



Disaster Preparedness Commission



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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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 211. 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 the state's preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

State Response to Major Emergencies

State Emergency Operations Center

Pursuant to Executive Law Section 21(5), the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' (DHSES) Office of Emergency Management (NYSOEM) serves as the operational arm of the DPC. One core function of NYSOEM is to maintain and coordinate the functions of the State Emergency Operations Center (State EOC).

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. It also serves as a vital hub for receiving and disseminating information on planned events, emergencies, and disasters, processing more than 1,097 requests for State resources this year.

When there is no major emergency, NYSOEM maintains the State EOC in a readiness posture. The State EOC is activated to Enhanced Monitoring Mode when a situation requires additional monitoring and potential response coordination across State agencies. The State EOC was activated to Enhanced Monitoring six times in 2025:

- Work stoppage at correctional facilities (February; 20 operational periods)
- Suffolk county wildfire (March; one operational period)
- Excessive rainfall (May; one operational period)
- Extreme heat (June; four operational periods)
- Tour bus rollover (August; one operational period)
- Icy winter weather and lake effect snow (December; two operational periods)

The State EOC is activated to Level 3 or Limited Activation when multi-agency coordination is necessary to prepare for or respond to an incident and the appropriate

Emergency Support Function (ESF) is activated to support operations. There were no Level 3 activations of the State EOC during 2025.

The State EOC is activated to Level 2 or Partial Activation when an incident may cause or is causing significant impacts on the State. Multi-agency coordination efforts may be required across all agencies and additional representation from federal partners. The State EOC was not activated to Level 2.

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 not activated to Level 1.

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

- Hurricane Erin (August)
- Lake effect snow and wind (early November)
- Lake effect snow and wind (late November)
- Statewide drought (September-December)
- Onondaga water main break (December)

Statewide Disaster Preparedness and Planning Efforts

DHSES and DPC agencies continued engaging in several initiatives to strengthen the state's preparedness posture and ability to respond to a wide variety of disasters. These efforts included the annual review and update of the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), which outlines the policies, authorities, and organizational structure that guide the State's preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. The CEMP and its supporting annexes were updated to detail the agency and ESF-specific emergency protocols that support a cohesive State response and were enhanced to identify statewide resources and capabilities to support Access and Functional Needs (AFN) populations. Staff assisted agencies in successfully completing annual updates to their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) and Emergency Management Operation Protocols (EMOPS). Additionally, NYSOEM increased its capability to support county planning efforts by providing hands-on technical assistance, conducting in-depth plan reviews, and developing new guidance to inform and support county and local planning efforts.

Disaster Preparedness Commission Symposium

DHSES and NYSOEM hosted the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission Symposium in Albany during late October, which served as a precursor to the return of the full DPC Conference expected in 2026, a conference previously hosted many years ago. The event brought together more than 200 emergency professionals from across the state to discuss disaster-related topics and to provide an opportunity for

collaboration and networking. The highlighted goal of the Symposium was to enhance county and state readiness for major mass gathering events, especially those scheduled in the summer of 2026 including the United States Semiquincentennial (250th) anniversary and the FIFA World Cup 2026.

Through several plenary speakers and nine breakout sessions, the event focused on mass gathering event preparedness with experts from different states and emergency management disciplines sharing real-world case studies and strategies for addressing public safety. The Symposium also showcased a partnership with the Naval Post-Graduate Institute's Center for Homeland Defense and Security, which included a keynote address on lessons learned from the mass casualty incident at a Las Vegas concert, and a popular breakout session on artificial intelligence and emergency management. Sessions featured county, state, and National Weather Service emergency management leaders discussing topics from mass gathering planning and threat/risk assessment to unmanned aircraft systems, crisis communications, and medical planning for mass gathering events.

The return of the DPC Conference is planned to be offered annually to New York State's local, county and state emergency management community.

Other Activities

Other NYSOEM activities included:

- Assisted in facilitating and compiling the DHSES Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency (PACE) Executive Communication Directory.
- Supported counties' public alerting efforts by delivering the first of its kind IPAWS workshops to each NYSOEM zone, participated in several working groups to share best practices between partners, and launched "Triple-Three Triple-One," an opt-in program for emergencies and weather events.
- Sent six Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) on behalf of New York State counties and agencies, and 82 NY-Alert and Triple-Three Triple-One messages via the New York State Watch Center.
- The New York State Watch Center, the National Weather Service (NWS), and the New York State Weather Risk Communication Center (NYSWRCC) conducted a presentation at the New York State Emergency Management Association's (NYSEMA) annual conference regarding weather support for emergency managers.
- Conducted a State EOC exercise series to enhance functions and processes, which included two discussion-based exercises with ESF leads and the State EOC operations section and a Level 2 exercise activation of the State EOC in the Fall.

- Coordinated delivery of more than 316 training courses to more than 6,870 people for a total of 99,834 training hours, including: Emergency Management Certification and Training (EMC&T), Tier 1 at the New York State Association of Counties, an EMC&T workshop in Albany County, an EMC&T refresher course at NYSEMA. Lastly, a State EOC Training and Simulation course was developed and delivered two times.
- Expanded across key areas of NYSOEM including the capability to develop new training programs and expand existing programs for NYSOEM and State EOC staff.
- NYSOEM's Transportation Security and Emergency Preparedness program delivered 97 presentations with 1,758 attendees at transportation hubs across the State.

Citizen Preparedness Corps

The Citizen Preparedness Corps (CPC) provides training to New Yorkers to help develop an emergency plan for families, respond appropriately during an emergency, and recover to pre-disaster conditions as quickly as possible. Trainings include topics such as making family plans and aligning those with other community organizations and community plans, preparing an emergency preparedness bag, preparing one's home, learning basic first aid, communication during an emergency, what to do if suspicious activity is noticed, how to respond to a lithium-ion battery fire, and basic considerations to assist in the recovery process after a traumatic event.

Two types of in-person events are provided by the CPC. Public events are led by the New York National Guard working with NYSOEM and local county emergency management personnel at various venues such as armories, community centers, the NY State Fair, and other locations statewide. Private events are trainings requested by organizations such as schools or corporations which were not open to the public and given by the New York National Guard or the American Red Cross.

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs completed 1,123 trainings for 40,000 individuals with 17,800 emergency preparedness kits distributed across the state and the American Red Cross presented 2 trainings to 516 individuals. Since the program was established in 2014, the Citizen Preparedness Corps trained more than 456,000 individuals and provided 128,000 emergency preparedness kits to families.

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, treatment and recovery programs serving more than 200,000 individuals per year. The OASAS provider system cares for approximately 100,000 people a day, including 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 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 agency responsible for coordination of state-federal relations in addiction services.

In 2025, OASAS achieved the following in emergency response to the opioid crisis:

- The OASAS harm reduction portal continued to provide public access to lifesaving supplies. More than 390,000 naloxone kits and 25 million drug testing strips were distributed statewide.
- To address service gaps, the number of programs providing methadone increased by 23 percent between 2021 and 2024, and the number of counties providing methadone increased by 26 percent between 2021 and 2024.
- Under the Community Prevention Intervention Program, providers delivered prevention services to communities and schools in underserved areas.
- Medication treatment in jails and prisons is available in all 58 jails and 42 prisons and reached more than 16,000 incarcerated individuals. This nation-leading effort addresses the elevated overdose risk people face during reentry.
- OASAS implemented the voluntary recovery residence certification and approved the first application.
- OASAS continued support for leadership development, scholarships, paid internships, and peer training. Roughly 3,000 individuals already benefited from these initiatives by building long-term career pathways across the addiction system of care.
- OASAS continued to strengthen problem gambling and responsible gaming efforts through research, public awareness, and expanded support. The “Take a Pause” public awareness campaign was featured during the NFL playoffs, Super

Bowl, and horse racing season. This messaging encouraged New Yorkers to reflect on betting behavior and educated youth about potential gambling harms.

- Other efforts to raise awareness included the launch of an OASAS Spanish-language podcast and the “Don’t Know, Don’t Judge” anti-stigma campaign. Messaging was shared through TV ads, social media posts, billboards, radio ads, and printed materials, including posters.

Office for the Aging

NYSOFA’s Emergency Management team supported DHSES through ongoing participation in State EOC drills and exercises to prepare and practice response functions. NYSOFA participated in tabletop exercises for radiological, extreme heat, and winter weather events, as well as exercises and training to prepare for future mass gathering events. The office also participated in regularly scheduled meetings to strategize with other partner agencies and plan for potential activations. NYSOFA’s Emergency Management team attended the DHSES State EOC and NY Responds basic training courses and participated as a member of the Functional Support Team.

NYSOFA’s Emergency Management team responded to several extreme weather activations. NYSOFA provided regular guidance to Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), who educated older adults and caregivers about the impacts of extreme heat on chronic health conditions and potentially rapid health decline. The aging network’s facilities were called upon to serve as cooling centers during extreme heat events.

NYSOFA also represented older adults and caregivers through participation in the Extreme Heat Action Plan Work Group, which concluded monthly workgroup meetings with the release of the Extreme Heat Action Plan. The group, led by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, addressed how state agencies and their partners can mitigate the growing concerns of extreme heat through shared best practices, coordinated community notifications, and long-term planning efforts in meeting identified deliverables.

NYSOFA completed training on the new format of the EMOP as well as annual revisions to the EMOP and COOP. NYSOFA also maintained the Emergency Management Plan and held annual COOP training for staff to achieve the agency’s annual goal of 100 percent participation.

NYSOFA continues to explore opportunities to provide training to staff and the aging network. The annual Aging Concerns Unite Us conference and Local Program Operations calls with AAA Directors have been valuable opportunities to provide training. This year, NYSOFA partnered with the Red Cross to provide training and materials to the AAA network on the “Sound the Alarm” program providing free smoke detectors and follow up to household on home fire safety. Additionally, the NYSOFA Emergency Management Team met with a Churchill Fellow from Australia to discuss

and share emergency management and disaster planning practices. Lastly, NYSOFA continues to look for opportunities to partner with DHSES to identify regionally located senior centers to promote and host Citizen Preparedness Corps training.

This is the fourth year that NYSOFA participated in the multi-agency Extreme Heat Action Plan Workgroup, which explores and develops immediate recommendations to combat the impact of extreme heat. In the third phase of the initiative, the workgroup shifted its mission to following developed recommendations and agency led initiatives to combat the effects of extreme heat on New Yorkers. NYSOFA remains committed to leveraging current AAA and community partnerships to increase multi-faceted communication platforms to alert and notify older adults in receiving preparedness strategies before an event, as well as response efforts while an extreme heat event is occurring.

NYSOFA played an increased role in the AFN workgroup, attending meetings and actively assisting in the review and updating the original FEMA G-197 course, incorporating modernized materials from California to focus on more effective and compassionate access to emergency services and recovery efforts. Once the training materials were updated, three pilot groups were enlisted to participate in the full training. Participants in the pilots, including representation from NYSOFA, provided feedback and offered further insight and materials to incorporate into an additional round of workgroup led edits. Overwhelmingly, the pilot groups confirmed the importance of AFN knowledge when developing emergency management plans at all levels of government.

NYSOFA participated in quarterly DHSES multi-agency planning meetings. During State EOC activations, the multi-agency planning group met daily to provide real-time weather and traffic updates and report on what each agency was contributing to the response. NYSOFA provided daily updates from the AAAs on interruptions in services, service modifications, and ongoing strategies to check on the welfare of vulnerable older adults during the event.

Department of Agriculture and Markets

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) Emergency Management (EM) Division supported the State EOC by attending quarterly planning meetings for ESF-6, ESF-8 and ESF-11, multi-agency planning coordination calls, and State EOC exercises. The EM division also submitted its EMOP and COOP to be reviewed and updated by DHSES.

AGM EM participated in several radiological emergency preparedness meetings and a federally evaluated radiological exercise hosted by DHSES, NYSOEM and federal partners. The Division updated the “Radiologic Emergency Preparedness for the Agricultural Community” guide, which is shared with AGM agriculture partners and counties within a 50-mile radius of a nuclear power plant. EM also participated in the New York State Nuclear Safety Subcommittee Power Pool and completed annual Emergency Action Level training in October.

In October, EM participated in the NY Technical Assistance Workshop with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Health to support updates to the Statewide Emergency Drinking Water Supply Plan. In November, EM staff took part in a full-scale wildfire tabletop exercise at the State EOC.

AGM EM and the Division of Land and Water Resources continued participation as members of the New York State Drought Management Task Force, which was activated in August due to drought-like conditions. The task force met weekly through December.

In July, the AGM EM Division and AGM's Division of Plant Industry hosted a full-day Plant Pest Response Workshop, funded through PPA 7721: Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program. The workshop brought together local, state, and federal partners to strengthen coordination and operational readiness for plant pest incidents. An after-action report developed following the workshop informed updates to the ESF-11 Plant Pest Invasive Species Appendix and supported the design and development of a 2026 Plant Health Emergency Response tabletop exercise.

The EM Division provided essential life safety training for field staff across the state. This year, 50 Department field staff were successfully trained in First Aid/AED/CPR for a two-year certification provided by certified National Safety Council Instructors from EM Division.

The AGM UAS Program is coordinated and managed by the EM Division with six FAA CFR 107 licensed pilots and five drones. 15 UAS flight missions were completed this year. AGM uses drones to conduct invasive plant and plant species detection in Division of Plant Industry quarantine zones of railyards and railcars.

This year, AGM supported multiple incidents and inquiries through its Division of Animal Industry (DAI), Food Safety and Inspection (FSI), and emergency operations volunteer organization. These included 69 boil water order emergencies, 23 sick domestic animal inquiries, 21 vehicle accidents containing agriculture products, 16 structural damage incidents, and 14 after-hours calls forwarded by the State Watch Center.

AGM EM in partnership with the Division of Agricultural Development continued to track and compile reports on damage suffered by New York State agricultural communities due to weather events. This year, several counties experienced a multitude of severe weather events including drought, excessive heat, high winds, tornados, excessive rain, flooding, hail, and heavy snow. AGM EM division assisted in collecting information to submit to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary for potential disaster designation assistance to farms for loss of product.

AGM DAI in partnership with the USDA Veterinary Services (USDA-VS), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and other state and local agencies, successfully detected and stamped out 38 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detections across the state and continued enhanced monitoring. HPAI is a foreign animal disease with high consequence for international trade and zoonotic potential.

Back in 2024, the USDA instituted a National Milk Testing Strategy aimed at monitoring and preventing the emerging spread of HPAI in dairy herds. This year, AGM's Milk Control and Dairy Services participated in USDA's silo sampling program, which is a part of the testing strategy. From January 2025 through the beginning of January 2026, dairy products specialists collected 1,344 samples from Grade "A" milk silos across the state. They were tested and found to be free of HPAI.

Throughout the year, AGM DAI worked with private veterinarians and producers to institute farm-specific enhanced biosecurity plans for the prevention and control of high consequence foreign animal diseases. More than 72 farms completed initial secure food supply plans working with private veterinarians through the New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program.

In October, AGM DAI hosted the Empire State Animal Response Team's Emergency Planning for Disasters Affecting Animals workshop at the New York State Fairgrounds, focusing on developing and activating County Animal Response Teams. Attendees discussed emergency animal sheltering practices, volunteer recruitment and management strategies, resource coordination, and training and funding opportunities. The workshop provided practical recommendations to enhance local preparedness and improve animal rescue and care during emergencies.

AGM's FSI continues to coordinate with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on food safety and food recalls that cross over state boundaries. The Food Laboratory supports AGM FSI's and AGM Milk Control and Dairy Services' regulatory activities by testing surveillance samples and by sharing laboratory analytical data packages with the FDA for violative samples with interstate distributions. In August, the Division participated in a case study with other AGM divisions and the New York State Department of Health to practice and discuss responses to a foodborne illness outbreak and steps necessary to investigate and respond.

AGM's Bureau of Weights and Measures reported the number of gas stations in full compliance with the Fuel NY Program was approaching 800 as of December. The Fuel NY initiative requires gas stations in the downstate region to meet certain criteria to install a transfer switch, develop a generator deployment plan, and deploy a generator in the event of an energy emergency.

Throughout the year, AGM's DPI and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation coordinated storm debris management efforts as related to the recent increase in several invasive species such as Spotted Lanternfly and Asian Longhorn Beetle activity in Long Island and downstate areas.

DPI staff are working to improve communication and data sharing between federal plant regulatory authorities in the United States and Canada, as well as state and provincial officials, to better integrate approaches regarding regulation and management of agricultural invasive species in both countries.

