted of DHSES OEM, State Police, and local municipality fire departments to discuss and plan out a large animal incident that may occur in the area. These exercises are important to educate response agencies on how to safely and successfully rescue large animals involved in motor vehicle incidents.

In November, AGM EM division surveyed all New York State counties on behalf of the Empire State Animal Response Team (ESART). The survey provided essential knowledge of various CARTs and large-animal rescue and animal sheltering capabilities to be used during potential disasters.

Over the course of 2022, AGM EM division participated in the DEC Office of Climate Change: Extreme Heat Action Plan Working Group (EHAP). This group was convened on behalf of Governor Kathy Hochul to address the State's concerns about extreme heat preparedness. As an active member, AGM attends monthly workshops to provide input as the State's plan is developed. It will be published in the spring of 2023. AGM EM also developed a webpage dedicated to agriculture disaster recovery and extreme heat as an early result of the EHAP membership.

AGM EM division, DAI, Food Safety and Inspection (FSI), and the Department's emergency operations volunteer organization also supported a total of 43 Boil Water Order Emergencies, 20 After Hours Calls, more than 144 reports of sick poultry, over six

vehicle accidents containing agricultural products, and four State EOC activations notifications from the New York State Watch Center during 2022.

AGM's FSI continued its participation in the quarterly Biological Threat Assessment Committee (BTACT) to discuss managing biological threats; compliance and non-compliance related data relative to agricultural operations; patterns, trends, and effects of seasonality on the exclusion of invasive plant pests; and exotic foreign animal disease as it relates to quarantine material interceptions, plant pest interceptions, emergency and/or remedial actions. FSI also continues its coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on food safety and food recalls that cross over State boundaries.

AGM's Division of Plant Industry and DEC continued to coordinate storm debris management efforts as it relates to the recent increase in several invasive species, such as Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) and Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) activity in Long Island and downstate areas. This allows AGM and DEC to promote effective storm debris removal in areas where invasive species have been spotted.

AGM EM division and Division of Land and Water Resources continued its participation as a member of DHSES OEM's Drought Management Task Force (DMTF) along with additional State agencies, including DEC. The DMTF meets during the summer and fall, as needed each year, to monitor drought-like conditions and to coordinate tentative action steps if drought-like conditions continue.

AGM EM division continued to track and compile damage that the agricultural community suffered because of weather events across New York State. AGM works with its various partners to collect this information in the event it is requested at an executive level for analysis.

AGM EM division continued participation as a member of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Work Group of the FBI's Albany Field Office. This group meets quarterly to work with all State agency partners to maintain situational awareness of the current threat environment.

Nourish New York Program

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, New York State launched the "Nourish New York" program to support both families in need and farmers who were struggling because of the loss of markets due to the pandemic. In November 2021, "Nourish New York" was signed into law and transitioned from an emergency response to a permanent program that provides annual funding for food banks to purchase and distribute food to New Yorkers experiencing food insecurity. The program, administered

by AGM in collaboration with the State Department of Health, provides a market for the State's farmers through regional food banks' purchase of New York State products including milk, yogurt, cheese, vegetables, fruit, meat, and more. To date, food banks have purchased more than 72 million pounds of products from New York food producers, created more than 62 million meals for households in need, and more than 4,300 New York State businesses have benefitted. In Fiscal Year 22-23, "Nourish New York" was funded at \$50 million. Through a Request for Application, program contractors are being selected for the next five contract years. In each contract year, food banks will be funded at \$50 million per year.

State EOC ESF-6 Activations

AGM continued to support State EOC activations as part of ESF 6 virtually and supported the State EOC ESF 6. In February, April, November and December, AGM participated during the State EOC ESF 6 activations to support multiple statewide/localized winter weather events.

Response at the Great New York State Fair

New York State Fairgrounds (NYSF) staff and EM continue to assist with the COVID-19 response along with additional public safety and emergency management events, such as:

- Designed, planned, coordinated, and overseen the project of opening a state-of-the-art Joint Operations Center at the fairgrounds. This command center is at the ready and accessible 24/7 to the agency and supporting agencies in the event of emergencies and planned events.
- Implemented the addition of high-speed metal detectors to all pedestrian gates for the 2022 fair.
- Coordinated with New York State and CSEA Partnership program to provide the following trainings at no cost to the agency: Lockout/Tagout, Fall Protection Awareness, Forklift Operator Safety Awareness.
- Coordinated setup and securing of funds to train 51 NYSF employees in First aid, CPR, AED, and Stop the Bleed training in two days.
- Aid and support to multiple police agencies (Federal, State, County, Town, and Villages) for two Presidential visits in the Syracuse area. One of these visits the Joint Operations Center was activated and utilized by the State Police as a command post and briefing room leading up to the event.
- Coordinated and oversaw opening of a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic during the 2022 fair.
- Hosted the Onondaga County Ambulance Directors meeting at the Joint Operations Center in July 2022.

- Conducted a Public Safety Briefing for the 2022 Fair with approximately 80 attendees from State and non-State agencies.
- Conducted an After-Action Briefing after the 2022 NYSF in October 2022 with all agencies involved in the NYSF with approximately 65 attendees.

NYSF EM coordinated with DHSES OEM with planning exercises for the next five years. Each year, exercises will build off the previous year's exercise to add complexity and to cover all aspects of the NYSF EMOP. This year's exercise is planned for March 19 with an expected attendance of 70 participants.

Office of Children and Family Services

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provided support for the State's response to COVID-19 within its regulated programs and voluntary agencies, as well as guidance and information sharing. OCFS continued to reevaluate its internal policies and plans based on guidance from relevant organizations such as the Department of Health (DOH).

OCFS maintained a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Emergency Management Operations Protocol (EMOP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) including the Communicable Disease annex, as well as a Ready Emergency Data (R.E.D.) Book to support mission-essential, agency-wide operations. These plans are reviewed and updated at least annually.

The Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY) took part in planning and workshops to overhaul the R.E.D. Book. Working with an external association, the program area conducted a significant overhaul of the R.E.D. Book for one facility with the long-term goal of updating all facility plans to the new format.

Other OCFS activities included:

- DJJOY facilities participate in the New York State Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (New York State e-FINDS), the emergency location tracking system to track facility residents if an evacuation occurs.
- Recruited and maintains a list of volunteers to staff the agency representative desk at the State EOC if a statewide activation occurs.
- Used the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS) during emergencies and participated in the State annual reporting for NIMS compliance.
- Utilized desktop geographic information system (GIS) software packages and the web-based Critical Infrastructure Response Information System (CIRIS) to identify facilities and providers in impacted areas for disaster response.

- Utilized OCFS NY-Alert as its primary notification system to contact employees in an efficient and simultaneous manner in the event a work-related emergency were to occur and requests OCFS staff to support the State's response to an emergency.
- Utilized the Disaster Asset Management System (AMS) application for tracking agency assets that may be deployed during disasters.

During the late December In addition to staffing ESF 6 for the virtual activation, several OCFS employees volunteered to help during the late 2022 winter storms that impacted Western New York. Roles included providing call center support, life-safety messaging transcription services and helping to remove snow for neighbors in the Buffalo area.

OCFS is an active member/participant of the Extreme Heat Action Plan Working Group and contributor to the Interim Recommendations Report. In an ongoing effort, adds continuing support as a member/participant of the Emergency Heat Coordination Team and relevant planning efforts.

OCFS actively participates in relevant nuclear safety exercises, workshops, and conferences.

OCFS serves as a member/participant in the following groups/committees:

- ESF 6 – Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)
- Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee (HSSAC)
- New York State Nuclear Safety Subcommittee power pool bi-annual meetings
- Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group
- Department of Health Pediatric Surge Annex Planning Group
- DPC meetings
- Extreme Heat Action Plan Working Group

Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) personnel participated in various training activities and provided support for emergency incidents.

- Continued to advance and expand response capabilities supporting ESFs.
- Conducted National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS), IS-700 and IS-100 training for new supervisors, Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) members, Fire Response Team members and Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) members.

- Supported ongoing flood mitigation efforts along the Lake Ontario shoreline DOCCS staff; incarcerated work crews from Wyoming Correctional Facility participated in repalletizing sandbags on the Ontario Parkway.
- DOCCS CERT participated in several regional civil disturbance training scenarios in conjunction with the New York State Police Mobile Field Unit, including the multi-day, statewide training in Oriskany.
- Trained and developed swift water and flood rescue technicians in support of the New York State Flood Incident Strike Team.
- Supported DHSES Office of Fire Prevention and Control by utilizing the closed Oneida and Mt. McGregor Correctional Facilities for building collapse rescue operations and shoring procedures.
- DOCCS CERT K-9 assisted the State Police with narcotics, evidence and cadaver searches in Putnam, Schuyler, Dutchess Counties, and assisted with explosives sweeps during the NASCAR race weekend at Watkins Glen.
- Supported the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Corcraft Food Production and Support Operations delivered test kits and face masks to school districts and BOCCES locations throughout New York State.

In response to the late December severe storms:

- Staff delivered cots, MREs, water, and reefer trailers to affected counties.
- Wyoming Correctional Facility staff and incarcerated work crews filled and staged sandbags at the Hamburg Stockpile.
- Several correctional facilities from the Western New York region staged box trucks and drivers to transport emergency equipment if needed.
- Supported State Police and local police agencies by sending Correctional staff along with 27 four-wheel drive vehicles and plow trucks to Genesee County to locate and assist stranded motorists and remove disabled vehicles from roadways.
- CERT members were tasked with the protection of National Guard assets at a forward staging area in Buffalo.
- CERT members along with members of the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) were paired with Buffalo police officers to assist in clearing a backlog of 911 calls, which transitioned into assisting with looting prevention.

Division of Criminal Justice Services

Several New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) programs were directly involved in the response to the racist mass shooting in Buffalo. The Buffalo SNUG program, which employs credible community messengers and uses a public health approach to reduce gun violence, immediately mobilized and developed a resource survey that street outreach workers used for continuous door-to-door

canvassing. The survey identified the greatest needs of residents -- such as food, home supplies, and mental health services -- and was instrumental to the State's response in prioritizing and allocating emergency resources. Buffalo SNUG also partnered with other organizations to provide hot meals to community members and served as a trusted resource for residents recovering from this tragedy.

As the Tops supermarket shooting unfolded and in its immediate aftermath, the DCJS' Crime Analysis Center network was also critical. An analyst with the Erie Crime Analysis Center responded to the center off-hours to immediately capture and retain social media evidence that was used in the criminal case against the shooter. Additional crime analysts also worked with local law enforcement agency partners, and with the Southern Tier Crime Analysis Center in Binghamton, to assist in various aspects of the investigation.

Last year, DCJS continued to use NY-Alert to distribute information about missing persons. The agency's Missing Persons Clearinghouse leverages the system to distribute missing vulnerable adult, missing child, and missing college student alerts to the public, travel hubs, and other entities, such as hospitals, bus terminals, and New York State Thruway rest areas and messaging boards.

Finally, DCJS is represented on the State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board, the ESF 13 working group, and the State's Next Generation 911 Working Group. DCJS also assigns an employee to the State Emergency Operation Center (EOC), as needed, and more than a dozen additional employees are currently identified and trained as volunteers to support an EOC activation upon request.

Department of Education

The New York State Department of Education (SED) participated in the activation of the State EOC both in-person and virtually since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. SED reviewed and worked with school districts to ensure safety, continuity, and communication plans were updated and submitted to State public safety agencies.

SED worked closely with public safety agencies including State Police, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and Division of Criminal Justice Services to enhance the overall safety of schools as part of the School Safety Improvement Team.

SED will continue to support the DPC for the ensuing year by actively participating in all exercises and activations when called upon. SED will also continue to work with school districts to keep safety, continuity, and communication plans up to date.

Empire State Development Corporation

Empire State Development (ESD) is the economic development arm of New York State. The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing State economy, encourage business investment and job creation, and support diverse, prosperous local economies across New York State through the efficient use of loans, grants, tax credits, real estate development, marketing, and other forms of assistance.

ESD managed several policy initiatives aimed at providing targeted economic and other relief to organizations negatively impacted by COVID-19 and other disasters throughout New York State. Below are details on from specific divisions within ESD in response to disasters and emergencies, especially the COVID-19 pandemic.

Division of Small Business and Technology Development

Small Businesses are 98 percent of all businesses in New York State and employ more than half of the State's private sector workforce. ESD's Division of Small Business and Technology Development launched several efforts to support the survival and growth of small businesses across the State. The COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant (PSBRG) Program provided flexible grants of \$5,000 to \$50,000 to viable small businesses, micro-businesses, and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations in New York State who have experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program aimed to support the small businesses that typically have the least access to resources. To that end, the Program strategically encouraged participation from micro-businesses (10 or fewer workers), socially and economically disadvantaged business owners, minority and/or women owned businesses, and small businesses that did not receive adequate federal COVID-19 support. Grant recipients can use funding to cover COVID-19-related losses already incurred, including payroll, rent or mortgage payments, personal protective equipment (PPE) expenses, utility bills, and any compliance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols. As of January 6, 2023, this Program successfully disbursed the entirety of the \$760 million in available funding to 40,842 small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the Program's mission, 98 percent of awards have gone to micro-businesses, 48 percent of awards have gone to socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses, and 90 percent have gone to minority and/or women owned small businesses.

A \$200 million New York State Seed Funding Grant Program was launched in September 2022. The Program is designed to provide assistance to early-stage small businesses in a recovering New York State economy. This program is open to businesses that are currently operational with an annual revenue between \$5,000 to \$1,000,000 that began operation on or after September 1, 2018. Grant recipients can use funding to cover costs incurred between September 1, 2018 and January 1, 2022,

including payroll, rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, insurance costs, personal protective equipment (PPE) expenses, and any compliance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols. As of November 9, 2022, \$7.6 million was awarded to 471 small and micro businesses.

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed The American Rescue Plan Act, which provides \$10 billion to fund the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). SSBCI is a program managed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury that allocates funding to State development finance agencies to create specialized small businesses access to capital programs. New York State was awarded \$501.6 million in August 2022, and is in the process of launching the following programs:

Debt Programs:

- Capital Project Loan Fund
- Small Business Revolving Loan Fund
- New York Forward Loan Fund
- Capital Access Program
- Bonding Guarantee Program
- Contractor Financing Revolving Loan Fund

Equity Programs:

- Emerging and Regional Partner Program Fund
- Community and Regional Partner Program Fund
- Pre-seed and Seed Matching Fund Program
- New York State Innovation Venture Capital Fund

Division of Minority and Women's Business Development

The ESD Division of Minority and Women's Business Development (DMWBD or the Division) oversees the statewide minority and women-owned business enterprise (MWBE) program operated by State agencies as defined by Article 15-A. The Division is charged with three primary functions:

- Encourage and assist State agencies engaged in contracting activities to award a fair share of State contracts to MWBEs.
- Review applications by businesses seeking certification as a MWBE and to maintain a directory of certified MWBEs
- Promote the business development of MWBEs through education and outreach to New York State agencies and authorities (collectively Agencies) and MWBEs.

The Division maintains a business retention plan so staff know how to respond in an emergency and took the following actions in its role in the State's event preparedness, response, and recovery operations:

- Provided information to the public through the New York State website and on social media.
- Provided updates via the New York State Contracting System.
- Placed staff in every New York State Region.
- Employed a Customer Care Team to respond to inquiries from the public, MWBEs and elected officials.
- Provided information and resources to MWBEs and State agencies virtually.

The Division encouraged minority and women business owners to certify with the State and take advantage of billions in State procurement opportunities through a series of outreach efforts. In 2022, the Division hosted five virtual MWBE Regional Expos that covered all 10 New York State regions. More than 700 participants and 36 New York State Agencies and Authorities participated in the Expos. MWBEs were engaged in 69 various presentations on contracting opportunities and participated in networking with State agencies and authorities, prime contractors, grantees, and other key stakeholders that have a significant presence in each region.

The Division also held the annual MWBE Forum where more than 1,400 attendees provided with in-person and virtual programming that focused on emerging industries, capacity building, networking, and access to government contract opportunities. The Forum featured 113 total exhibitor booths, 24 broadcast-quality, live streamed sessions and 81 speakers.

The MWBE Training and Events Series provided online capacity building webinars on best practices for marketing and access contract opportunities. In 2022, there were 2,162 total attendees across 31 sessions.

Additionally, in 2022, the Division's Customer Care Team supported efforts to connect MWBEs to an informational certification event in collaboration with the Northland Workforce Training Center in Buffalo. Customer Care called 100 MWBEs to share details about the event and how they could register. The event had a great turnout.

Division of Tourism

In 2022, tourism in New York State was in a steadily improving recovery but not yet rebounded to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. As such, the Division of Tourism and "I LOVE NY" program continued to implement strategies and promotional campaigns to increase visitation and bolster economic growth.