DPI staff regularly participated in the port risk committee meetings for the Port of Buffalo and John F. Kennedy Airport where state and federal animal and plant health officials discussed issues related to imports, exports, and smuggling. The group met intermittently in 2024 due to changes in USDA staff assigned to support the project., and then resumed meeting regularly in late 2025, working on developing draft communication protocols for Asian Longhorned Beetle, Spotted Lanternfly and Strawberry Blossom Weevil. The group is also completing a review and updating operational guidelines and communications practices.

DPI continued training staff on the Incident Command System (ICS). Two trained incident management teams may be deployed should there be a plant health emergency that required this level of response and Certified Category 9 (regulatory) Pesticide Applicators. These staff members would be able to respond to the introduction of a new pest or disease and administer pesticide to mitigate the issue.

Nourish New York Program

In response to the pandemic, New York State launched the Nourish New York program to support families in need and farmers struggling because of the loss of markets due to the pandemic. In November 2021, the Nourish New York program 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 New York State grown and produced food to those experiencing food insecurity. The program is administered by AGM in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health and provides a market for farmers through regional food banks' purchasing New York State products including milk, yogurt, cheese, vegetables, fruit, and meat.

To date, food banks purchased more than 159 million pounds of products from New York State food producers, created more than 133 million meals for households in need, and more than 4,600 New York State businesses benefited. Through a Request for Application, program contractors were selected for five contract years from 2023 to 2028. In each contract year, food banks are funded at \$50 million per year. In November, Governor Hochul announced an additional \$25 million in State funding for Nourish NY to assist with food insecurity needs following the federal government shutdown and related federal budget cuts. The Nourish NY budget for 2025-2026 is \$80 million.

The Great New York State Fair

AGM State Fair (NYSF) staff along with the Emergency Management team, continued to implement additional public safety practices and emergency management activities, including utilizing the Joint Operations Center on the Fairgrounds to support operations during the Great New York State Fair, as well as hosting several meetings and briefings for local and state response organizations.

State Fair Emergency Management facilitated numerous trainings this year for hundreds of participants ranging from an annual tabletop exercise, several Oswego County radiological emergency preparedness exercises, and numerous smaller trainings such as NY State Police riot/crowd control response and horseback patrols, SUNY Upstate Medical Center advanced hazardous materials life support training, Solvay Fire Department drills, First Aid/CPR and “Stop the Bleed” training, and K9 training from law enforcement agencies across the state.

The State Fairgrounds continued its support of the local public safety community by hosting a variety of meetings and briefings, including a law enforcement briefing attended by numerous federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, an annual public safety briefing, and multiple New York State Attorney General operational briefings for law enforcement partners.

State Fair Security continued to enhance public safety at the Fairgrounds by installing additional cameras and upgraded vehicle barriers and gates on interior Fairgrounds roads.

Office of Children and Family Services

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) continues to build capacity for disaster preparedness, response and recovery through continued planning review, policy development and the participation of local and statewide workshops, drills and exercises.

In addition to regular maintenance of agencywide plans such as the EMOP, COOP, Office emergency response plans, and Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY) RED Books, program areas across the agency continue to maintain, update and enhance relevant location or program specific readiness plans.

DJJOY implemented hands-free technology for radio communications at one of its residential locations. After a pilot period, DJJOY also implemented new PPE for staff at its facilities to protect against knee, bite and slash injuries. It also conducted AED readiness exercises at all locations.

OCFS’ offices of Emergency Management, Management Services, and Safety and Health staff reviewed and updated most emergency response plans for office locations across the state, including training of new personnel, which was key to local plan revision and upkeep. Staff also reviewed a new security-based template and information to incorporate into plans in the upcoming year.

As a component of the emergency response plans, OCFS Tenant Safety Organization implemented a new communications drill schedule to help ensure reliable communications during emergencies. There was much effort put into recruitment as staff on the team rosters have been transitioning to different roles. OCFS Emergency

Management and OCFS Employee Safety and Health conducted a successful test of the home office campus-wide public address system.

This past year, there was an increased awareness of AFN and ensuring vulnerable communities' needs are being addressed through planning, operations, and recovery process for emergencies. OCFS participated in the NYSOEM-led collaborative planning initiative for vulnerable communities. OCFS continued participation in the AFN training course working group, which developed and released a new training course intended for emergency managers, to increase their awareness about AFN and to further enhance planning and response efforts.

With respect to vulnerable communities, OCFS conducted outreach and information sharing to communities within program area purview or oversight, related to extreme heat to help ensure wellbeing and access to available resources as appropriate.

OCFS NY-Alert is used regularly as a primary notification system to contact employees in an efficient and simultaneous manner if a work-related emergency were to occur and to request OCFS staff to support the State's response to an emergency.

The Disaster Asset Management System application for tracking agency assets and to help determine availability of assets for response to resource requests. Asset lists are maintained as appropriate by Office of Management Services and DJJOY facility staff.

Office of Child Care Services provided various informational resource letters to daycare providers regarding topics such as excessive heat, fire prevention, and holiday safety. They also provided a multi-hazard planning presentation for approximately 120 childcare regulators and 50 childcare providers across the state.

OCFS Emergency Management participated in activations of the State EOC as part of ESF-6 for several extreme weather events throughout the year including excessive heat, extreme cold, and excessive snow events.

OCFS Emergency Management used a new employee orientation process to conduct outreach to onboarding employees to become volunteers to staff the State EOC and disaster recovery centers as well as to consider becoming members of the TSO and AED/CPR/First Aid trained at their work locations.

In addition to regularly scheduled emergency management planning, preparedness or operational activities, workshops, and training, OCFS improved its readiness posture through attendance and participation of the following:

- Participated in State EOC exercise and after-action meetings
- Attended biannual New York State Nuclear Safety Subcommittee meetings
- Attended 20th Annual Institute for Disaster Mental Health conference
- Participated in Monroe County tabletop exercise

- Attended EMC&T Workshop

OCFS continues to serve as a member in the following groups and committees:

- ESF-6 Leadership and SYNC
- Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee
- Multi-Agency Coordination Group
- Department of Health Pediatric Surge Annex Planning Group
- Extreme Heat Action Plan Working Group
- Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop
- NYSOEM Functional Support Team

Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) remained committed to emergency preparedness and continued to develop and improve strategies to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from disasters. DOCCS personnel participated in various training and exercise activities and provided support for emergency incidents. DOCCS continued to find proactive methods to advance and expand response capabilities in support of seven ESFs and was committed to supporting and growing its Functional Support Team.

DOCCS continued to mandate National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS) IS-100 and IS-700 training for new supervisors, Crisis Intervention Unit members, Fire Response Team members and Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. DOCCS continued to qualify employees for deployment through NY Responds and State EOC training.

Correctional facilities conducted escape and threat elevation tabletops, drills, and exercises to improve preparation and response efforts. All facilities are required to update emergency preparedness manuals annually and after any substantial event. This process was key in guiding facilities when a force of approximately 5,400 New York National Guard members was integrated into 41 facilities. DOCCS facilities were able to meet housing, feeding, hygiene and laundry needs of the service members within 48 hours of notification.

Crisis Intervention Unit members participated in the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Advanced Hostage Negotiations course offered at the State Preparedness Training Center. DOCCS CERT participated in regional civil disturbance training scenarios in conjunction with the NY State Police Mobile Field Unit.

DOCCS CERT K9 assisted the NY State Police, Dutchess County Sheriff, and the FBI with narcotics, evidence, and cadaver details in Columbia, Dutchess, Nassau, Sullivan and Westchester counties. CERT K9 also assisted the NY State Police in conducting explosives sweeps during the NASCAR race weekend in Watkins Glen.

DOCCS Office of Special Investigations (OSI) collaborates each year with outside law enforcement agencies to identify and prevent violence in New York State. OSI members served on the FBI Joint Terrorism task forces, NY State Police gun violence task force, FBI Safe Street task forces, Riker's Island Fusion Center, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives task forces, and centralized intelligence centers, including the NY High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, New York State Intelligence Center, and Crime Analysis Centers around the state. OSI shares intelligence and conducted joint investigations into threats of violence, intelligence regarding domestic and international terrorism activities, gun trafficking, and gun violence. OSI also responds to reported exposures of employees and others in DOCCS correctional facilities to suspected noxious substances, and OSI collaborates with DHSES, local hazardous materials response teams, and the NY State Police to address incidents.

DOCCS Community Supervision (Parole) partnered with and supported various law enforcement agencies across the state to reduce recidivism of releasees and increase public safety. Parole staff participated in the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative with local and state police by conducting regularly scheduled details targeting gun-involved releasees and providing intelligence sharing, focused deterrence, and support of prosecution of releasees. GIVE Senior Parole Officers and Supervision Against Violent Engagement (SAVE) Parole Officers were assigned to upstate GIVE counties and supervised releasees identified by an actuarial risk assessment tool as having the highest risk of reoffending. Cases include the use of an electronic monitoring (EM) device, which was tracked by the Community Supervision Operations Center around the clock and alerted local police whenever there was tampering with an EM device. SAVE Parole Officers were assigned to high-risk gun-involved offenders in the cities of Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, and Syracuse. Additionally, SAVE-DV caseloads were supervised in eighteen different area offices statewide which oversaw the highest risk domestic violence offenders. Parole staff also worked conjointly with the New York City Police Department and other law enforcement entities at the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas building where the Community Supervision Operations Center operates 24 hours a day.

DOCCS Corcraft, Support Operations, and Facility Employees provided transportation and logistical support including tractor trailers, box trucks, towing vehicles and drivers for statewide deliveries of water, N-95 masks, cots, Citizen Preparedness Corps emergency go-bags, and water buffaloes. DOCCS Corcraft assisted the Department of Health's Office of Health Emergency Preparedness in delivering and returning its refrigerator trailer for maintenance.

DOCCS Facilities Planning continued to take steps in response to climate change, conducting retro-commissioning studies on its facilities with a focus on energy efficiency. Energy upgrade projects include LED lighting, building envelope weatherization, installation of variable frequency drive electric motor controllers, chillers, condensing units, refrigeration controls, shower head replacement, steam trap repair or replacement and combined heat and power cogeneration applications. DOCCS also

maintained a cooperative agreement and provided land for solar farms at Eastern, Greene, Green Haven, Mid-State and Wende Correctional Facilities.

Division of Criminal Justice Services

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) used NY Alert to distribute information about missing people and disseminate notifications on staff impacts due to severe weather.

The agency's Missing Persons Clearinghouse leveraged the NY Alert system to distribute 177 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 Authority rest areas and messaging boards.

The Clearinghouse also conducted three missing child rescue operations in Western New York, the Capital Region, and Westchester County that brought together subject matter experts to work with local law enforcement agencies to assist in the investigation of missing child cases. Across all three operations, the Missing Persons Clearinghouse team in partnership with local authorities and partners located more than 160 missing children and teens who might otherwise have remained at risk.

DCJS staff participated in two grant evaluation panels as requested by DHSES regarding explosive detection canine and interagency tactical team grant applications.

Additionally, DCJS maintained representation on the State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board, New York State multi-agency planning meetings, the explosive detection canine handlers conference, and the SWAT operator conference, as well as participation in working groups for ESF-13 and Next Gen 911. DCJS also assigned employees to be available to assist the State EOC if needed and several employees were identified and trained as volunteers to support activations.

Finally, the DCJS network of 11 regional crime analysis centers provided ongoing monitoring, data analysis, information, and investigative support to help more than 400 law enforcement agencies in 61 counties deter, investigate, and solve crimes, as well as assist in emergencies involving law enforcement. This year, the crime analysis center network handled more than 129,000 requests for service or assistance from partner agencies.

Department of Education

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) made investments in infrastructure systems, capital improvements, emergency preparedness, and life safety improvements including flood, fire and hazardous remediations. In addition to providing staff with advance notifications for winter and summer readiness preparation, NYSED also provided technical assistance to local school districts impacted by weather-related emergencies.

In collaboration with the Governor's Office and the New York State Attorney General's Office, NYSED issued statewide guidance to help school districts safeguard the rights of immigrant students and ensure continued access to public education. Through this collaboration, the State reaffirmed that all children in New York, regardless of immigration status, have the right to enroll in and attend public school. NYSED and its partners clarified enrollment expectations to ensure districts do not request or rely on immigration-related information when admitting students and that schools accept appropriate proof of residency while immediately enrolling eligible students.

The guidance also reinforced student privacy protections, directing districts to comply with federal and state confidentiality laws and to avoid collecting or sharing information that could expose a student's immigration status. In addition, the guidance helped districts respond appropriately to potential immigration enforcement activity near or on school grounds, emphasizing adherence to legal requirements while protecting student rights. Finally, NYSED coordinated with partner agencies to reinforce protections against harassment and discrimination based on national origin and to provide districts with resources and technical assistance to support immigrant students and families. Together, these actions reflect a coordinated statewide effort to ensure that New York's schools remain safe, welcoming, and accessible learning environments for all students.

New York State Education Law 2801-b requires a School Safety Improvement Team (SSIT) to exist and meet regularly, including representatives of NYSED, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, New York State Police, DHSES, and the Governor's Office. The team meets monthly to discuss issues related to school safety. NYSED's technical assistance center provided training, guidance, and support to public schools and districts on topics related to school safety and school climate.

In 2025, this included:

- Amendments to Commissioner's Regulation 155.17 to require that all schools use standardized emergency response terms and definitions in safety and emergency plans.
- Support for schools and districts on the implementation of Desha's Law which requires that every school building-level emergency response plan and district-wide school safety plan include procedures for responding to sudden cardiac arrest, staff must be trained in signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest and response procedures.
- Guidance for schools and districts on emergency response planning for times outside the regular school day and planning and conducting trauma-informed drills was developed and distributed.
- Collaborations with State Police to collect more than 3,000 confidential building-level emergency response plans from public schools outside New York City.

- Collection of approximately 1,000 district-wide school safety plans from each public school district, Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), and charter school in New York State.

NYSED worked closely with public safety agencies including the NY State Police, DHSES, and the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to enhance school safety as part of the School Safety Improvement Team. NYSED worked with other agencies and provided an updated CMIST report in support of emergency response. NYSED continues to collaborate with school districts to keep safety, continuity, and communication plans updated.

Empire State Development Corporation

Empire State Development (ESD) is the economic development arm of the state whose mission 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 manages several policy initiatives that provide targeted economic and other relief to organizations and businesses.

FIFA World Cup

New York State agencies prepared for the 2026 FIFA World Cup with ESD leading community grant programs and working closely with public safety partners to address public safety concerns. The New York State Community World Cup Grant Program provides a statewide model for regions to engage with the 2026 FIFA World Cup. While FIFA matches are hosted at MetLife Stadium, this initiative supports community-based celebrations across New York State that reflect regional identity through authorized viewing rights and technical assistance. This program empowers local leaders to create welcoming events that showcase the unique character of each region. ESD will produce public viewing events on opening weekend (June 12, 2026) at Stony Brook University on Long Island and for the final game (July 19, 2026) at Kensico Dam Park in Westchester County.

Division of Small Business and Technology Development (SBTD)

Small businesses are 98 percent of all businesses in New York State and employ more than half of the State's private sector workforce. The American Rescue Plan Act provided \$10 billion nationwide to fund the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). The SSBCI is a program managed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury which allocates funding to state development finance agencies to create specialized small business access to capital programs, including businesses facing impacts from the pandemic. New York State was awarded \$501.6 million.

ESD and its partners continued to help and provide funding to support a wide range of SSBCI investments targeting small businesses. The suite of programs under this initiative provides access to capital, loan loss reserves, loan guarantees, loan participation, venture capital, and manufacturing financing assistance to businesses across the state. The Capital Project Loan Fund, for example, provides direct loans to support the growth of manufacturing and other eligible businesses within New York State by financing a portion of the cost of acquiring and renovating existing buildings, constructing new buildings, or purchasing machinery and equipment.

Division of Tourism

The Division of Tourism continued efforts in 2025 to attract visitors to New York State. Marketing efforts included paid media campaigns across broadcast and digital channels, as well as experiential consumer marketing efforts, including “I LOVE NY” tours for consumers at large-scale events to consider New York State destinations for vacations or getaways. The campaign’s website continued to anchor marketing and advertising efforts with more than four million visits and URL placement in promotional advertising efforts. The campaign also utilizes numerous digital media and social platforms to expand interest in New York State destinations and post pandemic travel.

In 2021, 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. The Division continued to work with industry and state partners to utilize funds to expand operations in international markets, pursue Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions tourism, as well as encourage amateur sporting events and group tour business that bolster outdoor recreation promotions.

Energy Research and Development Authority

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) facilitates and coordinates information sharing and responses with regards to energy resilience concerns for the liquid petroleum fuels and natural gas industries.

NYSERDA continued to monitor the impacts from global conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, as well as domestic concerns stemming from the global tariffs issued by the U.S. and other geopolitical concerns. NYSERDA coordinated with the petroleum industry along with state and Federal partners to provide an understanding of the worldwide petroleum flows and the impact on New York State energy supply and pricing. 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.

NYSERDA fulfilled its energy resilience and emergency preparedness role throughout the year by providing support as demonstrated through several emergencies, state and regional exercises, and market monitoring efforts:

Staff attended the U.S. Department of Energy Clear Path XIII Energy Disruption exercise in Boston, MA in June that included the New England States and New York State in support of federal and regional energy emergency planning and preparedness. The Clear Path is a U.S. Department of Energy annual cornerstone all-hazards energy security and resilience exercise series, and its exercise is the principal forum for enhancing the energy sector's ability to work together in response to catastrophic incidents. This is done through examining the energy sector's response and restoration roles, responsibilities, and plans and procedures following a major incident, stressing interdependencies between multiple critical infrastructure sectors. The exercise revolved around a major winter weather event impacting New England followed by a significant cyberattack on natural gas interstate pipelines. The formation of the Northeast Regional Operational Coordination Collaborative (NEROCC) bolstering regional coordination, especially around potential response actions and discussions for mutual aid, described below was a primary goal and objective in the after-action lessons learned from the Clear Path XIII. Other lessons learned incorporated into state energy emergency planning processes include more robust planning and coordination around cyber incidents and communications between industry, federal agencies, and state partners.

NYSERDA maintains awareness around current cyber incidents affecting the energy sector through partner threat briefings. Another lesson learned better understanding of the interstate gas pipeline systems and their limitations during emergencies as well as informing energy emergency response authorities addressing large scale natural gas outages and the related consequence management. A further limitation and after-action lesson learned was understanding at the state level how to address changes in federal support and resources available to States during energy emergencies. These lessons have been incorporated into the implementation of the New York State Energy Emergency Plan.

Staff monitored impacts from major winter storms, lake effect snow incidents, and extreme cold weather in January and December, and provided support for the State EOC for ESF-12, conducting outreach and coordination with the liquid fuels industry. NYSERDA coordinated with partner agencies including the New York State Department of Transportation on regulatory relief actions for industry including hours of service waivers related to the delivery of vital transportation and heating fuels.

NYSERDA supported petroleum terminals in New York State that were experiencing power outages and coordinated with the New York State Department of Public Service to help resolve issues with the local utility provider for the terminal. The Authority regularly coordinates with the Department of Public Service and industry representatives when power outages related to weather events interrupt normal operations at critical fuels terminals during multiple events throughout the year.

Staff provided support through ESF-12 at the State EOC during a November exercise.

NYSERDA monitored impacts to the supply chain from various fuel disruptions, including liquid fuels pipeline interruptions including Colonial Pipeline, natural weather hazards including heavy rain events and lake effect snow, and a critical infrastructure disruption at a major regional propane terminal at Marcus Hook, PA. These issues did not present any major challenges or disruptions to the New York State liquid fuels industry.

NYSERDA participated in the development, launch, and leadership of the Northeast Regional Operational Coordination Collaborative (NEROCC). The NEROCC is a multi-state initiative supported by the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response aimed at enhancing regional coordination and preparedness, focusing on energy system disruptions and their cascading impacts on liquid fuels. Participants include representatives from State Energy Offices, Emergency Management Agencies, and Public Utility Commissions from the Northeast states, including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The NEROCC efforts builds on the success and scope of other Regional Petroleum Shortage Response Collaboratives formed across the United States and is designed to meet the specific challenges of the Northeast. NEROCC's primary objectives are to establish a recognized process for multi-state liquid fuels disruption response coordination and information-sharing, harmonize response triggers and thresholds, and implement a regional mechanism to assist with resource prioritization. The NEROCC is grounded in voluntary coordination, respects state sovereignty, acknowledges industry ownership of key infrastructure assets and systems, emphasizes integration across energy sectors and state agencies, is informed by regional data monitoring, information sharing, and stakeholder collaboration. The NEROCC is intended to supplement existing structures and procedures for regional coordination and response including the New England and New York Winter Fuels Coordination Calls, and NIMS/ICS).

The Authority continued to administer 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 in the state. The Downstate Strategic Gasoline Reserve contains approximately 2.4 million gallons of gasoline, and the Upstate Strategic Fuel Reserve contains roughly 1.4 million gallons of diesel fuel and 1.4 million gallons of gasoline. 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.

This year, NYSERDA in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) completed an updated assessment of critical liquid fuels infrastructure in New York State. This assessment provided an update to the current resiliency assessment for petroleum/liquid fuels

assets in New York that was developed through the federal Regional Risk Assessment Program in 2019. NYSERDA and CISA partnered with DHSES and the New York State Office of Counter Terrorism, the New York State Department of Public Service, and FEMA to support the assessment effort.

The results of the project increased NYSERDA knowledge of energy infrastructure, supply systems, energy security, resilience, and critical interdependence. The results of the project were used to fill knowledge gaps, inform risk management decisions, identify opportunities and strategies to enhance infrastructure resilience, and improve critical infrastructure partnerships between the public and private sectors. In addition to the enhanced database of critical liquid fuel infrastructure in New York State, NYSERDA also produced a mapping tool of the critical liquid fuel infrastructure sites identified and included key contacts to analyze and assess ongoing risk from hazards on energy infrastructure in New York State.

Department of Environmental Conservation

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) engaged in the following activities:

Emergency Spill Response

This year, DEC's Emergency Spill Response Program responded to 10,227 hazardous spills across the state, including the Great Lakes Cheese release on Ischua Creek and the Gorham Warehouse Fire affecting Flint Creek. In August, Ischua Creek in Franklinville, Cattaraugus County, experienced a major fish and wildlife die-off that resulted from Great Lakes Cheese facility's operations. At Governor Hochul's direction, DEC took enforcement for the illegal discharge, resulting in an October consent order that included a \$475,000 penalty of which \$150,000 is allocated to an environmental benefit project. In addition, DEC required significant operational changes at the facility, including enhanced real-time water quality monitoring and other actions overseen by DEC to ensure effective implementation.

Lawrence Aviation Superfund Site on Long Island

Cleanup of the former Lawrence Aviation Industries in the town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, reached a significant milestone in the removal of contamination and achieved removal criteria to be delisted from the State Superfund Registry. Approximately 120 acres meets criteria to be delisted, while five acres of the site will remain in the federal and State Superfund programs. Site cleanup operations included the removal of approximately 2,500 drums, containers, and cylinders containing toxic substances, 3,000-gallons of machine oils recovered from leaking machinery, 18 aboveground and underground storage tanks containing industrial waste and fuel oils, 20 leaking PCB transformers, 1,600 gallons of PCB oils, and 17,000 tons of contaminated soil excavated from multiple areas of the site.

Hazardous Waste Management Facilities

DEC is federally delegated to implement the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program for New York State. As a delegated agency, DEC adopts and enforces regulations, issues permits, oversees remediation activities, conducts inspections, provides technical assistance, and gathers and processes data related to hazardous waste management. DEC promotes sound waste management and helps minimize the generation of industrial hazardous waste, which are common by-products of commerce and industry. In 2025, DEC oversaw the operation, closure, and remediation of 46 regulated facilities, reviewed approximately 936 annual reports from RCRA facilities, conducted 227 RCRA compliance inspections, issued more than 77 notices of violation, made 11 determinations of significant non-compliance, and issued five final compliance orders.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan for Extreme Weather

During Earth Week, Governor Hochul directed DEC, in partnership with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, New York State Department of State, and DHSES to develop a comprehensive statewide Adaptation and Resilience Plan for New York State. The plan will establish a statewide framework to guide adaptation planning and implementation to advance climate adaptation and resilience through a coordinated strategy to build adaptive capacity across New York State communities and develop tools and resources to help communities thrive in a changing climate.

Bond Act

The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 (Bond Act) provided a historic \$4.2 billion investment for projects and initiatives that are helping transform communities statewide. DEC continued its leadership in implementing the Bond Act by working with multiple state agencies to launch projects and initiatives that promote equity and affordability, protect water quality, help communities adapt to climate change, improve resiliency, and create job opportunities.

Extreme Heat Action Plan

DEC and state agency partners made significant progress in implementing the Extreme Heat Action Plan (EHAP), including providing expanded insurance coverage for cooling at home, improving access to cooling centers and swimming opportunities, and providing new resources to plan for and adapt to extreme heat. The plan provides a roadmap for coordinated State action on extreme heat adaptation and includes nearly 50 actions. An EHAP update, released in June 2025, provided an overview of the most recent implementation successes.

In partnership with SUNY, DEC is also developing maps and tools to identify areas that are disproportionately exposed to extreme heat, including urban disadvantaged

communities (DACs). DEC is developing final heat exposure maps, expected in 2026, that will incorporate future-looking data and include duration, frequency, and intensity of extreme heat events.

Drought Conditions and Increased Wildfire Risks

Throughout 2025, New York State experienced below-normal precipitation, and dry conditions were especially extreme during the hot summer months. In September, New York State announced a drought warning in 12 counties and a drought watch statewide, except for New York City and Westchester County. The drought conditions, combined with lack of precipitation, high temperatures, and low relative humidity, also resulted in several ground fires that Forest Rangers responded to. Many of these fires were the result of unattended or improperly extinguished campfires.

Starting on October 2, Governor Hochul implemented a temporary statewide burn ban due to increased fire risk because of continued dry conditions. The ban remained effect for 14 days until October 15 and prohibited outdoor fires, including campfires and open fires used for cooking, except for contained fire pits and campfires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in width or diameter were permitted. New Yorkers are urged to protect water resources and conserve water whenever possible.

From August 1 to October 31 alone, Forest Rangers responded to 101 wildfires. On October 5, the largest of these fires started in Silver Lake Wilderness in Hamilton County. It consumed 37 acres before it was declared out on October 14.

Public Protection

DEC's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) coordinates agency preparedness, response, and recovery for disasters and incidents in New York State. This team supports the execution of the New York State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in coordination with other State agencies. During 2025, EMU was involved in 28 large-scale incidents, including the May 9 and 10 Eastern New York floods and State EOC activation. EMU also provided advanced monitoring and coordinated support to DEC responses such as searches and rescues, wildfires, and 10,227 spill reports.

This year, DEC's Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) fielded an estimated 101,169 calls, resulting in Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) and Investigators across the state responding to more than 35,575 complaints and working on cases that resulted in 15,673 tickets or arrests for violations ranging from deer poaching to solid waste dumping, illegal mining, the illegal pet trade, and excessive emissions violations. Within DLE, there are specialized units that have specific training in areas such as UAS operations, K-9 handling, radiation detection, swift water rescue, and incident management. DLE supported numerous major events including Fleet Week, the United Nation's General Assembly, and the Jones Beach Air Show. DLE continued to support monitoring of potential radiological weapons, particularly in the Southern District and developed a new Homeland Security Unit (HSU). In preparation for the massive

undertaking of OP Sail 250, DLE members attended meetings in 2025 to discuss and strategize security measures in the New York City area with the U.S. Coast Guard, NYPD, and the FBI.

Within DEC's Division of Forest Protection (DFP), there are units and individuals specially trained in technical skills including wildland firefighting, search and rescue, swift water rescue, incident management, technical/high angle rescue, UAS operations. This year, DFP responded to 202 wildland fires across the state totaling 840 acres and Forest Rangers responded to at least one fire every month except December.

In addition, DFP crews and resources were deployed to the states of California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Minnesota, and Nevada to assist with fires, including ten Forest Rangers sent to California in January to help contain wildfires that devastated parts of the Los Angeles region. Additionally, the Division also responded to 362 search and rescue missions across the state, including several high angle rope rescues and backcountry searches. In February, DFP assisted New York State Police Aviation in responding to a plane crash with three patients near the summit of Mt. Equinox in Manchester, VT. New York State Forest Rangers were inserted onto the mountain to assess the patients and assist with lift operations.

Department of Financial Services

The New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) continues to uphold its mission to build an equitable, transparent, and resilient financial system that benefits individuals and supports business. This year, DFS contributed to New York State's efforts to anticipate, mitigate, and manage emergencies.

Enhancing Physical Safety and Security

This year, the Department launched a comprehensive effort to review and strengthen emergency preparedness policies, procedures, and resources across DFS. Following a comprehensive assessment of its facilities and security procedures, DFS implemented a series of staff training and emergency preparedness initiatives. In addition, the Department refined protocols related to active shooter incidents, fire safety, emergency evacuations, and medical emergencies. In September, law enforcement staff led walkthroughs for DFS staff on every floor in DFS offices, reinforcing evacuation routes and explaining emergency procedures, including in the case of an active shooter. This series of training supplemented in-person AED/CPR training and fire safety training.

The Department also rebuilt and modernized its Insurance Frauds Bureau (IFB), the Department's frontline team responsible for conducting investigations, making arrests, and combating insurance fraud. The IFB also maintains a dedicated security function. As part of this effort, the Department hired new, experienced leadership and subject-matter experts; invested in modern technology solutions; and secured essential operational resources, including an updated vehicle fleet and new bulletproof vests. The

Department also deepened its partnerships with law enforcement agencies statewide, enhancing the IFB's capacity to protect New Yorkers and address fraud.

Strengthening Nation-Leading Cybersecurity Protections

Since the initial adoption of DFS's nation-leading cybersecurity regulation in 2017, the cybersecurity landscape changed significantly as threat actors have become more sophisticated and more prevalent, cyberattacks have become easier to perpetrate and more expensive to remediate, and additional cybersecurity controls have become available to manage cyber risk at reasonable cost.

In 2023, DFS took steps to protect New Yorkers and safeguard its regulated entities by amending cybersecurity regulation. The amended regulation built on the sweeping impact of the original cybersecurity regulation, which established the innovative framework that is now modeled by both federal and state financial regulators to protect against cyber threats, and the Governor's comprehensive, statewide effort to improve safeguards for businesses and consumers. This year, DFS completed the two-year roll out of amendments to its first-in-the-nation cybersecurity regulation, ensuring entities incorporate the most effective cybersecurity standards, controls, and practices to address new and increasing threats.

Building on this work DFS issued new guidance in October addressing the cybersecurity risks associated with reliance on third-party service providers, which is an area of growing importance as financial service companies become increasingly interconnected. The industry letter urges entities to establish and maintain appropriate internal risk management controls when using third-party service providers to ensure the safe and secure operation of financial services and the protection of nonpublic information. This is a space DFS will closely monitor as the financial ecosystem evolves.

To help DFS-regulated entities remain vigilant about cybersecurity threats, the Department issued two cybersecurity alerts in 2025. The first, issued in August, alerted entities to a social engineering campaign targeting nonpublic information stored in the Salesforce customer relationship management platform. DFS followed up this notification with a September 2025 alert about a campaign targeting vulnerabilities in Cisco Adaptive Security Appliances and in specific versions of its firewall. Both alerts included recommended actions for entities to take to mitigate threats and safeguard systems and data for themselves and consumers.

Addressing Artificial Intelligence Risks

The Department's mission statement dictates its commitment to responsible innovation. Its approach to artificial intelligence (AI) is rooted in the same principles guiding its broader mission: protecting consumers, safeguarding the financial system, and staying ahead of emerging risks.

In 2025, the Department introduced its first ever AI use policy. This policy paves the way for DFS to responsibly use AI internally, while maintaining critical safeguards around data protection, accountability, and risk. By piloting AI tools for internal process uplifts and improvements under a structured review and approval process, DFS is building institutional knowledge necessary to identify AI-related risks before they become systemic threats. The adoption of this policy builds on the Department's 2024 guidance on the use of AI in underwriting and pricing, virtual currency customer service and complaints processing, and cybersecurity risk management.

In December 2025, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the creation of a new AI oversight office within DFS. The office will assess large frontier developers, monitor and review reported incidents of critical harm and promote transparency in AI deployment. This initiative advances New York State's emergency preparedness posture by establishing early warning mechanisms for AI-related incidents across industries.

Office of General Services

The Office of General Services (OGS) plays a vital role in the state's preparation, response, and recovery from disasters or emergencies. The agency operates and oversees state real estate, initiates capital projects or emergency contracts, manages centralized procurement contracts, and provides logistics and warehousing support. As a member of ESF-3, ESF-6, ESF-7, OGS supports the state's disaster response. In response to a water main break in Onondaga County, DHSES requested transportation of five pallets of bottled water from the Guilderland Stockpile to Oriskany. To assist governmental partners statewide, OGS delivered the requested resources safely and promptly.

Emergency Construction Support

This year, OGS implemented approximately 175 new emergency construction projects valued at over \$55 million from swift snow removal during last-minute storms to mitigating building cooling crises caused by scorching heat waves. The agency also provided crucial services, such as restoring heat, water, and power to countless facilities, and the rapid installation of security cameras that have enhanced safety in numerous locales.