As part of the Governor’s “Bring Back Tourism, Bring Back Jobs” global marketing campaign, “I LOVE NY” and the Division of Tourism were able to broadcast spots in select international and long-haul domestic markets, as well as in State and traditional drive markets. These spots were released in the summer of 2022, one featuring the State’s most iconic attractions and the second featuring summer-focused attractions.

In addition to seasonal broadcast TV and digital campaigns promoting statewide tourism attractions, “I LOVE NY” launched the first in a series of interest/activity specific campaigns with a digital effort to promote skiing in New York State. Campaign elements included digital videos, social posts, out-of-home ads, and web landing page with interactive map.

The iloveny.com website continued to anchor the program’s marketing and advertising efforts with over four million visits to the website and URL placement in promotional advertising efforts. “I LOVE NY” also launched a TikTok account in 2022 to help reach new audiences.

The Division was able to resume signature PR programs in 2022, most notably “I LOVE NY Media Nights” where New York City-based travel journalists are invited to meet face to face with State tourism industry partners. Also resumed were summer experiential consumer marketing efforts that had been placed on pause since 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic-related shutdown of in-person events. The “I LOVE NY” tour visited 12 events throughout the summer, which targeted consumers at large scale events to get them to consider New York State destinations for a vacation or getaway.

The Division of Tourism continued work with four international offices in Canada, UK, Germany, and Australia, which maintain relations with travel operators and journalists, as well as continued to engage and maintain constant contact with industry partners—from State tourism industry trade associations to local tourism promotion agencies to individual attractions.

The Division also administered programs to distribute funding to industry partners. Programs like “Tourism Matching Funds” and “Market NY” supported tourism marketing and capital projects across the State, “Meet in NY” sought to spur the return of meetings, conferences, and events, and “Return to Work” helped tourism businesses expand their workforce.

Finally, the Division of Tourism was granted nearly \$45 million in federal funding through a statewide non-competitive U.S. Economic Development Administration grant dedicated specifically for travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation as part of the American Rescue Plan in November of 2021. In 2022, the Division worked to begin implementing the funding for that award to expand operations in international markets, pursue

Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism, amateur sporting events and group tour business and bolster outdoor recreation promotions.

2019 REDI Lake Ontario Business Resiliency Program

In 2019, New York State launched the Lake Ontario Business Resiliency Program (the Program). The Program, administered by ESD, was open to businesses and other organizations directly impacted by the historic flooding of Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and nearby waterways during 2019. The Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Commission made available up to \$30 million to support resiliency-related capital improvement projects at affected businesses and other eligible organizations, which may qualify for reimbursement of up to 50 percent of project costs, with a maximum award of \$200,000. Eligible applicants included most private businesses, homeowner's associations, certain not-for-profits, farms, and owners of multiple dwellings used for business purposes located in the eight-county coverage area (Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Cayuga, Oswego, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence counties). Eligible capital projects are required to strengthen the entities against impacts from future flooding. Such projects will reduce the entity's vulnerability to risks experienced during high water events, prevent permanent damage, and improve its ability to withstand and quickly recover from extreme weather events. The Program application deadline was January 2020 and ESD received 178 applications for assistance that were reviewed in partnership with Department of State. In August 2020, New York State announced more than \$17 million in funding to more than 140 eligible applicants in shoreline communities to assist with restoration and resiliency efforts from prior flooding events, and to strengthen them against future flooding. Of the over 140 projects awarded in 2020, 108 projects are expected to be completed, representing \$12.3 million in grant funds. So far, 38 of those 108 projects have been completed and paid out for a total of \$3.3 million in grant funds disbursed.

Energy Research and Development Authority

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) helped facilitate and coordinate information sharing and response with regards to energy resilience concerns for the liquid petroleum fuels and natural gas industries primarily stemming from the worldwide petroleum and natural gas market impacts from the War in Ukraine. NYSERDA worked with the petroleum industry along with State and Federal partners to provide an understanding of the changing worldwide petroleum flows and the impact to New York State energy supply and pricing. NYSERDA conferred with DPC agency partners to develop solutions so critical energy supplies were not interrupted.

Because the nature of liquid petroleum markets is subject to worldwide market effects there was reduced storage levels of petroleum fuels in New York State, particularly

distillate products, which was demonstrated through the monitoring of historically low regional inventory levels in 2022. This led to price spikes for petroleum products which had significant impacts on consumers. Spot market prices of distillate products including on-road diesel, heating oil, kerosene, and jet fuel set record price levels during the year, primarily during the spring of 2022. Kerosene experienced numerous challenges and localized supply run outs in regional locations for the retail kerosene market in October and November 2022.

NYSERDA coordinated with the industry on the ongoing supply issues in the kerosene market during this time, responded to media reports of kerosene supply shortages, and public consumer issues related to the difficulty in obtaining kerosene supply.

Throughout the year, NYSERDA participated in regional and national calls with the petroleum industry, Federal and State government agencies, state associations, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Energy, National Association of State Energy Officials, and others to discuss the ongoing petroleum markets situation.

In addition to the concern about petroleum markets stemming from the War in Ukraine, NYSERDA fulfilled its energy resilience and emergency preparedness role throughout the year by providing support as demonstrated through several events:

Other NYSERDA activities included:

- Collaboration with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) to ensure appropriate fuel supplies were able to be procured to maintain system reliability. Working closely with LIPA and the kerosene market participants, needed supplies were identified and procured.
- Helped to work for a successful launch of the new New York State bioheat mandate extension, by working with the Department of Environmental Conservation in their letter of enforcement discretion related to the bioheating fuel requirements for a one-year period upon learning from industry suppliers that not all areas of the State would have appropriate supplies.
- Coordinated with the Department of Public Service to help resolve a power supply issue at one of the petroleum terminals in New York State that was experiencing a series of power outages. NYSERDA coordinated with New York State Department of Public Service to help resolve this issue with the local utility provider for the terminal.
- Coordinated with New York State Department of Public Service and industry representatives when power outages related to weather events interrupted normal operations at critical New York State fuel terminals during multiple events throughout the year.

- Provided coordination and facilitation between the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York City, U.S. Coast Guard, and petroleum industry representatives of terminals impacted by ongoing issues associated with the South Channel Bridge, i.e., Jamaica Bay Railroad Bridge, to ensure marine shipments of fuels products to downstate fuels terminals.

NYSERDA provided information intelligence for the State Department of Transportation in response to the need for out-of-service waivers regarding truck delivery of petroleum products across the State during times of severe weather, including the November and December snowstorms. Other major weather events and disruptions for potential impacts on critical petroleum infrastructure and supply chains were monitored.

NYSERDA presented at the December 2022 DPC meeting on energy emergency preparedness for Winter 2022-2023, including overview of current fuel markets, winter season risks and ongoing activities in the sphere of energy assurance and resilience.

NYSERDA also administered the Strategic Fuel Reserve, which is a component of the State's broader "Fuel NY" Initiative. As part of the Strategic Fuel Reserve, NYSERDA maintained two regional strategic fuel reserves. The Downstate Strategic Gasoline Reserve contains approximately 2.5 million gallons of gasoline and is located at a 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. 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.

Department of Environmental Conservation

Emergency Spill Response

The New York State Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) Emergency Spill Response Program responded to 9,579 hazardous material/petroleum spills in 2022, helping to protect State lands, waters, and public health.

Oswego Harbor Spill

In March 2022, the U.S. Coast Guard and DEC received a report of sheen in Oswego Harbor. The harbor was boomed to prevent contaminated water from entering the lake. DEC determined that oil from Oswego Harbor Power had entered a storm line and was discharging into the lake. The release ceased three days later when the storm sewer was plugged with an inflatable plug. A total of approximately 1.5 million gallons of contaminated water were treated onsite and discharged, and a total of 44,500 gallons of

oil were recovered. An additional 1,682 tons of contaminated soil was excavated from the site.

USS The Sullivans Incident

In April, DEC received reports of the partial sinking of the USS The Sullivans, a decommissioned WWII-era ship located in the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park. DEC and the U.S. Coast Guard responded to the incident to prevent on-board petroleum products from escaping the harbor. Operations began with pumping water to prevent further sinking of the ship, removing oily debris, containing oil in the water with booms, and finding and patching holes. After four weeks of response efforts, the ship was afloat and stable, and vessel decontamination operations began to take place.

Geographic Response Plans

The New York State Geographic Response Plan (GRP) Program is a multi-stakeholder effort led by DEC to strengthen the State's preparedness for incidents involving transportation of petroleum products. In 2022, Jefferson and Niagara Counties were added to the program, bringing the total number of participating counties to 27. Additionally, the GRP for five counties were updated over the year to maintain accuracy and effectiveness of the plans. 28 GRP training sessions were held around the State to help local responders familiarize themselves with the plans and how to respond in the event of an incident, including deployment and utilization of response trailers, and table-top exercises.

Orphaned Oil and Gas Well Program

In alignment with the State's initiative to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, DEC launched a program to plug aging and abandoned oil and gas wells to reduce emissions and protect ground and surface waters from the threats of these aging wells. These "orphaned" wells pose significant risks to public safety and the environment due to their abandoned status. DEC implemented new tools and techniques, including unmanned aerial systems equipped with magnetometers, to locate orphaned oil and gas wells. As a result of implementing these technologies, DEC located 3 magnetic anomalies believed to be orphaned wells and directed the plugging of 16 gas wells throughout the State in 2022.

Hazardous Waste Management

DEC helps localities fund household hazardous waste management programs through grants designed to reduce the amount of hazardous waste entering the waste stream by

removing hazardous compounds and directing them for proper recycling or disposal. In 2022, 113 household hazardous waste grants were awarded to municipalities.

CleanSweepNY is a program designed to safely and economically dispose of canceled, unwanted, unusable, or otherwise obsolete pesticides and other chemicals from businesses who use them, both agricultural and non-agricultural. 2022 was a record setting year which saw the collection of more pesticide waste than any other year in the program's 21-year history. The newly enacted PaintCare recycling program also allowed CleanSweepNY to collect and dispose of a significant amount of eligible paint products.

Extreme Heat Action Plan

As a result of the Governor's directive, DEC in partnership with NYSERDA convened a workgroup to develop an extreme heat action plan to build community capabilities and reduce impacts of extreme heat. This partnership is directly engaging with impacted communities, local government, experts, and other stakeholders to collaboratively develop a focused, outcomes-oriented action plan.

In addition, DEC teamed up with Cornell University and the New York Natural Heritage Program to understand how freshwater wetlands aid in the effects of extreme heat. To date, the research from fieldwork conducted in the summer of 2022 suggest that wetlands have a net cooling effect on the climate.

Harmful Algal Blooms

Blooms of certain algal species known as harmful algal blooms (HABs) produce toxins harmful to humans and animals when water with HABs is touched, swallowed, or when airborne droplets are inhaled. While the exact cause of HABs is not fully understood, HABs usually occur in waters high in phosphorus and/or nitrogen. There are many programs and activities such as stormwater permitting, water quality improvement funding, and nutrient laws for lawn fertilizers which are in place to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen from entering water systems in the State. In May, the New York State HABs map and reporting system went online to allow both the public and trained citizens to send reports and pictures of HABs to DEC electronically. With the help of this reporting system, DEC along with participating agencies, local organizations, and the public were able to confirm over 1,000 locations of HABs in waterbodies throughout New York State in 2022.

Watershed Climate Change Resiliency

DEC completed 35 flood/ice-jam studies in high-priority, flood-prone watersheds across the State. These studies will provide a path forward for municipalities and make New York State more resilient to future flooding and extreme weather due to climate change.

The agency's Floodplain Management Program staff met with 196 communities to continue implementing FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program across the State including, floodplain management program requirements, community-specific permitting processes, technical assistance, training, and programmatic reviews for community officials and property owners. DEC responded to 1,270 inquiries from residents, property owners, and community officials on floodplain management development standards and individual property owner insurance requirements.

Protecting Public Safety

Within the year, DEC's Division of Law Enforcement received 120,000 calls from the public and Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) responded to 26,000 calls for service. ECOs issued more than 14,000 tickets, 1,700 written warnings, and executed 56 search warrants. ECOs also attended nearly 1,500 outreach events to educate and inform New Yorkers on a range of Environmental concerns, including protecting environmental quality, and environmental and natural resource education for school-aged children. ECOs and other DEC staff also assisted efforts in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona, bolstered security at the United Nations General Assembly, and participated in a multi-agency maritime-based preventative radiological/nuclear detection and enforcement initiative focused on the New York State Canal System and contiguous waters of the Hudson River below Troy locks.

DEC Forest Rangers protect 5 million acres of State-owned, DEC-managed lands and easements, as well as the people who use these lands. In 2022, Forest Rangers conducted nearly 260 search, rescue, and recovery missions, and responded to more than 160 wildfires covering more than 1,300 acres and participated in more than 50 prescribed burns covering 900 acres. In August, DEC Forest Rangers led a multi-agency incident response to a wildfire caused by a lightning strike at Minnewaska State Park. The Napanoch Point fire burned 142 acres of land. Forest Rangers worked in cooperation with multiple State agencies and local partners to control the fire. After 8 days the fire was under control with assistance from more than 200 firefighters, bulldozer operators, volunteers, and other professional staff.

Forest Ranger and Environmental Conservation Officer Academies

Starting in May 2022, Forest Ranger and ECO recruits reported to their respective academies for six months of training to join the ranks of DEC's divisions of Forest Protection and Law Enforcement. Ranger recruits training at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in St. Lawrence County and the Huntington Wildlife Forest in Essex County obtained Division of Criminal Justice Services police certification, and trained in rescue techniques, wildfire suppression, prescribed burns, water rescues, wildlife protection, and other skills. In December, 38 new Forest Rangers graduated the academy.

ECO recruits trained at the Police Academy in Oswego and started with basic police skills including, physical training, drill and ceremony, and computer lessons. Recruits then delved into more intensive instruction including firearms training, emergency vehicle operation, chemical waste dumping response, identifying poachers, and other skills. 18 ECOs graduated the Basics Schools to join the ranks of DEC's Environmental Conservation Officers in December 2022.

Department of Financial Services

The New York State Department of Financial Services continues to contribute to New York State's recovery and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic while supporting State efforts to prepare for, and respond to, natural and manmade emergencies. Outlined below are the Department's related activities in 2022.

Aiding New Yorkers Impacted by Severe Weather Events

To expedite payment of New Yorkers' insurance claims after severe winter storms left Buffalo and Watertown under several feet of snow in December 2022, DFS increased the number of adjusters available to process claims by issuing temporary adjuster permits to qualified out-of-state independent insurance adjusters. DFS also called on State-chartered banking organizations, federally chartered banks, and credit unions operating in the areas to provide fee-free services to nearby customers and non-customers while travel conditions remained dangerous. Waiving ATM fees, increasing ATM cash withdrawal limits, and easing restrictions on cashing non-customer checks, for example, ensured that New Yorkers had access to critical financial services while it was unsafe to travel.

Following Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico in September 2022, DFS issued guidance calling on New York State-chartered banks to take all reasonable steps to assist consumers and businesses affected by the hurricane. Steps included waiving ATM and

late fees, increasing ATM withdrawal limits, and facilitating and expediting the transmission of funds.

DFS also partnered with Ulster County officials and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services following a snow and ice storm in February 2022 to assist Ulster County residents with storm recovery needs and insurance claims. A Disaster Assistance Center staffed by the Department, the Ulster County Department of Social Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Office for the Aging provided one-stop shops in three locations for Ulster County residents to receive critical storm recovery services and support.

Addressing the Financial Risk of Climate Change

In 2022, the Department addressed the ongoing risk of climate change to financial markets by proposing guidance for New York State-regulated banking and mortgage institutions to help them manage safety and soundness risks related to climate change. The Department also finalized guidance to New York-regulated domestic insurers setting out DFS's expectations that all New York insurers start integrating the consideration of the financial risks from climate change into governance frameworks, business strategies, risk management processes and scenario analysis, and developing an approach to climate-related financial disclosure.

Managing Risks in the Virtual Currency Market

DFS continued to build upon its nation-leading regulatory framework for virtual currency. The framework includes strict licensing, supervisory, and examination standards, as well as enforcement authority. In April 2022, DFS issued new guidance to New York State-regulated virtual currency entities, establishing the use of blockchain analytics tools as a best practice to prevent and manage financial risks and suspicious activities. Following that guidance, DFS set foundational criteria for U.S. dollar-backed stablecoins issued by DFS-regulated entities, creating clear standards for virtual currency companies looking to issue USD-backed stablecoins in New York.

Supporting National Security Priorities

DFS continued to support critical National Security efforts by publishing comprehensive guidance to over 3,000 licensed entities outlining steps they should take to protect against cyber threats and prepare for continuity of business functions in case of an attack, and reiterating companies' legal obligations with respect to newly issued sanctions relating to the Russia/Ukraine War. DFS also expedited the procurement of additional blockchain analytics technology to bolster the Department's ability to detect

exposure among DFS-licensed virtual currency businesses to sanctioned Russian individuals, banks, and other entities.

Protecting New York's Consumers, Businesses and Financial Markets

To protect consumers and businesses, DFS continued to hold its regulated entities accountable for violations of the New York Banking, Insurance and Financial Services laws, as well as violations of the Department's Cybersecurity Regulation. In 2022, DFS collected \$107.9 million in fines through enforcement actions and required payment of \$33.4 million in consumer restitution to New Yorkers across the State. DFS also assessed its first penalty against a virtual currency company, requiring Robinhood Crypto to pay a \$30 million penalty for significant cybersecurity, anti-money laundering, and consumer protection violations.

Office of General Services

The Office of General Services (OGS) plays a vital role as the State prepares, responds, and recovers from disasters or emergencies. Related to this role, OGS operates or oversees OGS real estate, initiates capital projects or emergency contracts, manages centralized procurement contracts, and provides logistics and warehousing support. In 2023, OGS plans to continue developing its emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Below is a summary of the agency's 2022 activities.

COVID-19

While the State faced many types of emergencies in 2022, OGS continued to complete a significant activity related to the COVID-19 emergency. From January to July, OGS shipped over 27 million COVID-19 rapid test kits to keep New Yorkers safe. Nursing homes, schools, and other miscellaneous recipients received these kits as part of the State's effort to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Two other initiatives were part of the demobilization of COVID-19 obtained resources. On November 29 and 30, OGS hosted an auction with over 1,300 surpluses of COVID-19-related items that were obtained during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and no longer needed by the State. In September, OGS also initiated a contract on behalf of the State to safely dispose of 700,000 gallons of expired hand sanitizer being stored in Oriskany.

Assisting the State's Disaster Response

As a member of ESFs 3 (Public Works and Engineering), 6 (Mass Care), and 7 (Logistics), OGS supports the State's disaster response as it's coordinated by DHSES. Some major highlights are summarized as follows. In response to the February 2022 Hudson Valley Winter Storm, OGS transported critical supplies to two American Red

Cross shelters in Ulster County; after the April 2022 Southern Tier Winter Storm, OGS, along with other State partners, transported dry ice to a distribution site in the affected area. In the aftermath of the racist mass shooting in Buffalo, OGS used available emergency funds to rent a refrigerated box truck for the emergency feeding operation setup in response to the local food shortage. In response to the November and December Winter Storms impacting Western New York and beyond, OGS lent snowblowers to the State's effort to assist with snow clearing and answered time-sensitive emergency procurement questions related to the response.

Preparedness and Infrastructure Resiliency

To prevent future challenges and improve resiliency, OGS engaged in approximately 200 preventive maintenance and capital projects on State buildings in 2022. OGS also began work on the \$175.5 million infrastructure package to address urgent Empire State Plaza infrastructure needs, which includes modernizing electrical systems, renewing elevators, escalator, and chair lift systems, and making structural repairs. OGS also had four replacement 2.5-megawatt emergency generators and associated electrical equipment installed to support the Empire State Plaza during a power outage. OGS also responded to 6 unplanned significant incidents that affected facilities and required restoration before returning to normal operations.

Design and Construction Emergency Contracting Support

OGS responded to nearly 200 emergencies that ranged from failed building systems to storm event-related emergencies in 2022—the year started with a continued response to a safety hazard at the Empire State Plaza where 500-pound marble ceiling panels were in imminent danger of falling from the Cultural Education Center. This situation posed a significant safety issue for individuals around the Empire State Plaza and required immediate action and multiple stages of large scaffolding to complete. Another project to note was a major power failure to half of the Jones Beach State Park in April which impacted the Energy and Nature Center as well as the US Coast Guard Station within the park. The main electrical feeder was replaced, and power was restored, so the park resumed its normal operations in under a month to be ready for Memorial Day festivities.

The summer heat events saw facility chillers stressed to capacity, which caused a failure of the chiller units at the Hudson Valley Transportation Management Center. OGS responded with a temporary chiller unit and began repairing and replacing the chiller units that failed under the summer heat wave. Winter weather events late in the year caused many issues for client agencies, involving a total power outage at the West Seneca DDSO campus and a major flooding event within Downstate Medical Center that impacted multiple floors and laboratories. These emergencies required rapid

responses from OGS to mitigate additional damages to New York State facilities and the people who occupy them.

Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence Regional Dredging Project

On behalf of the State, OGS and its partner agencies completed a series of regional dredging projects on or near Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. These projects and associate projects were in response to flooding that occurred in recent years on Lake Ontario and are designed to help prevent future flooding.

Department of Health

Response

The Department of Health (NYSDOH) COVID-19 response continued through the entirety of 2022. NYSDOH conducted emergency operations in support of statewide response including ongoing epidemiological investigations and updating guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the ongoing testing of samples at the Wadsworth Center, and continuation of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, including State-operated mass vaccination sites and the facilitation of pop-up vaccination events in communities across the State throughout the year. The Department provided support to health care facilities, community health providers, local and State agencies, and the public with ongoing vaccination site support and the distribution of personal protective equipment and testing resources. State operated mass vaccination sites were demobilized by mid- 2022, still coordination of vaccine distribution continued in collaboration with providers, Local Health Departments (LHD), and regulated healthcare facilities. The Department responded to emergency requests throughout the State supporting hospitals, nursing homes, adult care facilities, and LHDs.

In addition to response to COVID-19, the Department's Incident Management System was activated in 2022 in response to the Mpox outbreak and poliovirus case identification. The Department coordinated with LHDs and community-based organizations to distribute vaccine and treatment courses across the State and established a Provider Treatment Network including 15 healthcare institutions outside of New York City for access to evaluation and treatment medications.

The Department also coordinated with counties on a polio vaccination campaign in response to an identified case of paralytic polio in Rockland County. Wastewater surveillance efforts were launched as a tool to check for signs of the polio virus in sewage water in communities.

The Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (eFINDS) patient tracking system was used during nine actual emergency evacuations during 2022.

Planning

The Health Care Facility Evacuation Center (HEC) Plan and HEC Facility Guidance Document were updated. Coastal Storm Planning efforts resulted in 100 percent of New York City-based facilities completing required elements of the health care Facility Evacuation Planning Application (FEPA) that includes send/receive arrangements and critical facility infrastructure information. NYSDOH continued to develop the Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) concept throughout the State. These are multi-agency organizations responsible for regional ESF Public Health and Medical Services Annex preparedness activities and information sharing during emergencies. NYSDOH was involved with DHSES OEM on further development of the State ESF plans and provision of feedback on New York State level plans. Additional planning efforts included developing an Infectious Disease Surge Response Annex as well as HEPC-level surge response plans in each of the NYSDOH Regions. The Department provided guidance and templates to LHDs to update county level all hazard public health emergency preparedness and response plans.

Training

NYSDOH provided or facilitated more than 70 preparedness training opportunities to over 4,000 individuals across New York State. NYSDOH provided preparedness training to hospitals, LHDs, emergency medical services (EMS) and Emergency Management using four Regional Training Centers (RTCs): Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), e-FINDS, Burn Life Support, Disaster Life Support, Trauma Care, HAZMAT, Stop-the-Bleed Train-the-Trainer (TtT), Pediatric Disaster Response, Safety and Violence Education (SAVE) and Disaster Triage. DOH staff participated in National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS) and EOC operations courses.

NYSDOH Community Health and Epidemiology staff conducted monthly Clinical Operations and Medical Countermeasures trainings with LHDs. NYSDOH continued to collaborate with the Office of Mental Health to deliver Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Disaster Mental Health (DMH) training to healthcare and emergency response partners statewide. Preparedness staff delivered ServNY volunteer management system training and HEC Application training for all partners requiring use of each DOH maintained system. FEPA Coastal Storm Planning Training was conducted for healthcare facilities in New York City. Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) training was provided to and remains available for all Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities

across New York State. NYSDOH maintained training to vaccinators in all settings in response to COVID-19.

Exercises

NYSDOH conducted eight regional Interoperable Communications Drills involving HEPC partners. NYSDOH also facilitated 57 healthcare volunteer notification drills with all LHDs outside of New York City. Finally, the Department conducted an HEC functional exercise for coastal storm planning partners and New York City-based healthcare facilities.

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Office of Emergency Management

In its role as the operational arm of the DPC, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' (DHSES) Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible to ensure the State is appropriately trained and coordinated to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards threatening the State. OEM oversees the 24/7 State Watch Center and regional field staff responsible for coordinating with State and local partners, as well as providing statewide situational awareness.

The State EOC continued to facilitate the distribution of test kits throughout the State to support ongoing COVID-19 operations. Additionally, the State provided personnel and resources to multiple Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests to include a Marine Fire Suppression Team to Delaware, an EMAC Coordinator to Mississippi, Security and State EOC personnel to Puerto Rico, and Incident Management Team and Aviation support to Florida. The State EOC was also instrumental in providing assistance to the historic blizzard in Buffalo.

OEM's Stockpile Program manages New York State's ten (10) strategic emergency stockpiles located throughout the State which contain various assets, equipment and consumables for assistance to local partners in an emergency. In 2022, Stockpile equipment was drawing down deployed assets in support of COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites around the State. Assets were deployed to support multiple municipalities for mass gatherings related to County and Municipal Fairs to include the New York State Fair in Syracuse. Support for emergency declarations due to severe snowstorms across the State were also supported by Stockpile staff and emergency equipment deployments. Additional deployable assets were procured and consolidated into All-Electric lighting packages to increase support for non-carbon emissions lighting and provide additional response alternatives to traditional light towers. Stockpile staff

assisted in the re-start of the statewide CPC program and continue to assist with the distribution of “Go’ bags at CPC events.

The OEM Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REP) conducted two successful federally evaluated exercises for the RE Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, including the counties of Monroe and Wayne. One was conducted on July 13, 2022, which was the remainder of the postponed exercise of 2021, and one conducted on August 30, 2022 for the 2022 requirement. OEM REP also conducted a successful federally evaluated exercise on November 15, 2022 for the Indian Point Energy Center, including the counties of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange. Additionally, the OEM REP Program conducted an off-year exercise for the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant, including the county of Oswego on October 25, 2022. This was a very large-scale exercise involving all State ESFs as well as a secondary all hazards scenario occurring simultaneously. On December 7, 2022, OEM REP participated in a federally evaluated tabletop post plume exercise with James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. OEM REP also participated in two exercises with Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Connecticut, Fishers Island would be impacted by an incident at Millstone, as well as Disaster Initiated Review with Millstone. Additionally, OEM REP participated in a large exercise conducted by the Kesselring Site on June 21, 2022. All of these exercises provide multiple training and cross training opportunities for OEM, DPC Agencies and local jurisdictions.

OEM offered a virtual Emergency Management Certification and Training (EMCT) Tier 1 training through New York State Association of Counties Legislative Conference for 39 county leaders, a virtual Tier 2 EMCT refresher for 78 emergency management leaders, ECMT Academy for 76 county and emergency management leaders, and twenty-five (25) Tier 3 EMCT programs for 475 community leaders in various counties.

Two series of the National Emergency Management Basic Academy were conducted in Ulster County and at the State Preparedness Training Center. The National Emergency Management Basic Academy, designed and sponsored by FEMA, provides individuals who are pursuing a career in emergency management with an entry point to obtain a foundational education through contemporary learning programs and skilled instructors. The Academy consists of five (5) instructor lead courses over 15 classroom course days with 120 hours of instruction, most of which offer continuing education unit (CEU) and American Council on Education (ACE) credits. Since the inception of New York State offering these programs, 100 students have completed the Basic Academy requirements and received their diplomas. During 2022, there were 28 NEMBA completions.

Office of Disaster Recovery Programs

The Office of Disaster Recovery Programs supported the State's Emergency Declaration for the November Winter Storm and Snowstorm (EM-3589) and the December Winter Storm (EM-3590), in addition to closing out two legacy Major Disaster Declarations. The office managed, on average, 13 open disasters totaling \$28 billion in federal disaster recovery funding.

The Disaster Recovery Office continued to support DR-4480, the COVID-19 pandemic. DR-4480 is the first statewide major disaster declaration for the State. The unique nature of the pandemic and evolving FEMA policies specific to the COVID-19 disaster declaration required DHSES staff to have regular meetings with FEMA Region II leadership to ensure applicants were informed of the latest developments in applicable policy. As of the end of calendar year 2022, the Disaster Recovery Office had overseen the disbursement of \$2.5 billion in funding to local partners in response to COVID-19.

Additionally, the State worked with local partners and FEMA to receive \$11.2 billion in obligated funds for COVID-19 recovery. This number will continue to grow as the response and recovery from the pandemic continues.

The Office of Disaster Recovery also successfully closed two disasters DR-1650 (2006 Severe Storms and Flooding) and DR-1869 (2009 Severe Storms and Flooding Associated with Tropical Depression Ida and a Nor'easter) totaling \$305 million and is targeted to close another two disasters in 2023.

The Individual Assistance section conducted six Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) in the counties of Essex, Erie, St. Lawrence, Queens, St. Lawrence, Ulster, Wyoming due to severe storms that impacted the State as well as a large apartment complex fire. These emergent events caused widespread flooding, mass power outages, wind damage from blizzard conditions, impacts from ice storms and fire impacts that spanned from Buffalo to Albany, up to St. Lawrence County and down to Queens. The IA section was able to secure a Small Business Administration (SBA) declaration for Erie County after impacts of Winter Storm Elliott caused severe impacts throughout the county. An SBA Physical Disaster Loan declaration opens federal funding to impacted residents and businesses in the form of low interest loans.

The Individual Assistance section supported the implementation of the FEMA funded Disaster Case Management Program in support of survivors impacted by Tropical Storm Ida. This program opened the opportunity for New York State to contract with an organization to provide one on one case management services to eligible residents in New York. Currently this program has over 3,600 registrants with over 1,600 open cases actively being worked by case managers.

The Office of Disaster Recovery Hazard Mitigation section continued to work with counties to update FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans, which identify risks and strategies and are essential to receive FEMA mitigation grants. The State Hazard Mitigation Plan is on track to be updated prior to December 2023.

DHSES HM received more than 280 sub-applications totaling over \$746 million for project and planning grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for Hurricane Ida, Tropical Storm Fred, and COVID-19. In 2022, DHSES HM received 44 sub-applications totaling over \$231.2 million in federal funding for project and planning grants under the FY2021 FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant programs.

Office of Counter Terrorism

Red Teams

DHSES' Office of Counter Terrorism conducted training exercises at more than 1,000 locations statewide in 2022, partnering with New York State Police and counter terrorism experts from more than 80 State and local law enforcement agencies. The exercises helped assess the ability of retail businesses and mass-gathering sites to recognize and report suspicious activity in each of the State's 16 counter terrorism zones.

These exercises, which involve State and local counter terrorism personnel, assess the effectiveness of the State's "See Something, Say Something" training program on businesses. During each exercise, personnel from State and local agencies conceal their identities and assess the ability of businesses to recognize and report suspicious activity. Following each exercise, officials provide training on identifying and reporting suspicious activity.

Public safety teams across the State conducted exercises involving over 450 law enforcement personnel in each counter terrorism zone. As part of this process, teams assessed suspicious activity reporting and recognition at 842 retailers and businesses that sell chemicals, compounds, components, services, or rent space or resources that could be exploited by those with nefarious intent. Additionally, teams assessed more than 180 infrastructure locations across the State, including stadiums and arenas, malls and shopping centers, colleges and universities, airports, transit hubs and other mass-gathering locations.

More than 5,200 Red Team exercises were conducted across New York since 2016.

NY-SECURE

DHSES also partnered with federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in "Operation NY-SECURE" (Securing the Empire Corridor by Unifying Regional Efforts) to conduct counter terrorism and incident response details along Amtrak routes and MTA commuter lines. These details help improve coordination and response between the railroad police agencies responsible for each station, and the State and local law enforcement agencies that respond to emergencies at those locations. These visible, unannounced details included heightened platform patrols, increased security presence onboard trains, explosive detection canine sweeps and counter-surveillance measures.

In 2022, "Operation NY-SECURE" completed 84 details across the State. Teams conducted 72 single station details across the State, and 12 multi-station details at Amtrak and MTA stations along the Empire Line. Since the program's inception in 2018, law enforcement teams have conducted 322 details across the State.

Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT)

DHSES' Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT) provides incident response and cybersecurity guidance to county and local governments, non-executive agencies, and State authorities. In 2022, the CIRT responded to 57 incidents throughout the State, which included providing support for multiple high impact ransomware events. The CIRT works closely with federal and State partners to provide actionable cyber-intelligence to local governments and law enforcement organizations throughout the State.