In February, the Taberg Residential Center in Oneida County experienced a severe snowstorm with snow accumulating up to eight feet in some areas. The conditions were extremely unsafe, and the facility lacked the necessary resources to handle snow removal of this magnitude. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services reached out to OGS for assistance in creating safe pathways for driving, walking, and operating. Dedicated OGS contractors expedited work at the facility, clearing off dangerous amounts of snow from roofs at risk of damage or collapse. They also removed snow from perimeter fences, preventing potential security breaches, as snow nearly reached the height of the fences in some areas. Moreover, contractors brought in

heavy equipment to reopen driveways and parking lots, ensuring staff could safely travel to and from the secure facility.

In May, a standpipe valve failure on the 13th floor of Agency Building 3 at the Empire State Plaza caused significant water damage to 13 floors in the building. OGS responded to restore the building and find a suitable temporary workspace for the New York State Department of Public Service. Due to the comprehensive response of OGS, the building was restored to its pre-disaster state in a timely manner.

OGS also repaired a 48-inch river water supply line affecting air conditioning at the Empire State Plaza and multiple other properties. OGS secured temporary chillers to maintain temperatures for sensitive areas and materials. Due to a well-coordinated effort, the repair was completed before the hot summer days peaked.

This spring, more than a dozen prisons needed to upgrade security surveillance systems within their medical units. OGS expedited these projects, and seven system upgrades were completed. OGS designers, field staff, and contractors worked tirelessly to implement these upgrades as efficiently as possible, despite supply chain challenges, staffing shortages, and strict deadlines.

This summer, New York State experienced severe weather that caused significant damage to many state-owned facilities. OGS responded to numerous reports of leaking roofs and compromised security fences due to fallen trees. In extreme cases, such as an emergency at Sing Sing Correctional, OGS was tasked with performing immediate structural repairs to ensure the integrity of the building's foundation, impacted by heavy rains and flooding.

Infrastructure Modernization

In May, OGS began work on the rehabilitation of the New York State Capitol's Eastern Approach, which included installing weatherproofing, drainage measures, additional stairs and landing supports, and restoring historic features. The structure is expected to be fully reconstructed by 2029, resulting in more resilient public infrastructure and improving emergency preparedness at the State Capitol. The newly reinforced structure will also have improved physical security and lighting features to increase safety.

Special Event Emergency Preparedness

This year, OGS hosted several large-scale special events at the Empire State Plaza, including the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration, the Summer Concert Series, the New York State Food Festival, the Hops and Harvest Festival, and the New York State Tree Lighting and Fireworks Festival. OGS created specific emergency preparedness plans for each of these events to ensure onsite coordination and real-time communication. These plans also involve input and coordination with partners, including the New York State Police, DHSES, OFPC, and NYSOEM, to ensure these events remained safe and staff were well prepared for an emergency.

Department of Health

Response

The New York State Department of Health Incident Management System was activated nine times this year in response to multiple events including extreme weather events, facility infrastructure issues, and water system challenges. Additionally, the increased attention on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in both dairy cattle and birds throughout the nation remained a planning effort for The Department. The Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (eFINDS), a healthcare system patient and resident tracking system, was used five times in anticipation of or supporting emergency evacuations.

Planning

The Health Care Facility Evacuation Center Plan and associated guidance document were updated. Coastal Storm Planning efforts resulted in 99 percent of New York City-based facilities completing required elements of the Health Care Facility Evacuation Planning Application that includes send/receive arrangements and critical facility infrastructure information. The Department continued to develop the regional Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition concept throughout the State. These are multi-agency organizations responsible for regional ESF-8 preparedness activities and provided information sharing during emergencies. The Department worked with NYSOEM on further development of ESF plans and provision of feedback on numerous state-level plans. The Department continued to be part of the multi-agency Extreme Heat planning initiative. Additional planning efforts included the continuing update of numerous department and regional level plans. The Department was involved with planning for 2026 World Cup events, serving multiple statewide taskforces as well as leading internal planning efforts.

Training

The Department provided or facilitated more than 70 preparedness training opportunities to more than 4,000 individuals across the state at hospitals, local health departments, emergency medical services and emergency management using four regional training centers:

- Continuity of Operations Plan
- Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (e-FINDS)
- Burn Life and Disaster Life Support
- Trauma Care
- Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations
- Stop-the-Bleed Train-the-Trainer
- Pediatric Disaster Response
- Safety and Violence Education
- Disaster Triage

Staff participated in NIMS/ICS and State EOC operations courses. Community health and epidemiology staff conducted monthly clinical operations and medical countermeasures training with local health departments.

The Department continued to collaborate with the New York State Office of Mental Health to deliver psychological first aid and disaster mental health training to healthcare and emergency response partners statewide. Preparedness staff delivered State Emergency Repository of Volunteers – New York volunteer management system training and Health Care Facility Evacuation Center Application training for all partners requiring use of each departmental maintained system. Facility Evacuation Center Application Coastal Storm Planning training was conducted for healthcare facilities in New York City. Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan training was provided and remains virtually available for all nursing homes and adult care facilities across New York State.

Exercises

The Department conducted a Health Care Facility Evacuation Center functional exercise for Coastal Storm Planning stakeholders and New York City-based healthcare facilities. It was also involved in planning, evaluation, and participated in a statewide emergency operations center activation functional exercise. Additionally, regional staff supported five regionally based biological incident tabletop exercises.

Staff provided support to health care facilities, community health providers, local and state agencies, and the public via ongoing messaging and updated guidance.

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

New York State Office of Emergency Management

In its role as the operational arm of the DPC, NYSOEM ensures New York State is appropriately trained and coordinated to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards. NYSOEM oversees the New York State Watch Center and regional field staff responsible for coordinating with state and local partners, as well as providing situational awareness. NYSOEM also uses the NY Responds online incident management system to develop and maintain situational awareness and coordinate sharing of emergency resources across the state.

Assistance to Other States

New York State provided personnel and resources for three Emergency Management Assistance Compact requests and missions to support recovery operations following the devastating wildfires in Southern California, search-and-rescue for deadly flooding in Texas, and incident management assistance for flooding in Arizona.

The development of Mission Ready Packages became a focus to expedite future missions. The Incident Management Team was deployed ten times, including to the Westhampton Fire in Suffolk County. They also provided support for the New York Wildfire Incident Management Academy and assisted the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation during the summer concert series at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. ESF-7 coordinated the delivery of more than 7,000 bottles of water to the state of Connecticut to assist with providing residents with water during a significant water main break.

Stockpiles

NYSOEM's Stockpile Program managed New York State's nine strategic emergency stockpiles located throughout the state which contain various assets, equipment, and consumables for assistance to local partners in an emergency. This year, the program completed more than 400 individual issues of equipment in support of 153 NY Responds missions totaling 261,352 items deployed to support multiple municipalities and requests for resources. Support for emergency declarations due to severe snowstorms and rain across the state were supported by stockpile staff and emergency equipment deployments.

Radiological Emergency Preparedness

This year, the NYSOEM Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REP) conducted a successful federally evaluated exercise for the Nine Mile Point nuclear power plant in the county of Oswego on October 7. The State EOC and ESFs were activated for this exercise and included many state agency partners. The REP program conducted an off-year plume exercise for the Robert E. Ginna nuclear power plant, including the counties of Wayne and Monroe, on June 4. NYSOEM REP participated in an off-year exercise with the Millstone nuclear power plant in the State of Connecticut, as well as Suffolk County and Fishers Island on September 4. These exercises provided multiple training and cross-training opportunities for NYSOEM, DPC agencies, and local jurisdictions.

Training and Exercises

OEM offered the NYS Emergency Management Certification & Training (EMC&T) for County Executives training through the New York State Association of Counties Legislative Conference for 53 county leaders, an EMCT-EM refresher through the New York State Emergency Management Association for 146 emergency management leaders, and 20 EMC&T County (Tier 3) programs for 373 community leaders in various counties. An EMC&T three-day workshop with 96 participants was also held in Latham.

Three National Emergency Management Basic Academy series were conducted: one each at the State Preparedness Training Center, the Warren County Sheriff's Office, and at the Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. The Academy is designed and sponsored by FEMA and provides individuals 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 instructor-led courses over 15 classroom course days with 120 hours of instruction, most of which offer continuing education unit and American Council on Education credits.

Since the inception of New York State offering these programs, 168 students completed the Academy requirements and received diplomas; this year, there were 41 completions. The Training Section also developed the Access and Functional Needs in Emergency Management course which was based on a similar course delivered in California. The course was delivered four times to 82 participants.

NYSOEM Exercises conducted a State EOC exercise series to enhance functions and processes, which included two discussion-based exercises with ESF leads and the State EOC Operations section, and a Level 2 exercise activation of the State EOC in the fall. The team also conducted a tabletop exercise series with the New York State Watch Center and counties focusing on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System or IPAWS.

Office of Disaster Recovery Programs

The Office of Disaster Recovery Programs worked with local governments, counties, State agencies and Tribal Nations within New York on various declarations, grant cycles and events. Throughout the year, the office coordinated with applicants, subapplicants, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and FEMA. The office also worked with counties impacted by localized events securing four SBA declarations.

The office managed 17 Major Disaster Declarations, an Emergency Declaration, a Fire Management Assistance Grant, and 23 Hazard Mitigation grants totaling more than \$34 billion in federal disaster recovery funding.

The office submitted an Emergency Declaration and four Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant cycles to FEMA for closeout and closed out four Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant cycles: HMGP DR's 4129 (Mohawk Flooding), DR-4348 (Lake Ontario Flooding) and DR-4397 (2018 Severe Storms and Flooding) and the FY 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant cycle.

Public Assistance

The office continued to support COVID-19 pandemic (DR-4480) Public Assistance applicants. Due to the unique nature of the pandemic and evolving FEMA policies, DHSES staff held regular meetings with FEMA leadership and conducted extensive outreach to applicants about policy updates and changing deadlines. The office helped applicants develop and finalize over 4,000 projects, with an estimated value of almost \$18 billion in federal assistance.

DHSES Public Assistance (PA) staff provided specialized training to county emergency managers, state agencies, and private non-profit organizations. PA staff also regularly hosted training sessions for applicants on FEMA reporting requirements. A five-part series of live training videos on the PA damage assessment process was created and published on YouTube for those affected by disasters.

PA staff offered regular technical assistance to disaster-affected applicants, covering project eligibility, development, and closeout. PA staff also provided Quarterly Progress Report training once each quarter for all applicants with large open projects.

Staff continued to work with applicants on open projects from past disasters, focusing on grants portal changes, closeout procedures, and FEMA policy updates.

Individual Assistance

The Individual Assistance (IA) section conducted four SBA Preliminary Damage Assessments in the counties of Bronx, Madison, Brooklyn and Westchester. The IA section successfully secured an SBA declaration for all damage assessments conducted leveraging more than \$1.3M in low interest loans to survivors in need.

Hazard Mitigation

Hazard Mitigation plays a crucial role in disaster preparedness by taking proactive steps to reduce the risk of future disasters. It involves a range of actions that can be implemented before, during and after a disaster to protect people and property. Planning where buildings are constructed, modifying buildings or structures to protect from hazards, educating the public about hazards and ways to mitigate them and preserving or restoring the functions of natural resources are examples of these types of actions.

The Hazard Mitigation (HM) section submitted 75 subapplications to FEMA totaling more than \$90 million for project and planning grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The HM section worked on 264 active awarded projects from FEMA, ensuring that projects totaling over \$2 billion were administered in line with Hazard Mitigation rules and would continue to benefit local communities.

DHSES received seven subapplications totaling over \$8 million for the FY 24 Safeguarding Tomorrow Through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund program and submitted one DHSES subapplication for consideration. Staff continued to work with interested communities to provide technical assistance and outreach for the program. In addition, DHSES received a Hazard Mitigation Post-Fire grant award this year for nearly \$1 million, the first time that New York State received this grant.

The Hazard Mitigation section also worked with counties to update FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plans, which identifies risks and strategies and were essential to receive FEMA mitigation grants.

Office of Counter Terrorism

Cyber Incident Response Team

The Division's Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT) assisted state, local, tribal, and territorial government organizations to prepare for, prevent, and respond to cyber incidents by providing cyber incident response, phishing campaigns and training, tabletop exercises, cybersecurity risk assessments, cyber capability workshops, penetration testing, rapid risk assessments, and through managing the Statewide Cyber Shared Service Program. All CIRT services were provided at no cost to eligible government entities.

The Team conducted the following activities in 2025:

- Responded to 124 cyber incidents in the government community, helping customers with identification, containment, eradication, and return to normal operations in a secure manner. All related cyber intelligence gathered during incidents was de-identified and disseminated to state partners for proactive and preventative actions.
- Designed, developed, and launched the Mandatory Cyber Incident and Ransom Payment Reporting Portal in partnership with New York State Information Technology Services because of state legislation requiring all municipal corporations and public authorities to report any cybersecurity incident and/or any demand for ransom within 72 hours, a ransom payment within 24 hours of payment, and a ransom payment explanation within 30 days of payment. Since the portal was launched, 54 incidents have been reported to the Division.
- Provided threat briefings and cyber basics presentations at 27 conferences and events for organizations including New York State Local Information Technology Directors Association, Government Finance Officers Association, New York State Town Clerks Association, New York State Association of Counties, New York State Community Colleges Business Officers Association, and BOCES' Monroe Regional Information Center. Presentations reached more than 4,100 state and local governments leaders.
- Sent more than 13,700 simulated phishing emails to government professionals and conducted 13 tabletop exercises with follow-on reports to guide organizations' security planning efforts. The program walked entities through a mock cyber incident, tested response plans, identified and documented gaps, identified areas of strength, and highlighted areas for improvement.
- Executed two full cybersecurity risk assessments to evaluate customers' technical and policy cybersecurity programs and provide a report with prioritized, actionable recommendations to improve overall cybersecurity posture. Each

assessment report provided steps for decreasing cyber risk with a two-year roadmap.

- Led 16 Rapid Cyber Risk Assessments to provide more accessible cyber risk assessments to customers who may not have time or resources for full-length engagement. The rapid assessment is a starting point for entities who may not yet be able to use the full assessment process.
- Carried out six Penetration Tests to help customers discover attack paths a threat actor could use to compromise their environment. Customers were provided with an actionable report to help guide mitigation planning.
- Delivered two Cyber Capability Workshops for more than 200 local government leaders throughout the state. Workshops were designed to bring together non-technical leaders through government to learn more about cyber basics and assess cyber knowledge regarding procurement, governance, risk management, data, incident response, and general technology modernization readiness.

CIRT also managed the New York State Cyber Shared Services Program where Endpoint Detection and Response was deployed to approximately 100,505 endpoints in counties, cities, towns, and villages. The Attack Surface Management program monitored approximately 100,086 assets in New York State counties and cities.

Outreach and Engagements with Critical Infrastructure

The Division's OCT's Critical Infrastructure Unit (OCT-CIU) worked with public and private sector partners to identify and assess physical and cyber security risks at critical infrastructure across New York State. OCT-CIU regularly conducted targeted outreach, supported threat information sharing, and provided risk assessment services to our broad constituency.

OCT-CIU completed 64 site visits and risk assessments at critical infrastructure sites throughout the state. During this period, OCT-CIU collaborated with federal, state, local, and private sector partners to enhance the overall security of the state's most critical assets. OCT-CIU conducted assessments of infrastructure in the commercial, chemical, education, energy, government, pipeline, public drinking water, wastewater, and critical manufacturing industries.

Two new sets of temporary vehicle barriers were also added to OCT-CIU's Hostile Vehicle Barrier Mitigation Program's inventory, further expanding regional reach and availability. There are now 10 sets strategically staged at five of the state's emergency equipment stockpiles. Barrier usage was up 100 percent this year, counting days deployed in support of special events and mass gatherings. Additionally, the team trained more than 150 government employees on proper use of the vehicle barriers. OCT-CIU strengthened and continued to promote the sharing of threat related information, including updating and enhancing processes to develop and distribute

threat advisory information for public and private critical infrastructure stakeholders. In partnership with team members from the Public Safety Unit, OCT-CIU delivered “Indicators and Warning” briefings to educate critical infrastructure owners and staff on signs and indicators of terrorism, reporting suspicious activity and countering foreign malign influence.

Red Team Exercises and Terrorism Awareness Outreach

OCT partnered with law enforcement from more than 70 agencies throughout the state to conduct ‘Red Team’ exercises involving federal, state, local and tribal personnel to assess effectiveness of the “See Something, Say Something” training program on businesses. During each exercise, personnel from state and local agencies concealed their identities and assessed the ability of businesses to recognize and report suspicious activity. Following each exercise, officials provided training on identifying and reporting suspicious activity.

OCT conducted Red Team exercises at nearly 1,000 locations in each of the state’s 16 Counter Terrorism Zones. Teams assessed suspicious activity reporting and recognition at more than 725 retailers and businesses selling chemicals, compounds, components, services, or rent space or resources which could be exploited by bad actors. Teams also assessed more than 225 infrastructure locations across the state, including stadiums and arenas, malls and shopping centers, colleges and universities, airports, transit hubs and other mass-gathering locations. Fifty-seven percent of the locations were new and not visited in previous years.

Since 2016, the Division completed more than 8,300 Red Team exercises. In 2025, more than 1,800 business and infrastructure personnel were educated on indicators and warning signs of terrorism through Red Team engagements. Separately, OCT trained nearly 1,860 stakeholders through approximately 30 terrorism awareness presentations including the Critical Infrastructure initiative.

Additionally, OCT engaged with associations, groups, and public safety stakeholders to enhance awareness. Throughout the year, OCT engaged 120 Intelligence Liaison Officers across the state and made presentations at the annual Intelligence Liaison Officers’, Emergency Medical Services’, and New York State Association of Fire Chiefs’ conferences. OCT programs and services promote suspicious activity reporting through presentations to target audiences, including healthcare and commercial facilities sectors, outreach to security personnel, and targeted public messaging in conjunction with public gathering events such as the New York State Fair.

Domestic Terrorism Prevention Unit

The Domestic Terrorism Prevention Unit (DTPU) was created on May 18, 2022, when Governor Hochul signed Executive Order 18 after the racially motivated domestic terrorist attack in Buffalo resulting in the death of 10 New Yorkers. Executive Order 18 mandated each county and New York City create and maintain Domestic Terrorism

Prevention Plans and submit to OCT by December 31, 2022. \$10 million in grant funding was allocated to assist counties in creating or further developing multidisciplinary Threat Assessment and Management (TAM) teams comprised of local organizations such as law enforcement, schools, mental health professionals, and others to confront domestic terrorism, domestic violence extremism, and targeted violence.

In 2025, the DTPU:

- Supported the establishment of county-led TAM teams across New York State, growing the network to 53 jurisdictions as opposed to 47 teams in 2024 and 21 teams in 2023. Prior to May 2022, only three counties had TAM teams.
- Delivered 58 National Threat Evaluation and Reporting curriculum trainings: 23 one-day, 18 three-day, and 17 community-awareness focused two-hour training courses, including virtual options to increase accessibility, with every county represented, 140 higher education institutions, and more than 1400 participants across the state.
- Developed and maintained a distribution list of approximately 930 stakeholders involved in targeted violence prevention. This is an increase of more than 15 percent from 2024 who routinely engaged with information on training, products, and recent events.
- Delivered two large-scale policy and education events for the second year attended by more than 380 people.
- Trained nearly 200 New York State prevention practitioners through partnerships with mental health experts on recognizing signs of radicalized and exploited youth.
- Created and distributed four new research products tailored to TAM Teams focused on the New York State threat environment.
- Attended, facilitated, or presented at more than 60 in-person events/meetings, e.g., TAM Team regional meetings, conferences, etc., across the state with a reach of more than 2,200 TAM interest holders representing a 20 percent increase in the number of outreach events compared to 2024.
- Hosted Domestic Terrorism Prevention Plan Working Sessions in 24 counties with more than 120 multidisciplinary attendees in total to support the plan revision process for a total of 36 sessions over the past two years.
- Conducted four quarterly TAM team webinars with more than 200 participants.

- Presented and facilitated working groups at the “Eradicate Hate” event regarding the state’s approach to preventing targeted violence; the conference is considered the world’s most comprehensive anti-hate conference and had more than one thousand attendees.

Briefings and Information Sharing with Private Sector Partners

As part of an ongoing effort to disseminate relevant and timely information, OCT provided threat products and facilitated briefings for public and private-sector partners, including quarterly meetings with the energy industry, and regular engagements with the New York State Intelligence Center and the pipeline industry. OCT worked with partners in the faith-based community, public drinking water, wastewater, and chemical industries to share information on physical and cyber security threats, as well as best practices. OCT engaged with associations and groups such as the Municipal Electric Utilities Association, the FBI’s Infraguard chapters, and public safety stakeholders.

Office of Fire Prevention and Control

The New York 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 advanced 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.

Training

Training was provided to more than 62,800 firefighters and other emergency response personnel, including more than 3,390 firefighters who attended training at the New York State Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls. Notably, during the year 1342 responders completed OFPC’s Battery Emergencies and Electrical Storage Systems Training Program either in-person or online. OFPC issued more than 4800 national certifications in categories such as Firefighter, Fire and Emergency Services Instructor, and Fire Officer.

Support for Emergencies

OFPC’s Fire Operations Center was activated five times, including one activation of the New York State Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan. Incidents included the Suffolk County wildfires, flooding, and other severe weather events.

Fire Protection Specialists responded to 14 requests for technical rescue assistance, including structural collapse, flooding and water rescue incidents, and other technical rescue incidents. Support included deployment of specialized resources such as

Unmanned Aerial Systems, Urban Search and Rescue including Search and Rescue K-9 teams, and specialized response vehicles.

Office staff also responded to 53 hazardous materials responses and provided technical assistance to local first responders. Incidents included traffic accidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials, chemical releases and spills, and a large fire in Ontario County involving ignitable liquids requiring high-volume firefighting foam operations.

Fire Investigations

Fire Investigators conducted 225 fire investigations in support of local and county agencies. As of this report, 127 (56 percent) of these investigations remain open; 30 (13 percent) have been determined to be intentionally set; 33 (15 percent) were the result of an accidental cause; the cause remained unclassified for 35 (16 percent); and 32 (14 percent) of requests resulted in no response or a cancelled response. These incidents resulted in 47 fire fatalities and millions of dollars in property loss.

Fire Fatalities in New York State

OFPC data collection determined at least 172 fire fatalities occurred during 137 separate fatal fire incidents in New York State during 2025. Since 2023, an average of 165 people die in fires annually.

Division of Homes and Community Renewal

New York State Homes and Community Renewal (NYSHCR) continued to support the State EOC and ESF-6 by preparing for and supporting multi-agency activity during disasters, exercises and training. NYSHCR worked with local, state and federal partners to develop response and recovery strategies. Preparedness efforts included maintenance of its EMOP and COOP, as well as support to the Functional Support Team including provision of an agency point-of-contact and the development and maintenance of an agency Functional Support Team roster.

NYSHCR monitored and/or supported activations of the State EOC and ESF-6 in response to various weather-related events which impacted the state. NYSHCR also supported Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program exercises for nuclear power facilities throughout the state, including activation of ESF-6.

Additionally, NYSHCR's Housing Trust Fund Corp (HTFC) established the Rapid Response Home Repair Program, which is operated and managed by the Office of Resilient Homes and Community to ensure homeowners can be assisted following a storm or other natural disaster.

Office of Information Technology Services

The New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) significantly bolsters the state's ability to prepare for and respond to disasters through a comprehensive array of technological services. The agency delivers essential emergency management support, supplying staff, networking, and telecommunications for the various emergency operations centers during activations and exercises. ITS also maintains critical communication platforms such as NY-Alert for public notifications and NY Responds for emergency record-keeping, alongside providing WebNY Services for public information and specialized Geospatial Services for data visualization and field support. The Chief Information Security Office (CISO) safeguards state systems through robust cybersecurity measures, including the Joint Security Operations Center (JSOC) for threat monitoring and incident response. These efforts are complemented by continuous improvements to IT infrastructure and the development of COOP to ensure system reliability and readiness during crises.

Emergency Management

The ITS Emergency Management (EM) team was instrumental in providing technological support to NYSOEM, the State EOC, State Watch Center, Regional Operations Centers, Statewide Transportation Information and Coordination Center, and Joint Information Centers across all 24x7 activities, activations, exercises, and emergency responses. Leveraging an ITS Agency Emergency Management Supervisor, Emergency Management Liaisons, and onsite Networking and Workplace Services, ITS ensured the availability of critical telecommunications, network, computing, peripheral technology, internet access, and end-user services to operations centers, information centers, and various emergency activation sites throughout New York State.

ITS EM provided support to the State EOC during numerous weather-related activations, the New York State Fair, and the DOCCS Strike. They collaborated with DHSES and NYSOEM to enhance State Watch Center functions, thereby improving efficiency and coordination, and bolstered staff capacity during activations by augmenting existing staff and integrating new State EOC liaisons.

ITS EM also delivered crucial support and equipment for radiological emergency preparedness and other disaster preparedness exercises and planning in collaboration with the Network, Change Management, and Client Compute teams. This included regular communications drills with the State Watch Center, facility continuity of operations drills, and comprehensive disaster simulation exercises involving the State Watch Center, State EOC, and ESF agencies.

NY-Alert and NY Responds

The ITS DHSES Team provides management and support for 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 2025, the system issued 163,126 Alerts, 20,206 Traffic Incidents and 2,841 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 2025, DHSES, New York State Police, New York City Office of Emergency Management, and county offices of emergency management and/or sheriff's offices were authorized to use IPAWS for emergency alerting purposes covering 57 counties

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 2025 led to the first multi-agency building alert program for DOT's 50 Wolf Road office. This program is being used as a pilot to launch similar systems statewide.

The ITS DHSES Team is continuously improving the accessibility of the NY-Alert website to remain 508 compliant.

The ITS DHSES Team also provided management and support of NY Responds, including modernizing the server and database infrastructure to better support the application and its users.

WebNY Services Support for DHSES Emergency Pages

WebNY Services facilitated the capability for creating Emergency Pages for the DHSES website. With the help of the Office of General Services (OGS) Digital Team, WebNY Services trained and helped establish a user-based mechanism to allow NYSOEM to create public emergency information pages on the DHSES website. WebNY Services enabled this capability through a Content Management System with Acquia Cloud Enterprise, which is a multi-server, fully managed continuous delivery cloud platform that is pre-configured and tuned for Drupal, a multi-instance environment hosted in the Cloud with a shared common core codebase. The service provides a managed platform with features, functionality, and Monitoring of Security, Accessibility, and Quality. WebNY Services is a platform with an availability rate of 99.98 percent with cache services to ensure 100 percent availability of emergency information to the public on the DHSES Emergency Pages.

Geospatial Services Bureau

The Geospatial Services Bureau continues supporting the NYSOEM GIS and Data Visualization teams with training and data. The growth of these units saw a proportional growth in the GIS resources supplied in support of their activities. ITS Geospatial worked at the State EOC for four radiological emergency preparedness exercises. Staff provided remote support in response to NYSOEM requests during the March wildfire in Suffolk County.

Staff also supported ice jam tracking in January and February with field data collection applications and web applications. Work supporting ice jam tracking resumed in December in preparation for the 2026 season. Staff maintained field data collection and web applications to support DHSES' search and rescue efforts and building damage assessment. Bureau staff continued maintenance of mobile data collection and web tools to support the work of DHSES Individual Assistance and Public Assistance teams. The Bureau supplied accounts to support work in several DHSES teams.

Bureau GIS Specialists continue to be active members of the New York State Incident Management Team (IMT). Activities included one IMT training session and remote support for the IMT deployment to the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC). At the IMT's requests, Bureau GIS specialists began development of mobile applications to track deliveries and shipments for resource staging areas and points of distribution.

The Bureau team administered the Critical Infrastructure Response Information System (CIRIS). NY-Responds Common Operating Picture draws many of its datasets from the CIRIS data repository. ESRI is deprecating the API that CIRIS is built on and efforts are underway to replace the CIRIS application with more modern focused applications.

The Bureau also maintained a leadership role in GIS for Next Gen 911 by collaborating with DHSES and the New York State Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications. Additionally, the Bureau provided GIS data and map support for the State Police Records Management System to ensure highly accurate incident locations. The Bureau's public safety team also continued to support the New York State Intelligence Center, specifically aiding in the implementation of an Enterprise GIS application. safety team also continued to support the New York State Intelligence Center, specifically aiding in the implementation of an Enterprise GIS application.

Chief Information Security Office

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 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.

Additionally, ITS continued to expand and improve upon the development and expansion of the Joint Security Operations Center (JSOC), and its shared service offerings. The JSOC is a first-of-its-kind hub for data sharing and cyber coordination across New York City, five additional upstate cities, local and regional governments, and critical infrastructure and federal partners.

In partnership with DHSES, the NY State Police Intelligence Center (NYSIC), and the Executive Chamber, this initiative expanded rapidly, providing crucial security services for New York State government entities. By the end of 2025, the JSOC offered Endpoint Detection & Response and Attack Surface Management platforms to 144 and 44 local government entities.

The New York State Security Operations Center (NYSOC) is also under the JSOC and expanded by providing 24/7 monitoring and support for 26 government subscribers across the state with an additional 15 subscribers pending. The NYSOC processes over 350,000 events per second, which are analyzed for potential cyber threats and processes more than 400 terabytes of data a month.

CISO continued to provide critical resources and support through the ITS Cyber Command Center. The NYSOC 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 the establishment of two new initiatives in 2025: simulated phishing assessments and incident response tabletop exercises. In its first year, the new statewide phishing program for executive agencies delivered 48 phishing campaigns for 20 agencies reaching over 80,000 users to help combat email-based phishing threats. The new tabletop exercise program was established to develop, organize, and facilitate annual incident response tabletop exercises for state agencies and will continue to mature in 2026. CISO once again offered the New York State “Kids Safe Online” poster contest to engage K-12 students in online safety and conducted an extremely successful 27th annual New York State Cyber Security Conference in downtown Albany with attendance above that of prior years.

Telecommunications Support

ITS networking teams continue to reduce legacy data center network environments with the completion and closure of the data center in Schenectady. The teams continue to reduce the legacy footprint of the New York State Police legacy data center at the Harriman Campus in Albany. The network teams replaced approximately 1200 end-of-life wireless access points and hundreds of EOL switches and routers last year. The NYX (Business-to-Business) team also migrated off Dynamic Multipoint Virtual Private Network EOL equipment in the Business-to-Business environment. The Physical Plant team is in the award phase of a project with OGS to sunset a group of legacy environmental systems, including HVAC, fire suppression and UPS, around the Capital Region downtown area to reduce the potential of network failures due to environmental issues.

The combined effort reduced legacy debt in critical infrastructure, increasing performance and uptime during emergency operations. The gains made in supportability and reliability of infrastructure will directly contribute to uptime and resiliency critical in emergency situations. The compounded effect is a drastic increase in preparedness across remediated domains.

Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

ITS Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) increased to 55 plans. Most of the additional plans are work in progress and not yet complete. ITS continued to follow the COOP plan maintenance cycle, which assumes quarterly responsibilities to each business unit's selected primary continuity planner. Also, due to restructuring, there were 13 plans flagged for deletion. There have been several accounts added and training was given to personnel of each new COOP plan. Personnel and organizational changes within the bureaus will present additional structural changes to the ITS Master COOP and Continuity of Government plans in the coming months.

With the addition of the Deputy Commissioners for Technology, during training, suggestions were made to have the primary continuity planners focus on their core services and critical applications and have key people assigned to them as they list their essential functions.

For the period, there were no known activations of COOP plans, but many questions were yielded concerning alternate facilities and telecommuting as an option if primary facilities were unavailable.

The ITS COOP standard was updated this past year to respond to changes in the COOP application and the availability of new tools in the software. COOP administration is looking to utilize these new tools in ensuring yearly review and approval of COOP plans.

ITS continues to follow the NIMS/ICS structure and maintains a critical contact list of executive staff and key personnel. The incident team and declaration diagrams are continuously updated to reflect key personnel changes in leadership and shifts in business units.

Department of Labor

The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) sustained its agency-wide mission and dedication to worker protection, unemployment assistance, and job placement, ensuring continuity during emergencies of all magnitudes. DOL's Office of Emergency Management upheld its commitment to safeguarding the well-being of its service recipients. DOL staff provided critical support to DHSES and NYSOEM through State EOC staffing, personnel, and resource deployment during statewide events.

DOL Emergency Management collaborated with internal partners to refine emergency protocols, enhance employee resilience, and foster a safe working environment. This included updating location emergency action plans across various state locations and facilitating emergency preparedness training such as fire drills, workplace violence prevention assessments, and active shooter training. DOL Emergency Management also oversaw cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator training for staff members at multiple locations statewide.

Office of Mental Health

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and its Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response (BEPR) work closely with all 23 psychiatric hospitals regarding emergency preparedness activities. This year, several facilities conducted at least two readiness exercises including one tabletop exercise and one functional drill.