At the beginning of 2022, the CIRT began offering Incident Response Tabletop exercises that have proven to be extremely popular with local governments and State authorities. Throughout the year, the CIRT conducted 11 exercises and has engagements scheduled into the fall of 2023. The CIRT continued to run phishing and cyber training exercises and trained over 6,500 staff members. In partnership with the Critical Infrastructure Unit, the CIRT provided five comprehensive risk assessments for local governments to help identify vulnerabilities and secure IT infrastructure. The CIRT also continued its partnership with the Board of Elections by serving as primary point of contact and incident responder for county boards of election offices.

The CIRT also facilitated the contracting and onboarding process for the five major cities and counties in New York State to join the Governor's JSOC initiative. In 2022, 46 counties and the five largest cities outside of New York City signed up for the JSOC services and End Point Detection and Response (EDR) with over 70,000 devices slated for next generation protections from the CrowdStrike EDR solution at no cost to the local government.

Office of Fire Prevention and Control

The State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) delivered a wide range of services to firefighters, emergency responders, State and local government agencies, public and private colleges, and the citizens of New York. OFPC annually advances public safety by providing firefighter training and certifications, public fire prevention education, fire and life safety inspections for colleges, universities and certain State agencies, fire investigations, hazardous materials training and response, technical rescue training and response, and other on-scene technical assistance.

Fire Protection Specialists responded to approximately 69 requests for assistance in the areas of Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials. The Technical Rescue responses accounted for work spanning multiple operational periods in the disciplines and operations related to: Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), K9, Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) deployment, Missing Person Searches, Fire Scene Shoring, Building Collapse Stabilization, and Swiftwater Rescue. OFPC also deployed personnel to three winter storms in 2022 including the historic storm over the Christmas holiday week that accounted for almost 50 percent of those operational periods, with nearly 45 percent of the OFPC staff involved over multiple days.

Office staff responded to 41 hazardous materials responses providing technical assistance to local first responders. The technical assistance involved managing incidents that related to inhalation hazards such as anhydrous ammonia and nitrogen, as well as unknown substances. OFPC staff provided subject matter expertise at the scene of multiple flammable and combustible liquid and gas emergencies assisting local first responders with scene stabilization and product transfers. The assistance also included support for the growing occurrence of incidents related to lithium-ion batteries.

During 2022, OFPC Fire Investigators also conducted 227 fire investigations in support of local and county agencies. These incidents resulted in 24 fire fatalities related to 23 incidents with almost \$50 million dollars in property damage.

Division of Homes and Community Renewal

The New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) continued to serve as a support agency for State emergency operations and ESF 6 to prepare for and support multi-agency, State-level activity during disaster events, exercises, and training. HCR worked with local, State and Federal partners to develop response and recovery strategies.

HCR preparedness efforts continue and include the maintenance of an Emergency Management Operations Protocol (EMOP) and a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), as well as a hazard-specific COOP for a State Disaster Emergency Involving a Communicable Disease.

Other HCR activities included:

- Attended and participated in a tabletop exercise hosted by DHSES OEM at the State EOC for the New York State Health and Human Services Branch of the State's Response/ Recovery organization, which included ESFs 6, 8 and 11.
- Participated in two hurricane readiness web-based seminars produced by DHSES OEM for State and county-level emergency management partners and stakeholders.
- Attended and participated in the annual radiological preparedness program exercise for the James A. FitzPatrick fixed nuclear facility, which was expanded to include activation of all ESFs and member agencies.
- Supported activations of the State EOC / ESF 6 in response to the February 2 winter weather event and the November 17 lake effect snow event.

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR)

Under GOSR's direction, New York State spent 91 percent of its \$4.5 billion allocation through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program, completed more than 11,000 housing recovery and resiliency projects, and provided support to more than 1,000 small businesses across New York.

As a permanent office within HCR, the new Office of Resilient Homes and Communities will assume GOSR's portfolio and continue to build on the work of GOSR in the long-term recovery for homes and communities across the State.

Office of Information Technology Services

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

NY-Alert

The Chief Technology Office (CTO) - Share Applications Services (SAS) team at ITS provides management and support of the NY-Alert environment hosted by Everbridge. NY-Alert is a subscriber-based service; constituents must opt-in to receive notifications

related to imminent natural or man-made threats, transportation/traffic, medical and public health, missing persons, Sex Offender relocation notifications, Orders of Protection, Sewage and Pollution Right-to-Know Act Notices for Sewage Spills, as well as consumer protection advisories such as scams and data breaches. In 2022, the system issued 198,707 Alerts and 3694 Sewage Bypass warnings.

Additionally, the State and City Universities of New York use NY-Alert to notify students, faculty, and staff of campus closures. NY-Alert employs multiple technologies to alert the public, including reverse 911 mass dialers for voice communications, SMS text messaging, email, facsimile, RSS feeds, website, and social media, e.g., Twitter. NY-Alert is also the primary gateway/interface to FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). As of December, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, State Police, New York City Office of Emergency Management, and 46 county offices of emergency management were authorized to use IPAWS for emergency alerting purposes.

The State employee alert program, including specialized platforms for the Thruway Authority, State Police, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Department of Transportation, experienced its highest activation year with multiple State facility closures due to storms and COVID-19. The continued success of the platform in 2022 led to several new agencies to join the program including the Office of the State Comptroller and the Department of Tax and Finance.

The SAS team is continuously improving the accessibility of the NY-Alert website to remain 508 compliant.

Geographic Information Systems Program Office

The Geographic Information Systems Program Office (GPO) team at ITS completed two and a half years of non-emergency GIS support in May when DHSES hired a GIS Specialist, who was subsequently trained by ITS staff. ITS worked at the State EOC for three radiological emergency preparedness exercises. Staff supported ice jam tracking in January and February by providing field data collection applications and web applications. In January, staff provided mapping support to the State EOC for a major winter storm in New York City. Work supporting ice jam tracking resumed in December in preparation for the 2023 season.

In August, GIS specialists deployed with the New York State Incident Management Team to provide on-scene mapping support for the State's response to a fire in Minnewaska Park. In October, a GIS specialist deployed with the New York City Fire Department Incident Management Team after Hurricane Ian. The team supported recovery efforts in Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

The GPO team maintained the Critical Infrastructure Response Information System (CIRIS). NY-Responds Common Operating Picture draws many of its datasets from the CIRIS data repository.

Support for public safety and law enforcement included map support for State Police operations including unmanned aerial vehicle flights, and for State correctional institution security plans, including DOCCS staff. The public safety team maintained a leadership role in GIS for Next Generation 9-1-1 working with DHSES and the State Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications.

Staff continued support for in-car computer aided dispatch (CAD) and automated vehicle location (AVL) systems. Staff also provided GIS data for the Statewide CAD system to be used by State Police, Thruway Authority for emergency dispatch, and the Department of Transportation for the HELP truck program with dispatch and vehicle location data. GIS data and map support was provided for the new State Police Records Management System (RMS) to provide highly accurate incident locations.

The GPO public safety team supported the State crime analysis center, the New York State Intelligence Center, and the Division of Criminal Justice Services' regional crime analysis centers throughout the State with training, GIS data, and expertise.

In addition to the work supporting ice jam tracking, staff maintained field data collection and web applications to support DHSES' search and rescue efforts and building damage assessment. At the request of DHSES, GPO staff developed several new data collection and web viewing tools to support the work of Individual Assistance and Public Assistance teams.

Emergency Management/Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

The CTO Emergency Management team at ITS provided technology support for all COVID-19 responding partner agencies. Through ITS Liaisons, Network and Workplace Services onsite support, ITS provided network infrastructures, and internet access, to 15 COVID-19 testing sites, 19 mass vaccination sites and several staging/distribution warehouses throughout New York State. Utilizing cellular services and new and existing circuits, Mobile Command Centers (MCC) with connected access points were the backbone in providing WIFI coverage at each site to several different devices such as iPads, laptops, phones, and printers.

CTO Emergency Management, Network and Workplace Services teams provided additional support and equipment to Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercises, the racist mass shooting in Buffalo, tropical storms, and the late December storms that impacted Western New York and other regions across the State. In addition,

planning, staffing patterns and infrastructure connectivity were established in support of the World University Games (WUG).

ITS Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) has 32 business units and portfolios. COVID-19 provided a strong opportunity to update business units' critical and essential contacts lists and documented work from home requirements. Business units continue to place in-action items and test plans concerning COVID-19 and newly updated plans. Due to ITS portfolio reorganization, several plans were archived and 7 new plans with different primary planners and directors were created.

Personnel updates to the master COOP and incident command structure have been tracked and updated accordingly.

ITS organizes roles using the NIMS/ICS structure and maintains a critical contact list of senior staff and agency decision makers who may be involved in deploying resources to assist with any incident process.

Workplace Services (WPS)

The CTO Workplace Services Bureau at ITS continued to support New York State's emergency management and response efforts. In addition to completing demobilization of COVID-19 testing, mass vaccination and staging operations, Workplace Services provided onsite and remote IT support in for operations of the World University Games in Lake Placid. This support was provided 7 days a week as needed.

Chief Information Security Office (CISO)

The ITS Chief Information Security Office (CISO) developed and continued to maintain uniform State security policies and standards, information asset governance, risk management, compliance protocols, and enhanced proactive defenses, monitoring, detection, and alerting capabilities in the Statewide Data Center. CISO routinely performed cyber security risk and threat and vulnerability assessments to ensure adequate controls and resiliency. CISO also continued the development of its Governance, Risk, and Compliance platform to focus on the collection and prioritization of cybersecurity risks, and to streamline the process of performing system security reviews.

ITS played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the Joint Security Operations Center (JSOC), which launched in February and is housed in Brooklyn. The JSOC is a first-of-its-kind hub for data sharing and cyber coordination across New York State, New York City, five major upstate cities, local and regional governments, and critical infrastructure and federal partners.

In partnership with DHSES, New York City's Cyber Command, and the Executive Chamber, this new initiative was brought together rather quickly. By the end of 2022, the JSOC was staffed with cyber security analysts monitoring security alerts 24/7/365 providing a higher level of awareness than ever before.

CISO continues to provide critical resources and support through the New York State Cyber Command Center. The Security Operations Center and Cyber Incident Response Team work tirelessly to identify, triage, contain, and respond to cybersecurity alerts and incidents related to ITS and ITS-served entities. The Red Team engaged on multiple new initiatives to provide advanced testing, leveraging many of the same techniques employed by cyber criminals, to help ensure these systems are free from security flaws before being launched.

CISO also maintained a robust awareness and outreach program promoting cybersecurity best practices such as supporting Cyber Security Awareness Month, providing content rich materials for the ITS CISO awareness web pages, and relevant posts for ITS social media sites. CISO also coordinated a variety of security training and education programs, including continuing to offer State Cyber Security Awareness Training technical training offerings for staff on cyber security, and the New York State "Kids Safe Online" poster contest, which engaged public, private, and home-schooled children in grades K-12. CISO once again conducted an extremely successful in-person New York State Cyber Security Conference in downtown Albany with attendance that matched pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.

Department of Labor

The Department of Labor (NYSDOL) continued its overall agency mission and commitment to protecting workers, assisting the unemployed, and connecting job seekers to jobs throughout 2022 and will continue to do so during emergencies regardless of scale.

In mid-2022, the Office of Emergency Management for NYSDOL merged with the agency's Security Services to create the Office of Security and Emergency Management (OSEM). To improve day to day operation coordination and communication, the new OSEM is now under a single operational structure while continuing the mission of ensuring the health and safety of all those who rely on NYSDOL services.

Additionally, NYSDOL staff supported DHSES OEM with State EOC staffing, personnel, and equipment in support of the Hudson Valley ice storm, Mpox vaccination efforts and the winter storms in Buffalo in late 2022.

OSEM and internal NYSDOL partners also worked to develop and update emergency plans, improve employee resiliency, and promote a safe work environment through multiple efforts. The NYSDOL All-Hazards Continuity of Operations Plan (All-Hazards COOP) was updated with the help of a collaborative planning effort across the agency based on lessons learned by the COVID-19 pandemic. OSEM worked to update office-specific all-hazards emergency action plans otherwise known as Location Emergency Action Plans for 60 locations across the State. In addition, OSEM assisted site locations in conducting training and exercises on emergencies in the workplace including fire drills, workplace violence prevention assessments, and facilitating the training of staff on active shooter preparedness. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) training was provided to over 100 staff for the first time since 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions across the State.

Office of Mental Health

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

The Office of Mental Health (OMH) engaged in continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts included:

- A comprehensive testing program, PPE sourcing and distribution, as well as infection control and tracking. Testing included staff surveillance twice per week in counties with high transmission rate. Testing of patients and staff was based on exposure to new cases and determined by internal contact tracing.
- PPE was supplied to all facilities including facemask, N95 respirators, face shields, goggles, and gowns.

Health services supported vaccine administration including Bivalent boosters. Infection rate data was collected for staff and patients. Positive patients were isolated and exposed patients were placed in quarantine.

NY Project Hope

As the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA), OMH is responsible for coordinating the State's emergency mental health response and ensuring that mental health services are available to those in need following disasters. Initiated in May 2020, "NY Project Hope" was a FEMA-funded crisis counseling program designed to provide emotional and psychological support across the State to those adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"NY Project Hope" services included the Emotional Support Helpline where crisis counselors offer support and guidance 7-days a week, a media and social media

campaign educating New York residents on how to cope with the many challenges being encountered as the COVID-19 event and direct crisis counseling in 16 of the most highly impacted counties statewide. Crisis counselors from multiple community-based programs also provided support to co-occurring events. “NY Project Hope” services concluded in late December.

State EOC Activations

Personnel from the OMH Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response (BEPR) took part in several State EOC activations for weather related events. Among these were winter weather events in February and April as well as the lake effect snow event in November and the statewide weather system event in late December. BEPR personnel provided support to ESFs 6 and 8 at times on a 24/7 posture. Support was provided predominantly via WebEx and Virtual EOC.

Response to Racist Mass Shooting in Buffalo

In the immediate response to the May 14 tragedy, OMH hosted a webinar on May 18, 2022, that had more than 1,000 attendees and over 2,000 views on YouTube, and hosted another on May 25, 2022, with over 1,000 attendees, on coping with grief, tragedy, and racism in response to this event. OMH held two additional webinars, one intended to be for individuals working with children and another on building community-level resilience.

With permission from FEMA, OMH repurposed “NY Project Hope,” originally designed to respond to emotional support needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, to support the Buffalo community in the aftermath of the racist mass shooting. “NY Project Hope” was operated locally by the Buffalo Urban League and Spectrum Human Services. In December, OMH committed an additional year of State aid funding to continue “NY Project Hope’s” supports and activities for the Buffalo community. These teams, now referred to locally as “Buffalo H.O.P.E.,” provide crisis counseling and other emotional supports to those in need within the City of Buffalo.

OMH received a one-year federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Emergency Response Grant (SERG) to bolster mental health and other supports on the east side of Buffalo in response to the racially motivated shooting at the Jefferson Avenue Tops Market. Included in this grant was funding for a full-time crisis counselor. The grant also provided support to several community-based programs and providers as well as Psychological First Aid (PFA) Train-the-Trainer activities.

OMH advanced crisis program development in Buffalo including new crisis residential programs in Buffalo such as an Intensive Residential Crisis program proposed by Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) and an Intensive Residential Crisis/Residential Crisis Support program operated by Recovery Options Made Easy (ROME). Further, OMH supported the development of an Intensive Crisis Stabilization Center (ISCS) program in Buffalo operated by BestSelf. OMH committed annualized operating funds for all three of these crisis programs. OMH also continued to build out and support the local 988 crisis response infrastructure.

New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) partnered with the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi), Inc. to provide virtual “Sawubona” healing circle support groups for individuals and families seeking support. The project was launched in June. Circles were facilitated by ABPsi, with a schedule of three circles per week through July 2022.

Additional OMH actions included:

- Worked with the Buffalo Public School district, and its community partner, “SayYes Buffalo,” to bolster mental health services and supports in response to the needs of the community.
- Continued to financially support Youth Mental Health First Aid in the Buffalo community – a program developed and led by the Mental Health Association of New York State.
- Worked with the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz on a PFA Train-the-Trainer initiative, focused on creating a cadre of local volunteers, with requisite technical assistance to support community deployment. Trainers were identified and interested local groups started training during the summer of 2022.
- Provided a one-time payment of \$406,000 through Erie County to support efforts by Erie County mental health agencies that redirected licensed clinical and other mental health staff to respond to the community need for enhanced mental health services after the racist mass shooting.

James A FitzPatrick Drill

On October 25, OMH participated along with several other State agencies in support of ESFs 6 and 8 for a Radiological Emergency Preparedness drill for the James A FitzPatrick nuclear power plant.