Names and titles of facility incident command are updated twice annually as well as all incident command staff participating in the OMH Facility Emergency Management Training Program. Facilities are required to submit updated completion information during the year. OMH Central Office Incident Command conducted an executive level tabletop exercise that focused on a weather event with potential evacuation of one of its hospitals. This drill opened wide conversation regarding moving patients, E-finds and updating protocols.

This year, there were 26 emergency activations and five disaster mental health activations. All responses included resources on 988 as well as SAMHSA Disaster Distress Hotline.

Due to the DOCCS work stoppage, the National Guard requested assistance from OMH for more than 7,000 guardsmen placed in 39 correctional facilities statewide. OMH DMH worked closely with DOCCS Central Office for over 3 months deploying OMH DMH responders to all 39 facilities. County DMH assistance was also provided by Clinton, Chautauqua, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Livingston, Rensselaer, Rockland and Wyoming. A

total of 3,189 encounters and 1,403 resources were provided. The OMH Warm Line was also activated from February 28 to April 13 with 13 total calls.

BEPR participated in 12 mass casualty tabletop exercises facilitated by DHSES, two OMH tabletop exercises, two full-scale exercises at the State Preparedness Training Center, one Governor's tabletop exercise, and one State EOC exercise.

The OMH alert and notification system allows the office's administration to issue emergency messages to employees through a web-based interface. Employees will receive messages via any or all the following notification methods, email, phone call (traditional, voice over internet protocol), or via cell phones by voice or text message. OMH piloted OMH Alert with one of its facilities for six months and will be implemented in Central and Field Offices.

The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Supplement funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration made available funding beginning October 2022 and continuing through October of 2027 via the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). Most of these funds are being used to support a robust response during and after disasters and other traumatic events affecting communities in New York State. The program addresses disaster-influenced mental health needs through teams of trained personnel available for deployment at state and at the regional level. Disaster Mental Health teams consist of responders trained in Psychological First Aid (non-licensed) and/or Fundamentals of Disaster Mental Health Practice (licensed clinicians). Additional training for all responders in development includes being culturally and linguistically prepared in disasters, impact to seriously emotionally challenged youth and serious mentally ill; vulnerable populations; children and families; mass casualty; understanding culture of first responder; chronic cyclic disasters as opposed to single event; and disaster related grief. Teams are poised for deployment in support of disaster response operations and to serve the needs of individuals with serious mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance, those experiencing more generalized emotional reactions to disaster or traumatic events, first responders, and the clients and staff of other New York State agencies. When deployed, teams provide a compassionate presence, immediate psychological first aid, and resource referrals in a non-clinical model designed to address the early and expected stress reactions to disaster.

There were 32 Psychological First Aid (PFA) trainings, and 24 Fundamentals of Disaster Mental Health Practice (FDMHP) trainings facilitated. At OMH, there are 494 trained disaster mental health responders and 23 DMH teams. Total number of staff trained in counties statewide was 646. This effort will continue to include county preparedness in disasters with a focus on disaster mental health plans, teams and training.

BEPR partnered with DHSES Training and other partner organizations to conduct two live exercises for OMH disaster mental health responders at the State Preparedness Training Center. DHSES provided trained role players to act as survivors with whom

responders could practice Psychological First Aid skills. In July, volunteers from the American Red Cross opened a mock shelter in the aftermath of a major hurricane affecting portions of the state. The program was joined by members of the Oneida County Sheriff's Department, the Onondaga County Animal Response Team, and OFPC.

In October, another live drill was conducted at the same location in facilities simulating a hospital emergency department, a friends and family support center, and a crisis counseling center opened following a mass-casualty bus accident on the NY State Thruway. Up to two drills are being planned annually for the future and are expected to expand to include additional state and local partner organizations along with county-based disaster mental health teams.

The Center for Practice Innovation, working closely with BEPR, created 10 animated videos for the public on disaster mental health preparedness, which are available on YouTube. Titles include Disasters Are Stressful; Family Preparedness; What's in Your Go Bag; What Calms Me Down; Are You Ready; Warnings Are Coming; Information Overload; What Supports do you Need; Staying Safe, Staying Well: Disaster Resilience for Emotional and Behavioral Health; and Strong Families, Safe Kids: Disaster Planning for Emotional and Behavioral Health.

BEPR DMH also provided special topic trainings to statewide and county DMH teams, including Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Disaster, Supporting Disaster Survivors After Mass Casualty Incidents, Psychological First Aid with Vulnerable Populations, and Operationalizing Self-Care in Disaster Response.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Headquarters (HQ) and its Operating Agencies – Metro-North Railroad (MNR), Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), Grand Central Madison Operating Company, New York City Transit (NYCT) (which includes the Departments of Buses (DOB), Paratransit, and the Department of Subways (DOS)), MTA Bus, MTA Bridges and Tunnels (B&T), and Construction & Development (C&D) – continued to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a wide range of emergencies across its operating territory.

The MTA and the operating agencies 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. These efforts resulted in the MTA receiving multiple awards, including the 2025 APTA Commuter Rail Emergency Management Gold Award for MNR's Code Silver active shooter response protocol, the Heavy Rail Gold Rail Safety Award for NYCT, and the Transportation Security Administration Gold Standard Award for NYCT's Excellence in Transit Security. In addition, staff from all operating agencies and HQ departments participated in monthly emergency management working group meetings and selected staff from the working group also participated in biweekly meetings with Everbridge to build out mass

notification capabilities across agencies during incidents/emergencies, and Tomorrow.io to improve weather forecasting for the service territory.

MTA leadership and staff attended various training and exercises to enhance the organization's ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies. The MTA Chairman and executive team participated in a coastal storm tabletop exercise focused on the recovery phase following a Category 2 storm. Security leadership and emergency management staff participated in two Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) workshops involving the BioWatch and PROTECT systems to assess transit closures following the release of biological or chemical agents.

MTA staff were also involved in the following agency-specific workshops and exercises:

- Subways (DOS) led multiple functional exercises testing the deployment of storm mitigation assets (including deploying flood logs at Coney Island Yard, 148th Street Yard, Clifton Maintenance Shop and St. George Terminal in Staten Island, and flex gates/deployable vent covers throughout the five boroughs), which prepared Subways to successfully respond to numerous weather events during 2025. In addition, DOS exercised the deployment of emergency generators to test the response to power losses within the service area.
- Buses (DOB) conducted an internal tabletop exercise ahead of the coastal storm season to assess equipment and service delivery. In addition, leadership discussions were held ahead of the winter season to evaluate preparations needed for a full-service shutdown.
- Paratransit participated in interagency NYCEM workshops to confirm their role for providing Transportation Assistance Level – Ambulatory (TAL3) transport, which covers customers who can leave their homes without assistance, during coastal storms and other major weather events. Paratransit also conducted a tabletop exercise to assess and enhance their Continuity of Operations (COOP) framework, along with the NYCT Paratransit Risk and Resilience Plan.
- MNR conducted multiple exercises, including: 1) An annual full-scale exercise with a simulated PEV fire in a passenger compartment to evaluate the new forward-facing detrainment system for the push-pull fleet's cab cars. 2) An internal coastal storm preparedness tabletop exercise focused on critical infrastructure resilience and service delivery following severe flooding events. 3) An internal no-notice tabletop exercise assessing critical infrastructure resilience and alternate service plans and procedures. They also supported and attended the MTAPD/DHSES regional bomb squad exercise series and the DHSES two-day crisis communications training and tabletop exercise.
- The LIRR Office of the Fire Marshal, in collaboration with New York & Atlantic Railway, Paraco Gas, and the Yaphank Fire Department, led a full-scale exercise simulating a rail crossing incident with a freight train carrying propane. Local Fire,

EMS, and regional hazardous materials teams practiced coordination, incident response, and the use of specialized equipment to mitigate an active propane tank car leak under the guidance of an industry expert. LIRR also participated in a multi-agency active shooter and IED full-scale exercise at Moynihan Train Hall with DHSES, Amtrak Police Department, MTA PD, NYPD, FDNY, NYCCEM, NY State Police, and other partners. The exercise strengthened interagency coordination, improved Unified Command operations, identified operational gaps, enhanced preparedness, and built stronger working relationships for complex and multi-jurisdictional events.

- B&T conducted annual flood mitigation drills at both the Queens Midtown Tunnel and the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel, successfully testing all flood mitigation measures, including the deployment of floodgates. In addition, the agency conducted three tabletop exercises in advance of hurricane season, winter weather season, and the transfer of law enforcement responsibilities for the Throgs Neck and Bronx-Whitestone Bridges to the MTA Police Department. B&T also conducted a separate drill at the Queens Midtown Tunnel to evaluate the operational capabilities of the drone program.
- C&D conducted a tabletop exercise with multiple business units to test internal notification procedures in response to MTA's activations and incidents that meet criteria for notification protocol regarding significant events.

The MTA continued multiple updates to technology to improve its posture before, during, and after emergencies including:

- Installing FirstNet on an additional 40 MTA ICS Leadership phones as a backup communication tool to ensure critical communications are never disrupted. FirstNet is a cellular network service operated by AT&T, overseen by the First Responder Network Authority ("FirstNet Authority"), to provide first responders with resilient, interoperable, and optimal operational capability during emergencies.
- Beginning the enrollment of the MTA's ICS leadership in the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) provided by CISA.
- Increasing the number of cameras across the Authority and external partners into the MTA Situation Room at Headquarters for centralized surveillance.

The MTA was impacted by a variety of incidents, including multiple weather emergencies and various protests. In addition to daily agency-specific responses to incidents, the MTA activated its Virtual Situation Room, including an open Teams line and scheduled check-ins with representatives from operating agencies to increase situational awareness and provide real-time updates. The Virtual Situation Room was activated during the implementation of the Congestion Relief Zone, one protest, and

four weather events. In addition, MTA's ICS was activated seven times this year for protest preparation (April 12, 18 and June 13), strike preparation (New Jersey Transit on May 13 and Long Island Railroad on September 11), and heavy rain and flash flooding incidents (July 14 and 31).

Division of Military and Naval Affairs

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) is the administrative state agency to oversee New York's Military Forces, which consist of 11,900 members of the New York Army National Guard, 5,800 members of the New York Air National Guard, 3,050 members of the New York Naval Militia and 320 members of the New York Guard, a volunteer state defense force. The New York Army and Air National Guard are reserve components of the Army and Air Force. Members of those organizations train in federal duty status and can be mobilized and deployed overseas. When called upon by the Governor, the Army and Air National Guard are available for state missions across New York and the United States. Most members of the Naval Militia also serve federally in the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Reserve and respond to state missions as volunteers. The New York Guard is a volunteer state defense force and operates in a state status only to augment the other forces.

New York Military Forces respond to state emergencies in a State Active Duty (SAD) status as directed by the Governor of New York. Additionally, with the consent of the Governor, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen can deploy to other states and territories in a SAD status under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen also provide response capabilities during designated national emergencies under the federally funded Title 32, U.S. Code.

The New York National Guard conducts long-running state missions, including Joint Task Force Empire Shield, cyber-security support teams, and the Citizen Preparedness Corps, and conducts named contingency operations when directed. This year, New York's Military Forces recalled thousands of service members into a SAD status in support of multiple New York State missions.

Emergent Civil Support Operations

- Support to the 60th Presidential Inauguration (January 15-25): NYNG mobilized 522 service members to Washington DC with an additional 500 soldiers on standby in New York State for emergency deployment. All forces returned and deactivated by January.
- Operation Asylum Seeker (January 1 –February 25): Beginning on September 29, 2022 and continuing through into early 2025, DMNA provided administrative and logistical support to shelters housing migrants seeking asylum at locations in New York City, Buffalo, and Rochester. Service members from all components mobilized to provide administrative and logistical support at more than 152 shelter hotels and humanitarian relief centers, assisting more than 89,591

migrants. This operation ended on January 17 with all support locations, C2 elements, and closeouts completed by February.

- Operation EMT Certification and Recertification (January 21 – March 1): A new Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification opportunity was opened to all New York military forces. Training partnered with the New York State Department of Health to train up to 160 students across four locations throughout New York City from January 21 to February 28. Students were from all military occupational skillsets, other than medical, to enhance New York State medical response capabilities and build bridges for military members to transition to civilian roles serving their communities. This training program produced 145 New York State Basic EMTs that were immediately utilized after graduation to support SAD as EMTs in state correctional facilities. Any New York State EMT cardholder that is a member of the NY military forces could participate in additional training to renew their certification through a program that consisted of 40 hours of online training followed by one day of practical application and hands-on training at Camp Smith Training Site (CSTS) with the 106th Regimental Training Institute (RTI). 30 service members have successfully completed their recertification this year. This program was available throughout the entire calendar year.
- Operation Support to New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (February 18 – Present): On February 18, NYNG mobilized in support of a correctional officer strike at select New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision sites. More than 7,000 service members were mobilized and conducted security operations at 42 correctional facilities across the state. On April 1, the mission transitioned to an all-voluntary force known as Joint Task Force (JTF) Sentinel. At present, JTF-Sentinel consists of approximately 3,000 service members on mission at 34 facilities in New York State. This emergency activation of the NYNG was the largest single activation of the NYNG since the 1979 New York State prison strike.
- Operation NYNG Support to Special Olympics CY25 (March 05-16): From March 5-16, service members provided support to send off and receive U.S. Special Olympic athletes from JFK Airport. A total of 20 Soldiers and Airmen supported the sendoff and reception events.
- Operation NYNG Support to Long Island Wildfires (March 8-10): On March, NYNG mobilized 40 service members and UH-60, HH-60J, and C-130 aircraft in response to wildfires in Suffolk County adjacent to Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base. Helicopters and crews battled fires for more than 48 hours and conducted more than 60 bucket drops. Forces were deactivated in March.
- Operation NYNG Tour Bus Rollover Assistance (August 22): On August 22, the NYNG mobilized two service members to a mass casualty accident on the New York State Thruway near Rochester to provide local authorities with additional

storage space for human remains. All NYNG forces were deactivated on August 22.

Steady State Civil Support Operations

Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTF-ES) is a critical component of New York State's homeland security and antiterrorism efforts, currently comprised of more than 1050 servicemembers from the New York Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and New York Naval Militia. In March 2024, JTF-ES began supporting partner agencies in the New York City Subway System with overwatch and presence patrols. Since 2024, this mission resulted in daily subway support missions at approximately 100 subway locations throughout New York City supported by over 250 SMs. This transition underscores JTF-ES's adaptability and its commitment to safeguarding millions of daily commuters within the New York City Metropolitan Area.

Throughout 2025, JTF-ES conducted high-tempo security operations across multiple domains. These efforts included over 200 airport security missions, 750 transit hub security missions, 29,800 subway security support missions, and 4,300 physical security missions. Additionally, JTF-ES completed over 850 maritime patrols via the New York Naval Militia's Military Boat Service, which bolstered maritime security at three strategic locations in the New York Harbor. These patrols, conducted in close coordination with the US Coast Guard, included participation in randomized antiterrorism screening programs, enhancing the region's defense against potential threats.

JTF-ES also maintained readiness for emergency responses for any scenarios containing a potential impact on New York City. The task force also played a key role in facilitating distinguished visitor missions from senior leaders from the military services, National Guard Bureau, North American Aerospace Defense Command, and state partners from Israel, Brazil, and Sweden.

Collaboration with federal, state, and local law enforcement remained a cornerstone of JTF-ES's efforts. The task force participated in five Multi-Agency Super Surges / Regional Alliance Incorporating Local, State, and Federal Efforts (MASS/RAILSAFE) events. These high-profile operations enhanced security at railroad and subway stations, increased patrol coverage, and strengthened the security presence aboard trains. JTF-ES also maintained its expanded footprint from 2024 at civilian C2 Nodes with an intelligence analyst at the New York State Intelligence Center.

JTF-ES continues to sustain a ready posture capable of establishing Joint Task Force (JTF 1) in New York City to deploy rapidly throughout the metropolitan area. The adaptability and professionalism of JTF-ES remain vital to protecting critical infrastructure, deterring terrorism, and ensuring the safety of millions across the region.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (Steady State Operation)

The New York National Guard maintains two Civil Support Teams-Weapons of Mass Destruction: the 2nd CST-WMD based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, and the 24th CST-WMD based at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn. These are more commonly known as the Civil Support Teams (CSTs). CSTs are highly trained first-responder units that support civil authorities responding to a weapon of mass destruction incident. The CST's mission is to support civil authorities during a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) 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.

To accomplish their mission, CSTs prepare by participating in both military and civilian emergency response training. 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 Forces.