DHSES Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop

OMH Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response (BEPR) participated in the annual Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) held by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) in January. This workshop was held virtually. During the seminar partner agencies worked to develop a statewide plan for training and exercises for the year.

BEPR personnel participated in breakout sessions at the annual IPPW in January to discuss future training exercises for ESFs 6 and 8.

NWS Winter Weather Preparedness Seminar

In January, OMH BEPR personnel took part in the Winter Weather Readiness Training seminar presented by the National Weather Service.

ESF 6/8 Sync, Leadership, and Quarterly Meetings

Several times throughout the year, representatives from OMH BEPR attended meetings with the ESFs supported. During ESF 6 Sync and Leadership meetings, State agency personnel worked to develop tactical worksheets for mass care and update several ESF Standard Operating Guideline Annexes.

Extreme Heat Action Preparedness Work Group

OMH BEPR took part in/attended several virtual meetings and seminars throughout the year discussing the Governor's plan to implement an Extreme Heat Action Plan. Several of the seminars have been high level overviews of the studies into climate change and the possibility/inevitability of extreme heat events in the future. OMH BEPR continues to take part in the work group with a focus on how these events can affect the vulnerable populations of New York State, and what resources or assistance OMH may be able to provide.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Headquarters (HQ) and its operating agencies – Metro North Railroad (MNR), Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), New York City Transit (NYCT) (which includes the Departments of Buses, Paratransit and Subways), MTA Bus, MTA Bridges and Tunnels, and Construction and Development – continued to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a wide range of emergencies across MTA's operating territory. In addition, all of the MTA worked towards a more comprehensive response to emergencies, including MTA HQ divisions – Safety and Security, Finance,

IT, Procurement, Facilities, Health Services, Communications and MTA Police Department.

The MTA and the operating agencies have developed and improved emergency plans, as well as enhanced the skills of staff and leadership through participation in a variety of planning, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. The MTA Chairman and executive team played roles in emergency preparedness and response activities, such as training and exercises in advance of hurricane and winter weather seasons, as well as human-caused emergencies. Staff from all operating agencies and headquarter divisions participated in an Emergency Management Working Group that 1) updated the MTA Notification Protocol for Unusual Events to a tiered approach in April 2022 which resulted in more than 250 notifications to State for improved situational awareness, 2) refined policies around continuity of operations for a pandemic, 3) enhanced the Everbridge mass notification system to facilitate more efficient situational awareness, 4) developed new communication and coordination processes for emergency response and 5) created Incident Action Plans for various types of incidents.

Most significantly, the MTA formalized its response structure for a multi-agency emergency with the adoption of an Incident Command System (ICS). MTA's ICS includes 25 defined positions with specific preparedness, response, and recovery objectives. To be better prepared and consistently coordinate across MTA operating agencies during emergencies, the MTA began a weekly on call rotation so that all 25 ICS positions have an assigned leader every week of the year.

Disaster-based planning activities were also conducted, including hurricane planning, flood preparedness and mitigation efforts, ongoing implementation of the Everbridge mass communication tools by the operating agencies, contingency planning for chemical and biological incidents, public health planning, and threat and hazard identification with law enforcement partners.

MTA staff participated in numerous training programs to enhance the organization's ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Training ranged from cyber awareness, Everbridge emergency communication training, security awareness training, and location specific training with partner agencies (e.g., incident response at the new Grand Central Madison). MTA staff were also involved in numerous exercises including but not limited to executive level winter weather and coastal storm tabletops and the following Agency specific full-scale and functional exercises:

- Subways led a storm mitigation deployment functional exercise where MTA was able to exercise a synchronized deployment of field personnel/assets and for the first time electronically monitor progress in real-time through dashboards.

- Metro-North Railroad conducted a full-scale exercise revolving around a simulated fire aboard an Amtrak Acela train to evaluate the railroad's Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness Plan at the MNR's New Haven Station, which included participation from the New Haven Fire Department, Metro-North Railroad, Amtrak, and the MTAPD. This exercise allowed for simultaneous execution of training, equipment testing and yard familiarization.
- LIRR led a full-scale exercise simulating the evacuation of a disabled revenue service train resulting from a fire in the head car within the newly constructed tunnels leading to LIRR's Grand Central Madison terminal, which involved multiple internal MTA agencies (LIRR, MNR, MTA PD, MTA HQ) and external partners (FDNY, EMS and NYPD). This exercise provided confidence that if a tunnel evacuation is needed, MTA Agencies and external partners are prepared to respond.
- Headquarters conducted its annual flood mitigation drill that showcased the ability to prevent flooding at 2 Broadway Headquarters up to three feet of water.
- Bridges and Tunnels conducted annual flood mitigation drills at the Queens Midtown Tunnel and the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel, where they were able to successfully test flood gates.

MTA also made numerous IT changes to improve its posture before, during and after disasters. Key changes included 1) mitigating Workspace One Mobile Device Management platform into the cloud to strengthen business continuity and disaster recovery and 2) deploying an AIR-Gap backup solution to protect the MTA in the event of a ransomware attack.

The MTA was impacted by a variety of incidents, including multiple weather emergencies and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the day-to-day agency specific incidents and emergencies that are responded to, the MTA responded to four major emergencies in calendar year 2022: the January 28-29 blizzard; the April 12 subway shooting in Sunset Park, Brooklyn; the December 23-24 Winter Storm, and the ongoing response to COVID-19.

Division of Military and Naval Affairs

Civil Support Missions

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) manages the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard, which saw 2,805 members take part in nine civil support missions under the direction of Governor Hochul. These missions amounted to more than 417,500 duty days of work dedicated to helping New Yorkers and citizens in other states, as needed. Missions included the COVID-19 pandemic response for the early

part of the year, assisting New York City with a surge of asylum-seeking migrants beginning in October, and response to a massive blizzard in Buffalo throughout the Christmas holiday.

COVID-19 Support

COVID-19 support continued into 2022 going into two years of support since March of 2020. During 2022, 2,605 NYMF members served on the State's COVID-19 response mission.

As the year opened, 2,147 members of the Army and Air National Guard continued being paid for by the federal government under a presidential emergency order. The remaining New York Military Forces (NYMF) members were on State Active Duty (SAD). Members were on duty supporting 117 mission sites, missions included administering COVID-19 vaccinations, test kit assembly and logistical support.

At the start of 2022, the New York Army and Air National Guard deployed 120 Army combat medics and Air medical technicians to nursing homes across the State to assist with a statewide staff shortage.

To make more personnel available for these missions, New York State provided emergency medical technician training for 400 NYMF members. Eventually, 343 members were certified as EMTs and deployed to nursing homes.

Four hundred and eight-five personnel were deployed to 84 nursing homes by the end of March when the additional staffing assistance was no longer needed.

By the end of June, federal funding ended, and a small residual force of 262 members were left on SAD, conducting logistics and post-operations missions. By the end of 2022, that number was reduced to 133 members on SAD working at four logistics sites.

Statistics for the COVID-19 support mission in 2022 included:

- Supported vaccination sites where 263,972 vaccine doses were administered by non-military personnel
- New York National Guard (NYNG) personnel administered a total of 6,229 vaccine doses and 6,817 clinical tests
- Civil Support Team Mobil Lab Tests: 701 tests administered
- COVID-19 Test Kit Assembly: 48,274,053 kits assembled
- Nursing Home Support: 208,341 direct medical care patients were treated at 84 facilities

- Warehouse Operations: 18,610 pallets managed or distributed through seven (7) location
- A total of 2,147 NYNG members served in a federal, Title 32/502(f) status in 2022 in response to COVID-19 while another 458 served on SAD status

Asylum Seeker Resource Support

In September, the number of asylum-seeking migrants bussed to New York City by the governors of Texas and Arizona began rising.

DMNA was directed to provide personnel in a SAD status to help staff a migrant reception center. New York City officials originally constructed a Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Center (HERRC) which later moved to Randall's Island.

When it became clear that the bulk of the migrants were families, the City of New York changed direction and DMNA was tasked to provide staff at hotels being used as shelters under the control of the New York City Department of Homeless Services.

At the end of 2022, DMNA had 755 personnel on SAD for the mission. This included 542 Soldiers, 61 Airmen, 100 members of the New York Naval Militia and 52 New York Guard members.

In total, DMNA provided staffing to 21 New York City Department of Homeless Services hotel shelters, one reception center at the Port Authority Bus Terminal and one temporary tent HERRC on Randall's Island.

At the Port Authority Bus Terminal, NYMF played a key role in welcoming migrants and helping them sign up for housing assistance.

NYMF worked closely with city officials to provide assistances in the hotels. They assisted with room access, helped coordinate food delivery and provided any additional assistance as needed.

February Winter Storm

From February 4 through February 10, NYMF responded to a storm in the Hudson Valley with 44 members on SAD to staff six warming centers and a call center in Ulster County.

A widespread snowstorm moved through New York on February 4 with the greatest impacts effecting the Mid-Hudson Valley with heavy snow, rain, and sleet, including at

least half inch of ice accumulation alone. This combination of severe weather and icing of trees and power lines caused power outages and loss of heat for more than 50,000 residents in Ulster County.

Buffalo Area Crowd Control Support

On February 12 at the direction of Governor Hochul, the NYNG placed 48 service members in a SAD status, with an additional 100 service members alerted in a drill status on February 12 and 13 to respond to a potential civil disturbance at the US/Canadian Border.

The State directed the mission in response to reports that American truck drivers might act to block border crossings as a show of support for a three-week long protest in Ottawa by Canadian truckers protesting COVID-19 pandemic response measures.

Niagara River Pontoon Recovery

On May 4, Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade located in Rochester, deployed six Soldiers in a SAD status, with two CH-47F Chinook helicopters, to assist in recovering a 4,000-pound pontoon lodged at Goat Island in the Niagara River, close to Niagara Falls.

The New York State Power Authority was concerned that the pontoon, which had broken loose from an ice boom, might go over Niagara Falls. Removing the loose pontoon was necessary to prevent damage to power generation equipment and a significant cultural site.

The aircrew worked with a New York State Park Police Swift Water Rescue Team working in the river, to attach a sling to the boom and airlift out of the river. Total flight-time on the mission was 2.1 hours.

Minnewaska State Park Wildfire

From August 30 to September 8, the NYNG provided 21 personnel and two UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters equipped with Bambi buckets to fight a 142-acre fire in Minnewaska State Park in Ulster County.

As a strong frontal boundary passed through the region, a lightning strike initiated a wildland fire in an area experiencing moderate drought conditions following a lower-than-average summer for precipitation.

The two helicopters from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, headquartered in Ronkonkoma, were on station at the Joseph Y. Resnick Airport, located at the foot of the burning hillside. The aircrews dropped 56,100 gallons of water on the fire with 85 bucket drops, each carrying 660 gallons. A wildland fire team from the 109th Airlift Wing also contributed 287.5 task-hours conducting ground firefighting to control the blaze.

Hurricane Ian Response

On September 28, at the direction of Governor Hochul, DMNA deployed 11 Soldiers and two CH-47 Chinook helicopters from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, to Florida in support of an Emergency Management Assistance Compact, or EMAC.

The aircraft took two days to make the journey and arrived at Fort Myers International Airport on September 29, less than 30 hours after Hurricane Ian had made landfall the day before, bringing maximum sustained winds of 150 mph to the Florida coast near Fort Myers.

The 11 Soldiers, six aircrew members and five maintenance Soldiers from the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, moved 240 personnel, 16 vehicles and 65,000 pounds of supplies during the week-long deployment to assist in the response to the hurricane.

The New Yorkers were part of an aviation task force that included Guard Soldiers from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee, as well as Florida aviators. The team played a key role in moving personnel and equipment, including F-150 pickup trucks, to Sanibel Island when the causeway was destroyed. Over a nine-day period, 64.6 flight-hours were logged, and 1,188 task-hours were performed.

Personnel moved included search and rescue teams, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Response Forces, Florida Department of Transportation personnel, emergency electricians, wildlife conservationists, the Florida governor's security detail, Florida State Police, and local sheriff's deputies.

After equipment maintenance and reconstitution, the New York team returned to home station on 7 October.

November Winter Weather

The NYMF deployed 152 service members in Erie and Niagara Counties from 17 to 25 November to assist local governments in recovering from a lake effect snowstorm.

Personnel aided local authorities by:

- Assisting first responders in rescuing stuck civilian and emergency response vehicles.
- Transporting of emergency management personnel.
- Transporting 20 civilians to medical appointments.
- Clearing snow from 40 miles of the New York State Thruway using the 174th Attack Wing runway clearance snowblower.
- Neighborhood welfare check at 75 residences.
- Traffic control point operations.
- Clearing snow from 205 fire hydrants.

Buffalo Christmas Blizzard

From December 23 through December 31, a total of 851 service members again responded to communities throughout Western New York to help State and local agencies deal with excessive snowfall.

At the apex of the response, on December 29, the NYMF had 674 service members operating in Erie County with 154 vehicles committed to the response.

This included 597 Soldiers, 70 Airmen and 7 members of the New York Guard.

Over the course of the operation, NYMF supported 21 mission assignments which included:

- Snow clearance and removal of six (6) miles of roads and 8.5 acres of parking.
- Rescue of 124 people stranded in cars.
- Transporting 264 medical personnel to and from hospitals.
- Transporting 77 patients.
- Conducting health and welfare checks at 3,755 households.
- Maintaining 9 traffic control points.

NYMF members, assigned to the 107th Fatality Search and Recovery Team, assisted in recovering the remains of 22 people who died during the storm.

In one instance, an Air National Guard team transported an expectant woman to the hospital just before she delivered a baby. In another case, an Army National Guard Soldier used his own vehicle to transport an expectant mother to the delivery room.

Joint Task Force-Empire Shield (JTF-ES)

The JTF-ES is a force comprised of 783 New York Army and Air National Guardsmen who provide a security presence in New York City.

The task force conducts operations around the clock to supplement security at 17 locations including airports, train stations and other key transportation infrastructure hubs. The core mission of JTF-ES is also supported by New York Naval Militia patrol boats.

These patrol boats conduct maritime security operations in New York Harbor supporting the US Coast Guard as well as the randomized antiterrorism screening program in the Hudson River near the Indian Point Energy Center. JTF-ES conducted 3,630 missions and performed 424 Military Emergency Boat Service missions.

JTF-ES participated in five Multi-Agency Super Surges called a MASS, in which multiple law enforcement entities increased personnel to detect, deter, disrupt, and defeat potential terrorist threats. JTF-ES also participated in the Random Antiterrorism Measures Program. Lastly, JTF-ES took part in Operation RAILS SAFE missions that involved coordinated patrols of railroad stations, subway stations, rights of way, as well as providing an increased security presence on trains.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams

The New York National Guard maintains two Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Teams (CST); the 2nd CST is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia and the 24th CST is based at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn. They are highly trained first-response units that support civil authorities responding to WMD incidents.

The CST mission is to support civil authorities during a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) incident by identifying hazards, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on appropriate response measures, and assisting with requests for additional State and/or federal resources. CSTs will normally be the first National Guard units to arrive at a WMD incident.

CSTs prepare for missions by participating in both military and civilian emergency response training. The CST team members complete advanced training at several Department of Defense schools, alongside other agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy. Additionally, CSTs are equipped with high-end detection, analytical and protective equipment, as well as satellite, secure and cellular communications to provide connectivity with both civilian and military personnel.

The 2nd CST took part in eight standby/assist missions, 16 training exercises and one response mission. While the 24th CST took part in 37 standby/assist missions, 20 training exercises, one response mission and 43 days of rapid result COVID-19 testing for partner agencies engaged in the COVID-19 response effort.

Homeland Response Force

In concert with the New Jersey National Guard, the New York National Guard contributed forces to the FEMA Region II Homeland Response Force (HRF). This is a planned CBRNE response force of 570 service members. If activated, the HRF increases the operational capability and flexibility available to governors responding to CBRN incidents within their state.

Members of the HRF conducted specialized training to familiarize members with comparable civilian hazardous materials response equipment, as well as the incident command structure that enables the HRF element to seamlessly integrate with civilian first responders.

The intent of the HRF is to augment State or local authorities by providing enhanced response, rescue, relief, and recovery capabilities that states, localities, and other federal agencies may lack in a CBRNE event.

Over the course of this year, HRF units conducted a multiple phase large scale exercise validating their ability to deploy and respond to a CBRNE event as well as providing standby support to the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

Citizens Preparedness Corps

The NYNG continued to support the Citizens Preparedness Corps program which trains individuals to prepare, respond to and/or recover from a disaster or emergency.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Mission Assurance Assessments Detachment

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Mission Assurance Assessments (CIP-MAA) detachment is composed of 14 New York Army National Guard Soldiers who have the skills and training to conduct assessments of critical defense assets involving transportation, defense, energy, and communications infrastructure.

In 2022, the CIP-MAA detachment conducted six site assessments: five at locations throughout the eastern half of the United States and one in Europe.

The detachment works in direct support to Headquarters, Department of the Army, Defense Critical Infrastructure Program; however, under limited circumstances they have the capability to conduct missions in support of New York State entities.

The team includes a mission analyst; electrical specialist; transportation specialist, water, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning specialist; a communications specialist; a petroleum, oil, and lubricants specialist; along with a photographer and team leader. The detachment is based at the New York State armory in Leeds.

Cyber Support to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

DMNA assisted with the operations of DHSES' CIRT, which provides cyber-security expertise for counterterrorism, critical infrastructure, and cyber-security risk assessments in support of authorities at all levels of government throughout the State.

In 2022, the eight-person team helped complete over 30 mission assignments with a diverse focus, ranging from cyber security assessments, legislative reporting, cyber exercises, incident responses and further improvement of the FBI Threat Information Sharing Liaison Program.

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) responded to several disasters and emergencies from forest fires to blizzards. In between, there was ongoing training to be ready for what the next event may bring.

OPRHP continued to respond to COVID-19 concerns statewide, following all New York State protocols. Support of COVID-19 test kit delivery actions remained a priority in 2022. OPRHP delivered more than 100,000 test kits and supplies to school districts throughout the State during this timeframe.

In preparation for the busy summer concert schedule, the Emergency Management Bureau and New York State Park Police designed and hosted a mass events training exercise at the Agency Operations Center/Joint Incident Command post in Saratoga Spa State Park.

OPRHP conducted a multi-jurisdictional, full-scale functional exercise in preparation of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) Live Nation concert season. More than 70 attendees representing the Saratoga Spa State Park, SPAC, New York State Park Police, Live Nation, New York State Police, Saratoga Hospital, Saratoga County Sheriff's Office, Saratoga Springs Police Department, Saratoga Springs Fire Department, New York State Department of Transportation, DHSES, OPRHP Public

Information and Office of General Services participated as players, evaluators, controllers, facilitators, and observers. Response agencies and stakeholders participated in critical incident response training.

The exercise was designed to test information sharing and communications between the on-scene Incident Commander, the Joint Incident Command Post, and the various stakeholder organizations. State Parks made technological improvements to SPAC's Joint Incident Command Post and had security activations for 35 major concerts during the season.

In the summer, there were 26 shark sightings at Long Island beaches, which facilitated temporary beach closures. Governor Hochul directed OPRHP, DEC and State Police to implement heightened patrols and surveillance of shark activity, including drone and helicopter monitoring, along the Long Island State Park beaches due to recent shark encounters in the Atlantic Ocean waters off the South Shore.

During the months of August and September, multiple State and local agencies fought a 200-acre forest fire at Minnewaska State Park Preserve for eight days before it was 100 percent contained – an extremely rare event for typically wet summers. It was the result of a suspected lightning strike.

Wildfires were hardly rare this season. The Palisades region alone saw 28 wildfires – including 14 in the month of August. Governor Hochul toured Minnewaska on Thursday, September 1, and deployed teams from the New York Army and New York Air National Guards to further support fire suppression efforts. More than 200 wildland firefighters and volunteers fought the fire plus firefighters from Quebec responded to the Hudson Valley.

Robert Moses State Park hosted a four-day Urban Search and Rescue exercise, simulating a Category 4 hurricane that made landfall on Fire Island highlighting response, search, and rescue. The exercise was attended by the New York City Fire Department - Special Ops Task Force, Suffolk County Urban Search and Rescue, New York State Parks, New York State Parks – Emergency Management Bureau, DHSES, Fire Island National Seashore, and Suffolk County Fire Rescue.

In November, State Park Police and other personnel assisted in Buffalo with a lake effect snowstorm that dumped 3-7 feet of snow on parts of Western New York. A total of 36.9 inches of snow fell between November 16-19, making it the second snowiest for the month on record in Buffalo.

During the winter and repeating efforts from the major storm that hit before Thanksgiving, Park Police responded to those in need during the Buffalo blizzard in late

December by utilizing tracked UTVs, snowmobiles and 4x4 vehicles plus transporting patients for dialysis or other medical needs. Park Police assisted with welfare checks for those stranded on roadways and in homes, as well as assisting State and local agencies with moving emergency supplies such as water, cots, blankets, sandbags, and pumps. REM coordinated Parks dump trucks to assist in side street snow removal in towns and villages around the Buffalo area. During cleanup efforts, Buffalo Harbor State Park's parking lot was used to hold stranded and abandoned cars towed from across the region.

From the beginning of the storm, Regional Emergency Managers (REMs) from the Niagara, Finger Lakes, Central and Thousand Islands Regions ensured teams were on standby to support the State Department of Transportation. REMs from Saratoga activated and staffed/managed the Agency Operations Center during this time.

The continued coordination and collaboration between Emergency Management, Parks Operations, and Park Police, as well as with other State and local agencies played a pivotal part in lessening the overall impact of the storm's wrath.

Additional OPRHP activities included:

- Support for the Jones Beach Air Show
- Added Regional Emergency Managers to enhance OPRHP response coordination in the North Country, Central and Southern Tier REDCs
- Expansion and enhancement of OPRHP's Park Safety Ranger Program to support Park patron safety and regional operations more effectively
- Successful submission and award of the Golden Hill Light House Shoreline Stabilization Project to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program receiving more than \$800,000 in federal funds for the project
- Park Police Academy opened a new class in October
- Created internal Parks Emergency Management Training for Regional Operations staff, including FEMA Recovery and Mitigation training

Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

Preparedness Efforts

The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) completed an update of all agency-level emergency plans as follows: the Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan in April, the Chapter 168 – Continuity of Operations Plan Involving a Communicable Disease in May, and the Emergency Management Operations Protocol (EMOP) in August. These documents are regularly reviewed and updated by OPWDD Emergency Management (EM) staff and submitted for Executive approval annually. In

addition to the EMOP and COOP, the agency maintains Facility-level Emergency Response Plans that provide direct care support staff guidance during emergency events.

COOP Enhancements

COVID-19 provided an opportunity for OPWDD to conduct a thorough analysis of its business essential functions and in 2022, the agency was able to use that evaluation to enhance its COOP capabilities to facilitate a more robust continuity environment. Additional coordination and planning activities have been focused on ensuring that resources can be secured for residential programs during times of crisis.

COVID-19 posed a challenge to the agency, but it also allowed for the establishment of various enhanced capabilities during crisis such as remote work in the form of telecommuting, allowing employees the ability to maintain essential functions regardless of the physical work location.

Training and Exercises

OPWDD was able to build a long-term training and exercise strategy focused on staff and other stakeholders receiving annual training opportunities in 2022.

- Emergency Response and Reporting Guide Training – agency staff have been trained on immediate response actions and notification procedures during an emergency event.
- Threat Assessment Team Training – OPWDD Leadership was trained on a uniform process to assess and respond to threats and potential threats towards the agency.
- Fire Safety Training – a requirement for all agency staff to be trained on fire prevention techniques, evacuation procedures, and operating fire safety equipment.
- In collaboration with the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), the Fire Safety Bureau conducted Group Home Awareness Training geared toward firefighters and code enforcement personnel.
- Safety Officer Training Academy – OPWDD held its annual Basic Peace Officer Certification program where graduates received an eight-week long training on the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services curriculum and agency-specific policies and procedures.

Emergency Response Activities

When other crises impact the State, OPWDD maintains a support posture virtually for ESFs 6 and 8 to assist in activations. Some other emergency events require the agency to deploy staff to support the State's response in addition to internal response efforts. Some notable activities the agency undertook included:

- OPWDD continued to respond and assist with the COVID-19 response by supporting efforts at the Testing and Vaccination Points of Distribution (PODs) till the closure of the sites in June 2022.
- Emergency Services personnel participated in the New York State Incident Management Team training program and received certifications towards position specific credentialing.
- Staff deployed as members of the New York State Incident Management Team to Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico and the Napanoch Point Wildfire in Minnewaska State Park.
- During the November Lake Effect Snowstorm, the agency activated a Regional Operations Center (ROC) in Buffalo and deployed resources from across the State to assist in snow removal efforts at OPWDD State Owned and Operated facilities.

24-hr Communication Center

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

Two enhancements occurred in the functioning of the Communication Center in 2022 where a unified approach for reporting and notification streamlined how after-hours calls are managed.

- The addition of the Administrator On-Duty Program, an after-hours support service that covers emergency incidents that occur at OPWDD facilities.
- Due to workforce challenges, a dedicated staffing services call line was created to connect OPWDD facility staff with staffing office personnel during business and off-hours.

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is organized into four Units Business Continuity, Emergency Operations, Readiness and Development, and Strategic Preparedness. Each Unit is well-qualified and experienced to support the various concentrations with the Office of Emergency Management which are:

- Administering and managing EOC and mobile response assets
- Providing 24/7 field response for support, coordination, and communication
- Providing situational awareness to the agency and external parties of impending and actual emergencies
- Maintaining operational and planning coordination with federal, state(s), and local OEMs
- Coordinating emergency logistical needs with line departments and the Port Authority Police Department
- Managing internal and external emergency preparedness outreach
- Development and conducting facility-department exercises that exceed regulatory compliance and are based on DHS's Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
- Providing ICS and other training as part of drills/exercises for facility/department responders and outside agencies
- Responding to emerging threats with Agency line department coordination, exercises, and training tools

Business Continuity Unit

Business Continuity Management (BCM) and overall resilience are high priorities for The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), its subsidiaries, and affiliates. The goal of the PANYNJ's BCM Program is to ensure continuous ability to serve its clients and the regions in which it operates, and to protect PANYNJ assets and promote safety and security for the Agency's staff members and customers. The PANYNJ's BCM Program was developed to provide reasonable assurance of business continuity in the event of disruptions to normal business operations.

PANYNJ established a robust, structured approach to BCM designed to ensure that the Agency is prepared should an operational disruption occur. The Agency created its BCM Program within the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), under the direction of the Office of the Chief Security Officer (CSO), to support PANYNJ activities and operations. The Business Continuity Program supports the Agency's ability to plan for, and recover from, a disruption to normal business operations by maintaining an Agency-

wide supportive role in planning, exercising BC plans for validation, communications, and business recovery.

PANYNJ implemented a BCM Program that leverages both centralized and distributed roles and responsibilities. A core Agency Business Continuity Team is responsible to centrally establish cross-Agency policy and procedures, program governance, management reporting, management of support platforms (e.g., business impact analysis [BIA] and plan building software, emergency notification, etc.), provide appropriate training and guidance to the Department Business Continuity Coordinators and Planners, assist with the development, testing and exercising of Department plans, and play a lead cross-Agency coordination role during invocation of business continuity plans.

A network of department business continuity coordinators and planners is responsible for detailed plan development, exercising and activation within their respective departments in close coordination with and under the direction of the Agency Business Continuity Team. This combined approach, of both centralized and distributed roles and responsibilities, ensures a highly streamlined approach to program implementation and ongoing management. It appropriately segments responsibilities, which significantly reduces redundancies while ensuring a high degree of cost effectiveness and program efficacy. As such, the program implemented by PANYNJ scales easily across all the critical line and staff departments and facilities in support of the region's critical infrastructure.

The PANYNJ Corporate Business Continuity Plan defines the processes, protocols and operational parameters required to operate the BCM Program. It ensures that agency plans can be activated and operationalized to ensure that business processes will continue during a time of non-standard business operations, which may occur during an incident.

Business continuity planning at PANYNJ incorporates an all-hazard (human-made and natural) approach to event preparedness, response, and recovery. To effectively streamline the planning process, the Agency's BC plans contemplate specific end-result scenarios including denial of access to critical PANYNJ facilities, loss of critical data/applications, staff unavailability, impacts to critical third parties and wide-scale regional events.

The BCM Program's alignment under the OEM and CSO affords the Business Continuity Program invaluable access to appropriate cross-agency (local, State, and federal) intelligence to assist in preparing for and responding to myriad events that are, or could become, business interrupting.

Readiness and Development Unit

The Readiness and Development Unit is designed to prepare for and mitigate threats to Port Authority facilities through a wide range of events ranging from workshops, tabletops, and drills to complex multi-agency functional and full-scale exercises.

Staff within the Unit develop scenarios based on identified risks and threats to a particular asset, as well as, validating plans and procedures. Exercises are designed to be collaborative which include multiple Port Authority line and staff departments and can incorporate agency partners at the federal, State, and local levels.

Program highlights include:

- Tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises at all agency facilities (airport, ports, terminals, tunnels, bridges, PATH)
- Family Assistance Center training
- Winter weather and hurricane preparedness workshops
- Cybersecurity tabletop and functional exercises
- Incident Command System and incident response training

Strategic Preparedness Unit

The Office of Emergency Management Strategic Preparedness Unit is a team of analysts, specialists, and program managers who maintain an Agency-wide focus on mitigating the potential loss of life and property from terrorism and natural hazards. This mission is accomplished through the development and promotion of initiatives that assist in managing risks, preventing threats, protecting critical infrastructure, and ensuring the Agency's ability to swiftly react and recover from the consequences of all hazards.

The Strategic Preparedness Unit strives to be adequately resourced, effectively networked within the Office of Emergency Management, and fully connected to executive leadership, management within line and staff departments and facilities, as well as external partners. These strong relationships enhance the ability to further efforts to reduce the risks of manmade threats and natural hazards.

The Strategic Preparedness Unit provides a central resource to plan security, natural hazard mitigation, recovery programs and promulgate policies that have Agency-wide implications. Since its inception, the Strategic Preparedness Unit created standardization in the approach to resolve complex matters by leveraging best practices from internal stakeholders (line departments, technical staff, facility management) and partnerships with external stakeholders (federal, State, local, private, and academic

partners). Through this model, the Strategic Preparedness Unit strengthens the Agency's resilience, through focus in four core mission areas: (1) Preparedness, (2) Mitigation, (3) Response, and (4) Recovery.

The following are selected critical initiatives being spearheaded by the Strategic Preparedness Unit for the purposes of the DPC:

- Facility Emergency Operations Plans - To respond and recover from service disruptions to Port Authority facilities, the agency developed Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) detailing roles, responsibilities, and procedures for emergency response functions effectively and efficiently.
- Tropical Cyclone Risk Assessment - Probabilistic tropical cyclone risk assessment to account for joint probability distributions, and the development of a comprehensive natural hazards risk analysis.
- Terrorism Risk Assessment - The assessments will provide a comprehensive understanding of risk for all critical Port Authority assets and will serve as the baseline risk data set, from which detailed cost benefit analysis can be applied to understand the value of proposed mitigation projects and initiatives.
- Flood Advisory System - Probabilistic storm surge model that provides strategic information to decision makers of impending storm surge events and high-resolution visualizations of flooding extents.
- Small Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Program – The program provides situational awareness to emergency managers and decision makers in order to enhance preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.

Within the Strategic Preparedness Unit is the Recovery Program, which ensures the agency's capability to recover from a significant event. The Strategic Preparedness Unit collaborates with internal and external stakeholders to ensure appropriate strategies are immediately implemented to guide the disaster recovery process. The Unit ensures the agency remains coordinated in the aftermath of event impact, and appropriate stakeholders carry out roles and responsibilities to restore facilities and services to a normal, if not more resilient state. This initiative also manages the collection of data and documentation to determine the magnitude of the event's impact, and utilizes such information in pursuing federal reimbursement funding, allocated for recovery efforts.

The Public Assistance program seeks to collect federal reimbursements from eligible expenditures relating to presidentially declared disasters. Since 2010, eleven disaster declarations have been handled by the Public Assistance Program resulting in \$35 million in federal reimbursements. The program delivers a comprehensive public assistance education program on FEMA's Public Assistance program for delivery to facility and line department staff. The program also works to refine the strategic Disaster Recovery Framework for the Agency to follow through all phases of a disaster.

Public Service Commission

The Department of Public Service (DPS or Department) is responsible for ensuring utilities in New York provide electric, natural gas, steam, water, and telecommunications services in a safe and reliable manner. Emergency response oversight occurs in three phases: storm preparation, active monitoring of utility impacts and system restoration, and post-storm analysis.

To ensure electric utility companies are prepared for emergencies, State law requires each major electric utility to submit annually a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to the Public Service Commission (PSC), or, in the case of Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), the Department. The ERPs are reviewed annually by Department Staff (Staff) and approved by PSC or, in the case of PSEG Long Island (PSEG LI), as LIPA's service provider, reviewed annually by Staff and approved by the LIPA Board of Trustees.

The ERPs detail procedures and define roles, responsibilities, and required training to reduce confusion and promote common understanding of the restoration process. Each utility is required to perform restoration efforts in compliance with its ERP and is also required to update its plan after a major event to capture lessons learned or because of new legislation.