- The 2nd CST conducted 8 stand-by missions, 6 training exercises, and 8 advise and assist events.
- The 24th CST conducted 15 stand-by missions, 14 training exercises, 28 advise and assist events, and 5 "Secure the Cities" maritime missions

Homeland Response Force (Steady State Operation)

In concert with the New Jersey National Guard, the New York National Guard contributed forces to the FEMA Region II Homeland Response Force (HRF), a planned CBRN 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 CBRN event. Over the course of this year, HRF units conducted a multiple phase large scale collective training event, exercising their ability to deploy and respond to a CBRN event as well as providing standby support to the 80th United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

Significant training events conducted during the year include one large scale collective training event with 550 service members, a staff exercise with 71 service members, and support to the UN General Assembly with 46 service members.

Counterdrug Task Force (Steady State Operation)

The New York Counterdrug Task Force (NYCDTF) employed 140 personnel at the end of the year, 94 members in support of Investigative Analysis (IA) missions, 21 members in support of Drug Demand Reduction Outreach (DDRO), and 25 members in support of counterdrug program management roles.

The NYCDTF's contributions consisted of two primary mission sets: IA and DDRO. Investigative Analysts aid narcotics investigation efforts through the development of graphs, mapping, pattern analysis, research, database queries, compiling raw data and report development. DDRO specialists leveraged the Strategic Prevention Framework to assist community coalition growth, development of programs, and anti-drug impacts. Their drug take-back contributions, through local coalition partners, supported the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in removing unused medications from homes to prevent future misuse and potential opioid addiction. DDRO specialists continued to coordinate and facilitate engagements with key community organizations.

At the close of the year, NYCDTF maintained support and partnerships with 74 law enforcement agencies through resourcing Investigative Case Analysts. NYCDTF also sustained relationships with county crime analysis centers and multiple community organizations through the utilization of DDRO specialists. This year, contributions exemplified the mission of the counterdrug program to support the detection, interdiction, disruption, and curtailment of drug trafficking activities and use through application of unique military skills and resources. The NYCDTF Counterdrug Detection Unit completed 147 missions, employing its Mini-Z/Viken Portable Xray device, TruNarc, and Cellebrite, GreyKey, Gemini, and MX908 in support of law enforcement agencies.

Through support to law enforcement agencies, NYCDTF contributed to the following seizures: 321 cases with 1,313 seizures broken down into \$135.1 million in illicit drugs; \$16.2 million in seized US currency, and over \$1 million in property and vehicle seizures. In addition, NYCDTF personnel completed 160 missions, providing critical support to law enforcement agencies and coalitions, and supported 80 community events.

Citizen Preparedness Corps (Steady State Operation)

The New York National Guard continued to support the Citizen Preparedness Corps program, which educates individuals on basic skills to prepare, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. A fundamental portion of the course provides awareness about possible hazards, and the actions New Yorkers can accomplish prior to an emergency. At designated training sessions sponsored by the New York State

Governor's Office, a free Disaster Preparedness Kit is given to participants to ensure each household is provided with helpful equipment and supplies.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Mission Assurance Assessments Detachment (Steady State Operation)

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Mission Assurance Assessments Detachment (CIP-MAA) Detachment is composed of 23 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 2025, the CIP-MAA Detachment conducted 12 site assessments at locations throughout the eastern half of the United States.

The Detachment works in direct support to Headquarters, Department of the Army, Mission Assurance 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; cyber specialist; transportation specialist; water, heating, ventilation and air conditioning specialist; communications specialist; petroleum, oil, and lubricants specialist; photographer and team leader. The detachment is based at the Leeds Armory.

Cyber Support to DHSES (Steady State Operation)

DMNA provides support using State Active Duty to the DHSES OCT Cyber Incident Response Team to provide cyber security expertise for counterterrorism, critical infrastructure, and cyber security risk assessments in support of authorities at all levels of government.

This year, three service members supported 22 cyber incident responses, three cyber readiness assessments, three rapid cyber readiness assessments, four statewide water treatment facility reviews in coordination with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and one critical infrastructure tabletop exercises.

Cyber Incident Response Team (Steady State Operation)

DMNA provides support using State Active Duty as a surge capacity to respond to incidents impacting the Metro NY UASI region. The NYNG Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT) augments New York State CIRT in the event of a significant cybersecurity event impacting NY critical infrastructure. NYNG CIRT is a joint team staffed with members of the NYARNG and NYANG.

In 2025, the team continued working towards Initial Operating Capability by training and equipping Soldiers and Airmen to fill 12 positions. Six training courses are completed with 13 more in progress, and two members attended the Liberty Eclipse Exercise.

Cyber Support to New York State Information Technology Services (Steady State Operation)

DMNA partnered with New York State Information Technology Services (ITS) to integrate highly skilled cybersecurity professionals serving in the New York National Guard into New York's Security Operations Center (NYSOC) cyber defense efforts. This initiative addresses critical staffing and expertise gaps, promotes knowledge-sharing between private-sector Guardsmen and government teams, and strengthens operational collaboration between DMNA and ITS.

These service members support a broad range of cyber functions, including engineering, automation, cyber threat hunting, and Security Operations Center analysis. ITS provides cybersecurity services to 27 major cities and counties, as well as numerous state agencies. Guardsmen resolved 693 security events across multiple agencies, cities, and counties, conducted three cyber threat hunts, and enhanced statewide security infrastructure by improving engineering and automation in the Security Operations Center.

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) once again had an exceptional year with 2025 being the second highest attendance on record with several free-swimming days. One Park Police Academy session was held, and staff assisted with multi-state and multi-jurisdictional military exercises "Mohawk Arrow" and "Empire Challenge." These exercises were conducted in support of national defense initiatives and relied on the integration of Park Police, OPRHP Emergency Management, and regional operations staff from the Capital Region (Saratoga) and Western New York (Niagara) regions.

OPRHP also arranged for 18 sawyer crews to be prepared to assist with storm cleanup for five separate storm events. Four regional emergency managers were assigned to drone operations and logistics in support of Park Police at the Ryder Cup in September.

Additionally, OPRHP completed the financial and programmatic closure of all Parks FEMA Superstorm Sandy Public Assistance projects. Parks completed the FEMA Mitigation design project plans for the potential restoration of the Quackenkill Creek through partial removal of the Dunham Reservoir dam. Parks also completed the FEMA Mitigation installation of an emergency generator for the Saratoga Springs Joint Incident Command Post and Agency Operations Center. Additional FEMA Mitigation projects moving forward include the assessment to decommission the Finger Lakes Region Lake Treman dam, repair of the Taconic Region Swan Lake dam, and a full engineering design for partial removal of the Saratoga Region Dunham Reservoir dam.

Park Police coordinated for training of the New York State Incident Management Team through in support of ten concerts at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center during a 12-day period. Park Police also graduated 32 new members from the Academy session.

OPRHP continues to address the substantial impacts from recent outbreaks of the invasive insect Southern Pine Beetle at Napeague State Park in Suffolk County. Work continues for fuel load reduction and coordination with local fire departments access for emergency responders throughout the park.

Additional OPRHP activities supported by the Emergency Management Bureau:

- Jones Beach State Park Airshow – Memorial Day Weekend
- Regional emergency manager joined the New York State Incident Management Team
- Controlled burn at Big Bend State Park
- Ryder Cup tabletop exercise
- Joint Incident Command Post activated 38 times throughout the summer season for various concerts and events in Saratoga Spa State Park
- Jones Beach Airshow - tabletop exercises involving 10 agencies
- DOT Staging Area exercise
- State EOC exercises
- Empire Challenge hosted at Fort Niagara (June 5)
- DHSES Coastal Storm Readiness workshop

Other accomplishments included multi-agency in-service training focused on emergency management with New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Park Police, and the graduation of three regional emergency managers from FEMA's Emergency Management Basic Academy.

Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

The New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) continued to strengthen preparedness capabilities across residential programs, day programs, and support service settings throughout New York State.

Program priorities focused on regulatory implementation, emergency preparedness planning, staff and leadership training, exercise evaluation, and community preparedness outreach.

Emergency Preparedness Plan Regulation Adoption

In July, OPWDD adopted final regulations under 14 NYCRR §633.25, requiring all facilities certified by OPWDD to maintain an agencywide emergency management plan and a site-specific emergency preparedness plan for each facility. These requirements supplement federal emergency preparedness regulations applicable to Intermediate Care Facilities under 42 CFR Part 483.

The regulatory framework requires providers to conduct a documented risk assessment utilizing an all-hazards approach to identify threats and hazards relevant to each facility and the populations served. The planning model ensures that emergency preparedness efforts account for public health emergencies, natural hazards and disasters, human-caused incidents, infrastructure failures, and emergencies originating within provider facilities or within the surrounding community. The all-hazards approach prioritizes the development of core emergency management capabilities, ensuring providers can effectively respond to a broad range of incidents without requiring separate plans for every individual hazard.

Implementation of the updated regulatory framework emphasized the development of site-specific emergency preparedness plans (based on documented risk assessments and the training of staff on these plans.

Training and Exercise Program

Emergency preparedness training and exercises remain a central component of OPWDD's statewide preparedness strategy. This year, 25 formal emergency management courses were conducted or attended and a member of the emergency management team achieved designation as a Master Continuity Practitioner Level II. Training topics included ICS training, AFN planning, exercise design and evaluation through the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), continuity and recovery planning, State EOC operations, and leadership development training.

In addition to formal coursework, site-level emergency training was provided to reinforce preparedness expectations and Treatment Team Leaders received targeted emergency preparedness instruction, strengthening leadership involvement in facility-level preparedness planning.

Exercises and Capability Evaluation

OPWDD conducted 14 emergency management exercises at residential program locations across the state. Exercises included eight tabletop exercises and six functional exercises. Scenarios were designed to evaluate the operational capabilities required to respond to emergencies affecting OPWDD facilities or the people served. Key evaluation areas included incident command and coordination, continuity of operations planning, evacuation and relocation decision-making, internal and external communications, and resource coordination and situational awareness. Following each exercise, after-action reviews were conducted to identify strengths, operational gaps, and improvement opportunities. These evaluations support ongoing program improvement and help guide future training and preparedness initiatives.

Interagency Coordination and Preparedness Engagement

OPWDD personnel participated in interagency preparedness workshops and training opportunities during 2025 to strengthen coordination with emergency management

partners. OPWDD also presented at the New York State 911 Coordinators Conference, providing information that supports improved communication and coordination between OPWDD programs and local emergency response agencies during emergency situations.

OPWDD was involved in ESF-6 and ESF-8 by facilitating coordinated communication and collaboration between OPWDD and other state agency partners. Participation in these activities helps ensure that emergency planning efforts within OPWDD remain integrated with broader emergency management systems utilized throughout New York State.

Public Preparedness and Community Outreach

In support of community resilience and inclusive emergency preparedness, OPWDD, in collaboration with DHSES and the New York National Guard, offered eight Citizen Preparedness Corps training at OPWDD facilities across New York State.

Emergency Management Program Impact

Emergency preparedness initiatives conducted during 2025 resulted in measurable improvements in preparedness capabilities across OPWDD programs statewide.

Key outcomes included:

- Increased consistency in emergency planning across certified and state-operated settings
- Strengthened leadership and staff preparedness through expanded training opportunities
- Improved hazard identification and mitigation planning at the facility level
- Expanded outreach supporting community preparedness for individuals with developmental disabilities

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey monitored 158 different predicted weather events for the Port Region. Minor impacts were reported throughout majority of the weather events monitored. Of these, only one had winter weather accumulation with no major impact on facilities and properties. There was exceptional coordination and information sharing with State personnel and no assistance from State agencies was requested or needed.

Throughout the facilities and properties of the Port Region, a series of protests and demonstrations were held. Adjacent facilities and properties were monitored

precautionarily to assess potential impacts to the Port Region. There were no notable impacts reported on or around these facilities and properties.

On June 3, the Port Authority's LaGuardia Airport hosted an exercise named Tranquil Passport to support the U.S. HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response in validating the nation's ability to move high consequence infectious disease patients safely and securely from international and domestic locations to Regional Special Pathogen Treatment Centers in the United States.

On June 28, the Port Authority's Newark Liberty International Airport, in conjunction with regional partners, conducted a full-scale exercise in compliance with U.S. Federal Aviation Administration regulations. The focus of this exercise was to validate plans, policies, and procedures developed for initial response that pertain to incident management, communications, law enforcement, fire, rescue, medical, and facility management operations.

On August 9, the Port Authority's LaGuardia Airport, together with local partners, conducted a four-hour water rescue drill simulating an aircraft incident within Bowery Bay. The focus of the drill was to validate procedures developed for the initial response that pertain to incident management, fire, rescue, and medical operations. The exercise was modeled after the successful water rescue drill conducted at JFK International Airport in 2024.

On October 25, the Port Authority Trans Hudson railroad hosted a functional exercise at Harrison Station in compliance with FRA regulations. This exercise included internal and external stakeholders and focused on different scenarios including a search and evacuation of the train, and assessment and management of a person struck by the train.

During nine dates in June and July, the Port Authority's Agency Emergency Operations Center (AEOC) escalated to an enhanced monitoring position in support of the FIFA Club World Cup games being played at MetLife Stadium. The AEOC monitored activity surrounding all the FIFA Club World Cup games to note any relevant information or threats that could impact the Port Region.

Other activities included utilizing support through the Urban Areas Security Initiative for risk assessment, business continuity, the exercise program, and the emergency operations center, and working closely with the New York State Weather Risk Communication Center to detect and monitor weather risks impacting the Port Region and Port Authority facilities.

The Port Authority Office of Emergency Management also continued to review and update Facility Emergency Operations Plans, focusing on design, readability, and functionality of each plan across all facilities, and stakeholders. Plans are being revised for consistency and familiarity across all facilities, in addition to addressing current threats, hazards, and ideas.

Department of Public Service

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, Public Service Law §66(21)(a), Part 105 of Title 16 on the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations, and the LIPA Reform Act, collectively require each major electric utility to submit annually a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to the Commission, or, in the case of Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), the Department. The ERPs are reviewed annually by Department Staff (Staff) and approved by the Commission 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 works closely with the electric utilities to ensure utilities are prepared, including obtaining outside resources through mutual assistance agreements and other means. The utilities reach out to DHSES to facilitate the passage of utility crews entering the United States from Canada who are assisting with restoration efforts.

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

New York's utilities maintain 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. Utilities are prepared to respond to power disruptions and are mandated to implement ERPs. Significant ERP requirements are as follows:

Estimated Time of Restoration Protocols

Estimated Time of Restoration (ETR) Protocols are activated when more than 5,000 customers are out of service in a division, or more than 20,000 customers are out of service companywide for more than 30 minutes. The protocols are considered minimum requirements necessary to ensure the public and the Department are adequately informed. During restoration, utilities are to continuously refine ETRs and update DPS Staff and the public, customer representatives, IVR systems, and websites. The utilities will also provide restoration information such as outage counts and ETRs to the

press/media outlets and public officials in the affected areas. Additionally, utilities will issue at least one press release daily for all outage events with an expected restoration period of longer than 48 hours.

Regional and local ETRs will be used and applicable to at least 95 percent of the customers affected in the reported level. Regional ETRs are to be provided on a county basis and local ETRs are to be provided on a town or municipal basis. Global ETRs may be used initially for outage events expected to last greater than 48 hours and be applicable to at least 90 percent of the affected customers. Once all regional ETRs have been issued references to the global ETR will be eliminated.

Specific requirements are in place for outage events expected to last 48 hours or less and for outage events expected to last 48 hours or greater.

Life Support Equipment Customers

Defined in 16 NYCRR §105.4(b)(9) as those customers who require electrically operated equipment to sustain basic life functions. Within 12 hours of the start of the event, utilities are required to contact 80 percent of life support equipment customers impacted by the event and are required to contact or refer to an EOC or other third party for 100 percent of impacted customers within 24 hours.

Dry Ice

Per PSL§66 and 16 NYCRR, § 105.4(b)(9) - For areas anticipated to be out of power greater than 48 hours following an emergency, each utility is required to estimate dry ice needs, arrange for obtaining and distributing dry ice within 24 hours of the beginning of restoration, coordinate with county, local emergency management, local emergency operations center, and officials; and communicate dry ice availability, locations, times.

Critical Facilities (Customers)

Defined as those facilities from which essential services and functions for the continuation of public health and safety, and disaster recovery are performed or provided. These include hospitals, water treatment plants, mass transit, fire and police stations, ambulance services, ALS first response, etc. Each facility is responsible for their own back-up generation and fuel contingencies. Like LSE, Customers utilities are required to make pre-event notifications and continue communication through an event.

PSL § 73-A – Prioritization of Emergency Services, implemented in 2023, requires if, during a widespread prolonged outage that affects at least 20,000 customers in the service territory, and power is unable to be restored within 24 hours to any affected police department, fire department, ambulance service, or ALS First Response that is prewired with an appropriate transfer switch, the utility must notify the village, town, or city in which the facility is located.