The Department worked closely with electric utilities to ensure utilities were prepared, including obtaining outside resources through mutual assistance agreements and other means. The utilities reached out to DHSES to facilitate the passage of utility crews entering the United States from Canada assisting with restoration efforts.

Additionally, Utility ERPs defined communication methods to coordinate information sharing to public officials and the public, and detailed utilities' required interactions with critical facilities and customers on life support equipment. The PSC maintains the legal authority to approve a utility's emergency response plan or to direct the electric corporation to amend its plan.

The Department also oversees utility cyber and physical security preparedness to ensure critical facilities of regulated utilities are well protected from possible malicious threats and manageable risk. Staff conducted thorough inspections, audits, and program assessments of the physical and cyber security posture of utility facilities, sites, and assets.

Cybersecurity staff performed onsite evaluations of the cyber security measures, practices, and procedures at each regulated utility to ensure critical digital control systems were well protected against malicious external and internal hacking attacks and

other forms of potential cyber system disruption. Cyber-audits were scheduled quarterly at each utility with a concentrated focus on a specific area of cyber security diligence. Additionally, cyber security oversight included regular review of utility company measures to protect confidential customer information from compromise by cyber breach. Recommendations for utility company response or remediation were communicated to the utility to ensure proper corrective steps were taken.

Physical security staff conducted visual inspections of the physical security posture of each such facility, scheduled annually, on a revolving basis. Unscheduled and unannounced site inspections were conducted to ascertain the quality of physical security at critical infrastructure. Attention was also given to hundreds of lower voltage distribution level electric facilities and inspections were conducted by staff on an ongoing basis.

New York's utilities maintained an existing base of workers available for response, repair, and restoration efforts throughout the year. Utilities are on alert during events and deploy restoration crews where needed and are prepared to respond to power disruptions and are mandated to implement ERPs when needed, including requirements to conduct wellness checks of life-support equipment customers, via phone or in person visits, and make contact other critical customers.

There were numerous significant weather events throughout New York State during 2022 in which DPS staff worked with utilities to ensure they activated ERPs, established incident command structures, and secured appropriate staffing prior to and during service impacts. This includes providing mutual assistance when able to do so.

DPS tracks forecasts with severe or extreme weather potential to monitor Utility Infrastructure exposure prior to weather events reaching New York State. DPS's Office of Resilience and Emergency Preparedness (OREP) assesses the likelihood of an event to affect the State and prepares internal correspondence for those weather events that may cause damage or issues to Utility infrastructure. As confidence grows in a storm's impact the correspondences provide greater details.

At the same time, OREP communicated regularly with the utilities to ensure preparedness activities were underway, utility incident command structures were established, pre-incident classifications were discussed and assigned and, as necessary, secured appropriate external staffing prior to impact. The New York State utilities made preparedness decisions based on forecast tracking for their respective service territories, internal modeling, and previous experience. Additionally, OREP ensured utilities established a schedule for pre-event and during event municipal officials calls, which DPS staff participated on.

The 2022 impactful storm events began with a winter icing event in February. Rain, freezing rain and cold temperatures lingered mainly in the Ulster, Dutchess and Columbia County areas with Ulster County bearing the brunt of the severe and extensive damage. There were reports that areas of localized icing of 0.5 to 0.75 inches occurred in pockets of the region. This is a level of radial ice accretion will cause significant damage to trees, tree limbs, poles, and wires.

During the February event, 80,000 electric customers were impacted statewide. Of those, 67,404 were impacted in just the Central Hudson Gas and Electric Service territory. Central Hudson incurred 98 broken poles and more than 2,000 cases of wires down, the majority of which were concentrated in Ulster County.

By day three of this event Central Hudson had assembled over 1,000 Line and Tree personnel to respond, repair and restore customers, the majority of which were concentrated in Ulster County. This was the largest workforce contingent that Central Hudson Gas and Electric ever assembled in the over 100-year history of their company.

The summer months brought back-to-back heat wave events: the first heat wave of the season occurred July 19 through July 25, and the second from August 3 through August 10. During each event, peak loading approached and exceeded at times 30,000 megawatts, an unofficial trigger point where DPS begins to closely track system conditions in relation to demand/loading on the system. Whenever there are sustained temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit and heat indices in the 100's for a week at a time, the electric system becomes stressed, which increases the risk of system failures. Various actions are necessary and utilized by the utilities to ensure reliability.

DPS tracked the electric system through these events and there were no operational problems on the transmission system. The New York Independent System Operation - the NYISO - had sufficient generation scheduled to meet daily peak loading throughout each heat wave.

However, there were localized outages due to equipment issues and a few severe thunderstorms that rolled through during the heat waves the electric system, overall, remained stable and performed well statewide.

2022 ended with a severe statewide snow and wind winter weather event, which occurred December 22-28 with prolonged, concentrated lake effect snow and wind gusts greater than 65 miles per hour. The greatest impact was in Western New York, mainly in Erie County and the City of Buffalo as well as areas in the northern Finger Lakes region, particularly around Monroe County.

DPS's OREP Team staffed the State EOC December 24 -28 as the ESF 12 lead coordinating agency for energy incidents.

During this holiday weekend storm, utilities responded, repaired, and restored elective service to approximately 500,000 customers impacted by the statewide weather event. The bulk of the outages were incurred in Western New York in the National Grid and NYSEG/RGE service territories.

National Grid statewide total customer impacts were 197,084 (106,276 were in National Grid's Western New York service territories) while NYSEG/RGE statewide total customer impacts were 226,294 (132,872 were in NYSEG/RGEs Western and Finger Lakes New York service territories).

Restoration efforts were hampered by the extreme winds, blizzard conditions and in ability to travel on the roadways. The intensity and concentrated amount of snowfall, mainly in areas served by National Grid, hampered public works and public safety entities from clearing roads and responding to emergencies, especially in Erie County and the City of Buffalo.

Due to the atypical circumstances, the OREP EOC representative worked with National Grid, EOC Command, ESF 1 and the New York State Police to develop a priority utility infrastructure plowing map for the City of Buffalo to coordinate plowing, snow removal and utility repair and restoration efforts. National Grid also participated in New York State Snow Removal Task Force, coordinated locally by the State Police in Buffalo, to further synchronize its efforts.

DPS also participated in key State agency activities throughout various weather event activations, including multi-agency coordination calls, and support coverage for the State EOC.

New York State Police

Special Operations Response Team

The Special Operations Response Team (SORT) serves as both the State Police's tactical team as well as search and rescue (high angle rescue and helicopter hoist rescue) capabilities.

During 2022, SORT:

- Conducted a 22-week-long Basic Operator School to bring onboard eight new operators.

- Executed 329 operations including 43 barricaded subjects, 120 search warrant executions, 34 searches for wanted or lost subjects and four rope rescues/recoveries.

The SORT trains continuously and is always at the highest state of readiness.

Mobile Field Unit

The Mobile Field Unit (MFU) serves as the State Police's FEMA-type Mobile Field Force that can be used to provide a law enforcement surge to areas experiencing civil disorder.

Following nationwide protests in 2020, the State Police embarked on a mission to expand its civil disorder response capabilities to address protests occurring simultaneously in multiple locations across the State. The State Police previously had five teams capable of being deployed to address civil disorder - this since expanded to eight teams comprised of approximately 40 members each in Troops A, B, C, D, E, F/K, G and L/New York City. The three new teams were equipped and trained regionally.

This process culminated with a mass training of the teams combined with two more veteran teams at the State Preparedness Training Center in October.

Other activities included:

- The Bomb Disposal Unit handled 443 calls for service statewide, which included suspicious packages, recovered explosives, and a variety of other related calls.
- The Canine Unit handled 4,467 calls for service, including weapons and narcotics searches, lost/missing/wanted persons tracking calls, cadaver searches, site security details and other related calls.
- The Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team was requested 56 times and responded to clandestine drug labs and other suspicious substance calls.

Underwater Recovery Team

In Spring 2021, the State Police Underwater Recovery Team (URT) conducted a novice dive school, graduating 15 new divers and bringing the total number of divers up to 58. New members of URT completed Airboat Operations training, which brought them to full operational status. The URT continued to play a major role in the Flood Incident Strike Team with its inclusion in the swift water rescue mission.

In 2022, the URT conducted 1,624 dives and recovered 28 drowning victims, 14 pieces of evidence, seven vehicles, 14 weapons, and successfully made six rescues from water emergencies.

The URT remains on high alert with one airboat and one rigid hull inflatable boat strategically located in each of eight State Police Troops, allowing for a swift water boat package to be available for immediate deployment anywhere in the State.

Radiological Interdiction Detection and Enforcement (RIDE) Program

In November, the Atomic City practical exercises were conducted at the State Preparedness Training Center. The exercise was created by DHSES in conjunction with the State Department of Environmental Conservation and the State Police. Members from multiple police agencies, the FBI, State Department of Health, and local fire departments participated in the training, which consisted of five different scenarios from a radiological threat on a bus to locating multiple radiological threats in a mall.

Members conducted radiological interdiction and detection details in support of the New York City Fourth of July celebration, Hall of Fame Ceremony in Cooperstown, and New Year's Eve Times Square celebration.

DHSES OEM Liaison Program

The State Police / DHSES OEM Liaison Program is staffed by a technical lieutenant assigned to work with DHSES OEM. State Police maintained a group of Emergency Management Non-Commissioned Officers (EMNCOs) with one in each Troop to supplement the Liaison Program.

The technical lieutenant for emergency management, is detailed to DHSES OEM headquarters and routinely assigned to executive level planning groups. The technical lieutenant was assigned as the Division Liaison Officer (DLO) to the DPC as outlined in the New York State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The technical lieutenant is also responsible for State Police personnel assigned to the State EOC and coordinated activities of State Police personnel assigned as liaisons to their troops.

State Police members staffed ESFs in the State EOC for winter weather events and statewide weather emergency activations.

Department of State

The Department of State (DOS) continued to support the State's disaster response and recovery efforts. The DOS Agency Representative Team members continued to support ESFs 3 and 6 throughout 2022.

In September, Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez participated directly in a delegation deployed by Governor Hochul to travel to Puerto Rico to assist and assess Hurricane Fiona relief efforts in the immediate aftermath of that devastating storm. Secretary Rodriguez coordinated with administration officials and sister agencies, such as the State Police and DHSES, to work to provide direct support on the ground, survey damage, and assist with relief efforts on the island.

In November, the Division of Building Standards and Codes deployed a damage assessment team to Erie County in a joint operation with the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The DOS team provided technical assistance to county officials impacted by more than seven feet of snow. The Agency Representative Team was also deployed to support the activation of ESFs 3 and 6 at the State EOC from November 18-21.

The Department of State was again activated to support ESF 3 in response to a snowstorm in Western New York from December 23-28.

The Department of State continued to review and improve the Emergency Management Operations Protocol (EMOP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to support mission-essential, agency-wide operations. These plans were reviewed and approved in August 2022.

The Department of State strives to be the national leader in building code development, ensuring a safe, sustainable, and energy-efficient built environment for all New Yorkers.

The Code Enforcement Disaster Assistance Response (CEDAR) program is the Department of State's primary support function in response to disasters. The CEDAR Program continued to train code enforcement officials and design professionals, ready to be called upon as State-led volunteers to conduct post-disaster building safety evaluations on buildings impacted by a disaster. The CEDAR program has damage assessment kits available to be deployed. The Department of State maintained two pickup trucks, a trailer used to store damage assessment equipment, and a mobile command site when deployed.

Thruway Authority

The New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) remained engaged in supporting the State's COVID-19 response efforts and completed missions across the State, including delivering test kits to counties and educational facilities, transportation of PPE, and demobilizing testing and vaccination sites.

Other NYSTA activities included:

- Responded to storms and emergencies on a local and system-wide basis.
- Supported State EOC virtually for several weather events, including the Ulster County ice storm, Napanoch Point Fire, Hurricane Ian, and multiple winter weather events, and assisted with cleanup efforts in multiple localities.
- Activated Headquarters and/or Division Operations Centers for 11 snow events and one border protest event.
- Operations Centers were staffed by trained NYSTA personnel, State Police, and representatives from partner agencies when necessary.
- Supported and participated in the Drought Task Force and Ice Jam Task Force.
- Coordination and participation in statewide preparation and planning activities with partner agencies, including the Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Conservation and Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and DHSES, continued in 2022.

In addition, NYSTA participated in exercises conducted with local partners and conducted training for first responders of the Gov. Mario M Cuomo Bridge. It also resumed in person highway safety awareness training for fire companies that respond to incidents on the Thruway system and outside response partners, including authorized towing garages and emergency medical personnel, to enhance critical incident response.

Executive staff conducted an annual review of winter maintenance operations, including site visits of maintenance locations and operation centers, as well as review of snow and ice equipment and met with winter maintenance personnel to discuss operations and response. NYSTA continues to ensure all key staff remain current in both ICS and NIMS.

NYSTA continued to support, coordinate, and communicate with traffic management partners including Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC) and the Transportation Operations Coordination Committee (TRANSCOM), as well as New York State Department of Transportation - Transportation Management Centers on traffic management issues, incident management, roadway closure coordination and planning, and coordinated messaging to motorists.

Department of Transportation

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) was active in 2022. NYSDOT responded to multiple storms and emergencies as well as coordinated various COVID-19 missions including test kit deliveries across the State. Additionally, the Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO) program continued its preparedness planning, coordination, training, and exercise activities.

Planning

NYSDOT is always working to ensure plans are in place and that the team is well trained to execute its mission safely and efficiently. Key to the planning process at NYSDOT are the activities of committees such as:

- Incident Command System (ICS) Community of Practice (CoP) Group
- Road Status and Damage Assessment (RSDA II) tool CoP Group
- NY Responds (NYR) Working Group
- ESF 1 Transportation Working Group
- Emergency Response System (ERS) Working Group
- ETO Website Committee
- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Steering Committee

The ICS CoP group was established to ensure standards are developed for efficient emergency response. The team developed comprehensive training programs, procedures, and tools for emergency response. A major accomplishment of 2022 is the reporting improvements to NYSDOT's situational awareness reporting process used during ICS activations. The team worked with ITS to get changes moved to production.

The ETO unit also updated key agency documents and procedures, including the Department's "ETO Playbook" and Emergency Management Operations Plan (EMOP). In response to COVID-19, the pandemic section of the Department's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was updated to include guidance on essential personnel, telecommuting, work shifts/schedules, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), social distancing, cleaning/disinfection protocols, and other necessary guidance. The Statewide Transportation Information Coordination Center (STICC) incident reporting procedures were reviewed, verified, and updated.

A major preparedness element in 2022 was the further development of the Road Status and Damage Assessment (RSDA II) tool. The RSDA II CoP group continued to modify its web and mobile application training material to highlight the software's evolving features and reporting capabilities. Training materials included: PowerPoint presentations, best practices documentation, and written user guides. This team also

continued to provide feedback to the software vendor for necessary product modifications and served as trainers for the software. An enhancement currently being explored is how to utilize RSDA II data to help satisfy documentation needs for federal emergency funding reimbursement (FEMA/ER funds). NYSDOT began planning for the next generation of the RSDA tool and is currently developing requirements for an RFP to be issued in the next year.

NYSDOT Fleet Administration consistently maintained a 98 percent uptime or better for priority equipment during the season it is most needed. This includes snow and ice equipment used primarily during the winter season. The Department places a high priority on “in service” (uptime) on needed equipment.

This effort includes coordination of DOT Fleet personnel and vendors to maximize repair capability and overnighting of parts to ensure quick availability. Every effort is made to ensure as close to 100 percent uptime regardless of local weather conditions since all assets may be needed at a moment’s notice.

The ETO website continued to be improved. The ETO unit added or updated various training materials, documents, and linkages to the site, making it more of a one-stop-shop for emergency related preparedness and training resources. ETO worked with ITS to upgrade the SharePoint site to enhance usability, streamlining the process in which ETO and Regional staff add and update information.

Outreach and Coordination

Continuous outreach is vital to NYSDOT’s preparedness program. In 2022 the Department participated in several conferences, meetings, and presentations. Due to COVID-19, these meetings and conferences were a hybrid of in person and virtual meetings.

Along with the internal coordination among Regions, the ETO unit also interacts with numerous State and local agencies and emergency response partners. NYSDOT held several virtual meetings to discuss agency capabilities as well as communication and collaboration during response activities. Participants of these meetings included the Thruway Authority, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (PARKS), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), DHSES OEM, the Department of Military Naval Affairs (DMNA), the State and local Police, the National Weather Service (NWS), the Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC), and the Transportation Operations Coordination Committee (TRANSCOM).

When severe weather was forecasted, the Department participated in coordination calls with NWS, DHSES OEM, Thruway Authority, Transportation Management Centers

(TMCs), and other State and local emergency response agencies. This coordination begins at a minimum 72 hours prior to the forecasted weather event. To help improve efficiency for the NWS, NYSDOT continues to work closely with the Thruway, DHSES OEM, Parks, DEC, and NWS to consolidate statewide weather calls for those agencies and now hosts these multi-agency calls with the NWS. NYSDOT continues partnership with the University at Albany Center of Excellence to provide enhanced weather briefings and forecasting data that leverage information collected from the 126 Mesonet stations across New York State. The Department also maintains a strong working relationship with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Parks who provide sawyer crews to augment NYSDOT's storm response capabilities related to road-clearing operations.

NYSDOT's Regional Emergency Managers (REMs) coordinate with various State and local agencies, within their Regional boundaries. In 2022, REMs provided Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training for tow companies, participated in dam drills, participated in County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) update sessions, and held winter operations meetings with other State and County partners.

In Western New York, NYSDOT's coordination with NITTEC includes daily coordination and communication regarding traffic management issues for incident management, construction coordination, and special event planning. NYSDOT and NITTEC continue to utilize past experiences to refine the Regional Expressway Closure Guidelines for transportation agencies and first responders, including DHSES OEM, Thruway Authority, county DPW's, county and local emergency management, law enforcement agencies, and fire departments. The installation of closure gates at expressway access points is one example of leveraging this partnership to utilize limited NYSDOT and first responder resources more effectively during major incidents. Coordination and participation in regional stakeholder workshops and TIM training for first responders are all part of the collaborative partnership between NYSDOT and NITTEC. One example is the role NITTEC serves in organizing and facilitating conference calls during major incidents, including weather events, where agency planning, and response coordination takes place between local stakeholders. TRANSCOM serves as a conduit for coordinating response plans between the 16 transportation agencies and first responders located in the Tri-State area. Through the TRANSCOM Operations committee, the Department works with the various agencies and surrounding states to develop plans to address emergency closures on bridges and highways, including mitigating the impact to connecting routes in the system both within the State and across state boundaries. This also serves as a critical conduit for ensuring coordinated messages are relayed to the public and motorists across all jurisdictions.

In addition to TRANSCOM, NYSDOT also coordinated with PennDOT, NJDOT, ConnDOT, and Vermont Agency of Transportation in peer exchanges to review snow

and ice response and traffic management strategies. NYSDOT routinely coordinates with these partners on messaging, pre-emptive truck restrictions, and potential closures for planned and unplanned events. This information is also relayed to the Trucking Association of New York (TANY), the American Trucking Association (ATA), and independent truckers.

The TIM Steering Committee provides a forum to bring together the State agencies typically involved in emergency response as well as the organizations associated with the first responder community. In addition to on-going coordination efforts, the committee provides outreach on incident management principles and practices across numerous disciplines involved in emergency response. The TIM Steering Committee provides multi-disciplinary TIM training to responders across the State and coordinated training classes over the last year. To date, over 12,000 first responders within New York have been trained in Traffic Incident Management principles and safety.

Severe weather events may cause numerous road closures associated with downed poles/wires that must be cleared before the road can be reopened to traffic. To help expedite re-opening, NYSDOT maintains a statewide utility contact list for department storm managers to use to contact the appropriate utility provider(s) to ascertain the status of their response and estimated timeframe for clearing their infrastructure. This communication continues until all the utility's poles/wires have been cleared to the extent that allows the roadway(s) to be reopened. NYSDOT also maintains a listing identifying all utility owners at each location where a utility crosses over a major State highway.

The Department also continues to work with municipalities to update existing and enter into new Shared Service Agreements (SSAs). These agreements may be used to assist municipalities during emergencies in the absence of an official State disaster declaration. Agreement language includes a description and cost of services, materials and/or equipment to be shared. The parties remain fully responsible for their own employees for all matters, including but not limited to, salary, insurances, and benefits.

Training

The Department remained heavily involved in training in 2022. Statewide training was provided in the following emergency response topics:

- Basic Emergency Response (ICS) for all employees (mandatory online course)
- Asset Management System (AMS)
- Road Status and Damage Assessment II (RSDA II)
- Snow University (snow and ice operations training for managers)

- ICS Environmental Permitting and Damage Assessment Documentation and Reporting
- ICS Communications and Reporting
- Statewide Emergency Event Resource Tracker (SEERT)
- Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

Additional training by the ETO unit was provided related to the SharePoint site and Emergency Response System (ERS) to help improve event reporting. These trainings included:

- REMs/Deputy REMs
- Main Office Logistics and Planning section staff
- Advanced SharePoint

To mitigate potential COVID-19 impacts on snow and ice operations, NYSDOT trained CDL holders from inside the Department as well as from other State agencies whose normal duties do not include operating a plow to serve as backup emergency plow and loader operators during extreme weather events. The Department did not need to deploy any of these volunteers during 2022, but they are in reserve and available in case they are needed.

Exercises

The Department conducted numerous drills during 2022, both statewide and regionally. Regions held localized exercises and training in areas such as Statewide Emergency Event Resource Tracking (SEERT); RSDA II; establishing staging areas; NYR; ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800 courses; Planning/Logistic Section Chief roles and responsibilities; activation of COOP; and establishing remote workstations. The Department also conducted a staging area drill and a full-scale storm response exercise utilizing RSDA II.

Technology Updates

The following system updates were developed, implemented, and tested:

- SEERT
- 511NY event reporting capabilities upgraded
- Roadside Damage Assessment II (RSDA II) updated web application and mobile app
- Asset Management System (AMS) updates

Response

Storm response is a core function of NYSDOT. In 2022, the Department responded to 16 significant events. Out of these 16 events, 12 were for winter storm response which included ice jam monitoring and clearance activities. NYSDOT's winter storm response was highlighted by two large events in Western New York and the North Country. The first six-day event in November included a deployment of 145 staff and 52 pieces of equipment. NYSDOT also activated its emergency contractors to aid in response. The contractors primarily focused on assisting local response. The Regions assisted the City of Buffalo in plowing main city arterials during the storm and continued to assist local towns and the City of Buffalo in post storm clean up after this period. This event also saw NYSDOT coordinate with ESF 1 partner agencies and activate several emergency contracts to assist with storm response. The second event, lasting approximately 7 days, included a DOT deployment of 217 staff and 97 pieces of equipment. DOT also activated its emergency contractors for this event. Contractor response included 196 staff and 111 pieces of equipment. Again, for this event, NYSDOT assisted the City of Buffalo in plowing main city arterials during the storm and assisted the city in post-storm clean up. DOT also coordinated response with ESF 1 partner agencies, as well as led the State's IMAP response. Other responses were for high winds, hurricanes, and flooding.

COVID-19 dominated DOT's non-storm event response through June 2022. NYSDOT is the lead State agency for ESF 1 (Transportation). In response to COVID-19, the State activated ESF 1 on March 5, 2020. In 2022, ESF 1 managed and/or supported a variety of COVID-19-related missions, including:

- Coordinated and assisted in transporting test kits to multiple BOCES and Non-Component schools across the State weekly until June 2022.
- Coordinated and assisted in transporting one large push of test kits to multiple BOCES and Non-Component schools across the State in late August/early September 2022 prior to the beginning of the school year.
- Coordinated and assisted in transporting 147 pallets of test kits to the New York City DOHNM warehouse in August 2022.

The Department continued to ensure continuity in the delivery of Mission Essential Functions (MEFs). This included ensuring employees had the technology needed to work from home (RSA tokens, network connectivity, computers, etc.). The Department also continued to offer an interim voluntary telecommuting program which allows employees to work from home up to 5 days per pay period where it is operationally feasible to do so and enhances program needs.

In 2022, the Department staged three long-reach excavators at various locations across the State in anticipation of river ice jams that could potentially cause flooding and

resulting detrimental impacts to State highway infrastructure. NYSDOT deployed excavators with operators as needed to break up several ice jams.

NYSDOT maintains a strong partnership with the University at Albany Center of Excellence. As part of this partnership, the Center provides the Department with custom webpages and dashboards for weather forecasting that leverage information collected from the 126 Mesonet stations across the State. This information was vital to the Department's operational planning. The data provided includes predicted precipitation, snowfall and freezing rain/sleet amounts, as well as wind speeds and pavement/surface temperatures. This information is used to produce roadway condition risk assessment tables and maps that show the severity (expected, minimum, and maximum) and time ranges (short, medium, and long) for weather events for operational decision making. Storm and Winter Season Severity Indices are also being expanded for program performance analytics. Improvements are also underway, such as elevation map enhancements and the beginning of the Center's National Science Foundation Artificial Intelligence project specific to winter weather forecasting.

In 2019, NYSDOT began an initiative to install electrical disconnects for priority traffic signals to allow the signals to be powered by generators in the event of a prolonged power outage. To date, the Department installed 3,302 out of a total of 3,825 disconnects included under this initiative and expects to substantially complete the remaining installations by the end of 2023.

Recovery/Mitigation

The NYSDOT Emergency Relief Unit continued to seek reimbursement for approved FHWA Emergency Relief (ER) and FEMA Public Assistance (PA) events on behalf of NYSDOT, NYSTA, and local governments.

For FEMA PA events:

- DR 4020 (Hurricane Irene): All but two Project Worksheets (PWs) have been approved/obligated by FEMA. DOT appealed FEMA's ineligible determination for remaining two PWs.
- DR 4129 (June-July 2013 flood Mohawk): Event closed out. FEMA approved/obligated all eligible PWs.
- DR 4348 (2017 Lake Ontario flood): Event closed out. FEMA approved/obligated all eligible PWs.
- DR 4397 (2018 Mid-August flooding): Event closed out. FEMA approved/obligated all PWs.

- DR 4472 (2019 Halloween Winds and Flooding): Active event. Several PWs have been written for FEMA's review/approval. Some PWs have not yet been written by DHSES.
- DR 4480 (COVID-19): Active event. Working with DOB to complete submission of the last project. FEMA is reviewing all projects submitted. The event is nearing the final stages of FEMA reimbursement
- DR 4567 (2020 - Tropical Storm Isaias): Active event. Working with DHSES to provide documentation for proposed projects. This event is in the middle stages of FEMA reimbursement.
- DR 4615 (2021 - Tropical Storm Ida): Active event. Most documentation was provided. DHSES is writing the PWs. This event is in the middle stages of FEMA reimbursement.
- DR 4625 (2021 - Tropical Storm Fred): Active event. All documentation was provided. DHSES is currently writing the PWs. This event is in the middle stages of FEMA reimbursement.
- EM 3589 (Nov. 2022 Buffalo Lake Effect Snowstorm). Working with DHSES to provide documentation for proposed projects. This event is in the beginning stages of FEMA reimbursement.
- EM 3590 (Dec. 2022 Buffalo Blizzard). Working with DHSES to provide documentation for proposed projects. This event is in the beginning stages of FEMA reimbursement.

For FHWA ER events:

- NY 01-02 World Trade Center attack: Active Event. Final Project is progressing. NYSDOT fully obligated the final project. FHWA allocated additional funds beyond the original amount to fund ongoing projects. FHWA capped participation at approved funding levels and is no longer funding cost increases.
- NY 11-02 Hurricane Irene: Active event. Final billings are being closed out. One project remains active.
- NY 13-01 Hurricane Sandy: Active event. Projects for NYCDOT and Nassau County are progressing. Additional funds being requested from FHWA for event.
- NY 18-01 May 2018 storms: DDIRs being reviewed. Event Closed. Did not meet the \$700,000 threshold for an ER event.
- NY 18-02 August 2018 storms: Active Event. FHWA approved/obligated all eligible projects. The event is nearing the final stages of FHWA reimbursement.
- NY 20-01 October 2019 storms: Active event. FHWA approved/obligated all eligible projects. This event is in the middle stages of FHWA reimbursement.
- NY 21-01 (2021 - Tropical Storm Ida): Active event. All documentation was provided. DDIRs being prepared for upload to FHWA ER portal. This event is in the beginning stages of FHWA reimbursement.

- NY 21-02 (2021 - Tropical Storm Fred): Active event. Most documentation was provided. DDIRs being prepared for upload to FHWA ER portal. This event is in the beginning stages of FHWA reimbursement.

The Statewide Critical Bridges Over Water Program (CBOW) is an initiative to harden 106 at-risk bridges against extreme weather, including scour and flooding. Thirty-seven bridges in nine separate contracts will be upgraded thru the Design/Build procurement process and 69 bridges in 32 separate contracts will be upgraded thru the Design/Bid/Build process. NYSDOT received funding approval from FEMA for all the bridges in the program totaling \$518 million. To date, all 106 bridges in 41 contracts have been awarded and construction is complete. Administrative and financial closeout for the entire program was completed in October 2022.

After action reviews for major events as well as Statewide/Regional exercise activities are crucial in improving upon NYSDOT's future response capabilities. Strengths and weaknesses in the planning and response/recovery actions are reviewed and improvement needs documented. Best practices as well as improvement plans were developed and distributed to Main office and Regional personnel.

Office of Victim Services

The 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 currently has approximately 250 contracts with approximately 230 victim assistance programs across the State to provide services to victims of crime and, in partnership with other State agencies, could mobilize and provide assistance onsite in the event of a criminal mass casualty incident.

The agency's Director and senior staff continually monitored for mass incidents and other high-profile victimizations, using such incidents to activate, test, and/or update OVS' Emergency Management Operations Protocol (EMOP). During the past two years, in light of COVID-19 and having to operate under extraordinarily challenging circumstances, OVS worked primarily under a Continuity of Operations (COOP) activation. Staff operating through telework proved successful and the Office implemented a hybrid telework/in-office schedule.

In response to the Buffalo Hate Attack in May, OVS was immediately in touch with the Executive Chamber's Public Safety Portfolio's Deputy Secretary as detailed in OVS's EMOP Incident Reporting Chain. OVS' EMOP was activated and staff was dispatched to Buffalo where they remained onsite (in rotations) for approximately six months.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross served State residents by meeting its core mission of, Prepare, Respond and Recover. Our staff and volunteers assisted New Yorkers to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. In addition, the Red Cross continued its mission of providing lifesaving blood products and health and safety classes.

Red Cross focused on four disaster preparedness initiatives across the State.

- In September the Red Cross began to return to in-person training Red Cross Volunteers and AmeriCorps members trained New Yorkers through the Governor's Citizen Preparedness Corps program, which highlights action steps needed to prepare individuals and families for disasters. Instructors trained approximately 2,100 during the last three months of 2022. This brings the total since 2014 to more than 153,000.
- The Red Cross continued its highly successful Home Fire Preparedness campaign. First launched in 2014, this initiative focuses on providing education on how to prepare for and what to do in case of a home fire. In addition to training and education, Red Cross personnel continued to install free smoke alarms in homes. This year, the Red Cross continued to install smoke alarms. These installations occur throughout the year and are a focus of the signature city installation program in the spring of each year. The success of the program is measured not only by the number of alarms installed, but in lives saved. These installations resulted in 110 New Yorker's lives saved due to smoke alarms being installed at some point by Red Cross and community volunteers.
- The third preparedness initiative aimed at youth populations is the Pillowcase Project. This program focuses on children creating go-kits with pillowcases and teaches children how to prepare for disasters of all types. In 2022, the program continued to educate children on how to prepare for disasters.
- The "Prepare with Pedro" educational program, focused on kindergarten to second grade students.

Other Red Cross activities included:

- Supported State EOC activations and local responses.
- Responded to local home fires and disasters, nearly 9,000 local disasters of which 90 percent were single and multifamily fires.
- Assisted families with varied needs, including temporary housing, health and mental health needs and condolence care.
- Through volunteers, supported immediate needs by providing shelter and financial assistance for items such as food, clothing, and bedding.

- Participated in multi-agency coordination calls, Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee (HSSAC), and ESF 6 planning and leadership meetings.

While single and multi-family fires were by far the largest number of disaster responses, the Red Cross assisted New Yorkers during two major disasters in 2022:

- Provided significant support and assistance to survivors and family members in response to the Tops Supermarket shooting in May. Red Crossers provided Disaster Mental Health assistance, financial assistance and food distribution.
- More than 50 Red Crossers provided feeding and shelter to those stranded by the November and December winter weather events in Western New York.

Responders from New York supported national disasters such as Hurricanes Ian in Florida and Fiona in Puerto Rico. The Red Cross also supported the response to wildfires in California and New Mexico, as well as storms in Alaska, and trainings throughout the State and Northeast Division.

Red Cross continued to collect blood donations to provide blood products to individuals in need. The Red Cross is a full-service blood center providing blood to meet normal, special, and emergency needs in large trauma centers and small local hospitals in the quantities necessary and by blood types required to save lives.

Lastly, Red Cross health and safety programs continued to train New Yorkers in hands only CPR, First Aid, use of automated external defibrillators, aquatics and other health and safety courses.