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, Utility Security, Nuclear Affairs, and Emergency Preparedness (OREP) assesses the likelihood of an event affecting the state and prepares internal correspondence for those weather events that may cause damage or issues to utility infrastructure. OREP correspondences go into more depth as confidence grows in a storm's impact.

At the same time, OREP communicates regularly with utilities to ensure preparedness activities are underway, utility incident command structures are established, pre-incident classifications are being discussed and assigned and, as necessary, external staffing is secured prior to impact. New York State utilities make preparedness decisions based on forecast tracking for their respective service territories, internal modeling, and previous experience.

There were numerous significant weather events throughout New York State during 2025 in which DPS staff worked with the electric utilities to ensure they prepared for, appropriately activated their ERPs, established incident command structures, and secured appropriate staffing as necessitated by the incident. This includes monitoring the utilities' obtaining of external contractors and mutual assistance when appropriate. The state experienced 31 separate storm events that qualified as major storms this year, during which DPS OREP and the utilities worked collaboratively to ensure that the utilities were prepared and resourced appropriately.

Utility response to emergencies and weather events impacting electric infrastructure includes activation of their required ERPs, incident command structures, evaluating resource plans, monitoring changing conditions, and reassessing response strategies as necessitated by the incident. In 2025, New York State experienced 2,078,549 total electric customer outages from severe weather. Approximately 13,175 external contract electric workers were utilized in addition to the utilities' normal in-state workforce of 5,500 workers to respond, repair, restore, and recover from the weather systems throughout the year. In response to these storms, in-state workforce and mutual aid movement between New York State utilities provided restoration benefits statewide.

Events

On February 5, a multi-day, multi-hazard storm system brought statewide snow and gusting wind with areas transitioning to rain and freezing rain. Overnight strong winds, snow, sleet, and ice accumulations contributed to 226,620 statewide outages with 44,474 peak outages. The strongest winds were experienced in the Mohawk Valley and Capital District with crews working throughout the storm to assess damage and make emergency repairs where possible. The utilities brought in 1,344 external workers to assist the normal workforce of 5,500 utility workers in the repair and restoration efforts. By 8:00 PM on February 16, greater than 85,000 customers had been restored.

The next significant storm system took place on March 16, impacting primarily western New York State, the Finger Lakes, and Southern Tier with heavy rain, strong winds, and severe thunderstorms. National Grid and NYSEG/RG&E secured a combined 1,058 external contract workers to assist with the significant pole, tree, and conductor damage impacting 193,713 customers with 82,395 peak statewide outages. On March 17, by 8:00 AM, the companies had restored over 100,000 customers while continuing to onboard additional resources to expedite the effort.

April brought two back-to-back severe thunderstorm systems with a line of wind, rain, and damaging lightning causing 74,787 outages statewide. Peak outages on April 15 were 18,162, while April 29 brought peak outages to 33,329. While the storms were impactful and had followed closely behind a minor weather event on April 12th, the utilities were able to make restorations quickly with only 194 external workers brought in for the April 29 event.

A short reprieve from severe weather ended in June with two significant thunderstorms and an early extreme heat event, resulting in a heat dome over most of New York. Over 346,979 customers were impacted between June 19 and June 22 with heat related outages extending through June 26. The utilities brought in 941 external workers to support the complex restoration and response during these events, including repairing damage to Con Edison's underground network. Utilities provided their crews with safety messaging and resources to operate in extreme conditions.

Shortly after the heatwave's conclusion, a line of severe thunderstorms impacted NYSEG and Central Hudson's service territories in the Southern Tier and Hudson Valley regions on July 3 resulting in 156,245 customer outages. The storm brought straight line winds reaching 70 MPH causing 64 broken poles and 456 wires down. The significant impacts to the electrical system caused extended restoration times even with the addition of 733 external crews to support restoration and repair. Peak outages were 75,268 at the height of the event on July 3, however over 70,000 customers were able to be restored by 8:00 p.m. on July 4 with remaining outages lingering through July 6.

A second significant heat event occurred from July 7 through July 9 impacting Con Edison's service territory. While outages remained relatively low, the company deployed generators to support the network, performed switch checks, and activated its Distribution Engineering Situation Room. OREP staff participated in scheduled company calls to support the response and maintain situational awareness.

On July 25, another severe thunderstorm system impacted New York City and Long Island with wire and tree damage. Con Edison was able to shift internal crews from the Bronx/Westchester division as well as secure 125 external contractors from Orange and Rockland to support response and restorations in Staten Island. PSEG-LI also experienced significant tree and wire damage causing 62 separate incidents across Suffolk County. There were over 35,104 customer outages with a peak of 31,697 and the response supported by over 250 external crews.

October brought three multi-event storm systems beginning on October 12 with a Nor'easter resulting in 59,664 customer outages, peaking at 12,405 following the heavy rains, sustained high winds, and hazard-level peak wind gusts. The companies brought in 1,774 external workers to support the incident and no outages extended beyond 72 hours. On October 19, a high wind and rain system impacted 103,606 customers with peak outages at 21,297. The companies brought in 334 external workers to support the event. NYSEG and RG&E service territories experienced the most outages, however, they were able to restore service to over 75,175 customers by 8:00 p.m. on October 19.

Widespread high wind gusts across the state impacted all service territories from October 30 through October 31 resulting in 195,767 statewide outages with peak outages at 43,226. The utilities brought in 705 external workers to support response, restoration, and repair, however, were unable to complete restorations swiftly due to persistent winds preventing the safe operation of bucket trucks. Utility crews must adhere to industry safety standards to protect workers, which sets parameters for the safe operation of bucket trucks in adverse weather conditions.

Another high wind event occurred on November 5 affecting 39,532 customers with peak outages at 13,804. Strong wind gusts, combined with heavy tree foliage resulted in downed trees and limbs, causing damage to the electric infrastructure. Utilities brought in 1,510 external workers to supplement internal crews. On November 26, a winter storm impacting much of National Grid's Western and Upstate New York service territory caused 94,613 outages with peak outages at 24,733. More than 45,000 customers were able to be restored by 12:00 p.m. on November 27 despite numerous downed trees, broken poles, and damaged transformers and hazardous working conditions amidst lake effect snow. The utilities brought in 897 external workers to support response to the incident.

December brought two major incidents, including a statewide windstorm on December 18 and another winter storm on December 28. The December 18 event affected 252,509 customers with statewide peak of 50,017 outages. The companies brought in 1,215 external workers and were able to restore more than 160,000 customers by 10:00 PM on December 19. While wind conditions and heavy lake effect snow impacted restoration activities, crews worked throughout the night to respond to outages where safe to do so.

The second winter storm brought significant impacts and affected 276,153 customers with peak outages at 74,101 statewide. Outages fluctuated throughout the response and restoration due to evolving weather and wind conditions associated with the storm. Utilities adjusted resource plans as the weather outperformed initial forecasts, eventually bringing in a total of 2,130 external workers from eight states and the two Canadian Provinces to supplement internal workforces. Extensive tree damage caused by substantial snow, strong winds, and ice accretions was reported in the Genesee Valley, Buffalo and northern Erie County along the lakeshore, as well as southern Erie County. While most outages were able to be restored by December 30, isolated and scattered single customer outages persisted through December 31 in the hardest to

access areas and additional outages were incurred by persistent high wind conditions following the storm.

Conclusion

Throughout the year, OREP participated in key state agency activities concurrently with response to weather systems, including multi-agency coordination calls, supporting coverage for State EOC activities, and participation on 97 storm-related utility calls. Further, the emergency preparedness team supported the Department-wide continuity incident for three months, including fulfilling command roles, record keeping and assisting in the establishment of an alternate office location.

To fulfill regulatory responsibilities, emergency preparedness staff also conducted thorough reviews of the utility emergency response plans, translating to over 3,000 pages read, and contributed to the March 2025 Order approving said plans. Support was provided for monitoring outages impacting polling locations during early voting and Election Day throughout the June Primaries and fall elections. To continue to grow the team's capabilities and capacities, staff attended multiple high-level training courses expanding on incident command, exercise design and evaluation, and public information messaging, as well as representing the Department through attending an out-of-state Utility Disaster Preparedness Conference. The team supported Department learning by assembling and delivering two training courses on the Department Continuity of Operations Plan, delivered in January 2025, and a presentation on the Emergency Preparedness section delivered in August 2025.

The Department's Utility Security Section (OREP USS) oversees utility cyber and physical security preparedness. Their core function is to ensure that critical facilities of the regulated utilities are well protected from possible malicious threats and manageable risk. Staff conduct thorough inspections, audits and program assessments of the physical and cyber security posture of utility facilities, sites and assets. OREP USS established and maintains a "Best Practices for Utility Physical and Cyber Security" document disseminated to all regulated utility companies. This serves as the basis for the conduct of audits and inspections.

OREP USS maintains routine contact with regulated utility companies to exchange information and intelligence regarding security threats and incidents worldwide. In 2025, OREP USS documented over 200 instances of information sharing with utility companies.

Additionally, Cybersecurity staff perform on-site evaluations of the cyber security measures, practices and procedures at each regulated utility to ensure that critical digital control systems are well protected against malicious external and internal hacking attacks and other forms of potential cyber system disruption. Cyber-audits are scheduled quarterly at each utility, with a concentrated focus on a specific area of cyber security diligence. Additionally, cyber security oversight includes regular review of utility company measures to protect confidential customer information from compromise by

cyber breach. Recommendations for utility company response or remediation are communicated to the utility to ensure proper corrective steps are taken.

This year, Department of Public Service staff worked to enhance the reliability, security, and resiliency of New York State's energy industry by creating cybersecurity regulations for New York's utilities. This ongoing, multi-year project involves setting mandatory cybersecurity practices, event reporting, and incident response plans for utilities and is in the comment/ revised rulemaking phase.

On June 13, the Commission proposed mandatory baseline cybersecurity regulations for IT across all sectors that fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission, including electric distribution, gas distribution, steam distribution, cable television providers, telephone providers, and for-profit water companies. The proposed regulations are a first step in a multi-phase project to enhance cybersecurity across all regulated sectors and across all vectors of attack, including IT, legacy operational technology, and emerging technology related to distributed energy resources. Robust cybersecurity is necessary to protect New York consumers from financial losses. It is also crucial to ensuring the resilience and reliability of the electric grid, a necessary step in New York's long-term climate goals.

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

New York State Police

Special Operations Response Team

The Special Operations Response Team (SORT) serves as both the New York State Division of State Police's (NYSP) tactical team as well as their search and rescue team, including high angle rescue and helicopter hoist rescue. To improve effectiveness and mitigate risk, SORT expanded capabilities and refined tactics to provide better support. When SORT is not detailed to a mission they train continuously and are always available in the highest state of readiness. SORT Operators attended undercover schools instructed by Special Investigation Units (SIU) to assist with human trafficking and other investigations. SORT Operators are tasked with apprehension of suspects during proactive investigations regarding underage prostitution in a "low visibility" capacity. This year, SORT executed 284 operations, including 28 barricaded subjects, 75 narcotics/firearms search warrant executions, 15 searches for wanted or lost subjects and 2 rope rescue/recoveries.

Mobile Field Unit

The Mobile Field Unit (MFU) serves as a FEMA-type mobile field force to provide law enforcement surge in areas experiencing civil disorder. There are eight MFU teams comprised of approximately 40 members each in Troops A, B, C, D, E, F/K, G, and L/New York City. There is also a canine contingent and a chemical munitions (less lethal) detail. There are three cut trailers across the state. An extraction refresher was conducted with all certified members and teams conducted quarterly training throughout the year, participating in consolidated training at the State Preparedness Training Center. Two platoons were on standby for the State of the State address.

Bomb Disposal Unit

The NYSP Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) is staffed with nine members who completed the FBI's Hazardous Devices Training School. The BDU directs post-blast investigations at any explosion, arranges for disposal of explosive materials, and acts as the Division's subject matter experts on any investigations involving explosives or suspected explosives. In 2025, the BDU handled 406 calls for service, including recovery of 179 explosive devices, investigation of 30 suspicious packages, and investigation of two bomb threats. BDU played a key role in planning and participating in Canine Week and the Excelsior Challenge at the State Preparedness Training Center.

Canine Unit

The NYSP Canine Unit includes narcotics detection canines, explosives detection canines, and bloodhounds, which are spread throughout New York State. NYSP Canine unit handled 4865 calls for service including 283 total tracking calls, 80 building searches, 1150 explosive/weapons searches, 794 narcotic searches, and 179 cadaver searches. Other calls for service included Site Security details, canine speeches/demonstrations and VIP protection details.

Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team

The NYSP Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT) was requested 50 times statewide, including 16 responses to Clandestine Drug Labs and 19 suspicious CBRN substance calls. There are 5 CCSERT Teams statewide made up of 105 troopers and investigators. Teams participated in the 2025 Saratoga Belmont Racing events in Saratoga, NY and the Ryder Cup Golf Tournament in Bethpage, NY assisting with radiation and air monitoring.

Underwater Recovery Team

This year, the Underwater Recovery Team (URT) conducted 3,720 dives and recovered 24 drowning victims, nine pieces of evidence, five vehicles, and 17 weapons. The URT remained on high alert with one airboat and one rigid hull inflatable boat strategically located in each of the nine NYSP Troops, allowing for a swift water boat package to be

available anywhere anytime. The URT played a major role in the Flood Incident Response Strike Team with their inclusion in the swift water rescue mission. The URT deployed as swift water rescue teams for multiple heavy rainstorms including June flooding in Chenango County, and May and July flooding events in the Mid-Hudson Region. The team also submitted proposals for Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests submitted by the states of Arkansas and Texas for flooding events.

Troop L's URT became fully operational in July after significant planning. Its ten-member team can respond to any water-related emergencies in New York City and the Long Island region. The Novice Dive School added 16 new divers to the URT, and members coordinated 35 other statewide training events including swiftwater mobile (exercise and in-service), ice/cold water rescue, rope rescue operator, emergency boat operator, UTV/ATV operator, side-scan sonar operations, aviation survival and egress, and deep-water recovery.

NYSOEM Liaison Program

The NYSOEM Liaison Program is detailed to NYSOEM headquarters and routinely assigned to executive level planning groups and as Division Liaison Officers (DLO). NYSP members staffed the State EOC for activations including multiple weather events and the DOCCS-related event. The unit was also involved in a State EOC coastal storm tabletop exercise, a State EOC wildfire functional exercise, the Ginna nuclear power plant plume exercise, and the Nine Mile Point nuclear power plant federally evaluated exercise. Members of the office also attended FEMA AWR-317 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Core Concepts Course and hosted with the assistance of DHSES Training, MGT-475, Crowd Management for Sports and Special Events and AWR-167, Sport and Special Event Risk Management for NYSP members prior to the Ryder Cup. The unit was also engaged in the annual EMOP and COOP updates.

Radiological Interdiction Detection and Enforcement

The Radiological Interdiction Detection and Enforcement (RIDE) program was involved in numerous high-profile events including the NY Governor's State of the State Address, the Belmont at Saratoga Racetrack, and the Ryder Cup at Bethpage Golf Course. The RIDE program also participated in a US Department of Energy triage training exercise, a nuclear detonation exercise hosted and supported by the Department of War and Department of Energy, NYPD-sponsored tabletop exercise in New York City, and a week-long full scale CBRN exercise named "Operation Mohawk Arrow" which included the Albany, Saratoga, and Lake George regions.

Radiation/nuclear detection training was conducted for State Police Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT), K-9 handlers, State Police emergency managers, bomb disposal technicians, and commercial vehicle enforcement personnel. This included refresher courses with the personal radiation detector and

hosting FEMA PER-243 radiological course for NYSP members at the State Police Academy.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Unit

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Unit provides first response situational awareness to scenes for responding officers and incident commanders regardless of location utilizing drones. Missions include overwatch, search and rescue, collision reconstruction, crime scene mapping, interior special operations, hazardous material spills, environmental disaster documentation, special event monitoring, and more.

In 2025, there were 5,234 operational flights (up from 3,403 in 2024) and 4,498 training flights (up from 1,505 in 2024). Counter UAS tracking and air operations supervision capabilities were expanded in 2025, allowing for the detection/coordination of other aircraft in the vicinity of special events.

Last year UAS and Counter UAS was utilized to monitor Hudson River ice flows for the U.S. Coast Guard, support the Belmont Stakes Horse Race in Saratoga Springs (46k+ attendance), NASCAR at Watkins Glen (80k+ attendance), New York State Fair (100k+ per day attendance), the PGA Ryder Cup (50k+ per day attendance with Governor and POTUS), barricaded subjects, along with routine patrol calls.

Two Port Security Grant Fund (PSGF) Investment Justifications (IJ's) were awarded to the UAS Unit: one for 12 fixed-wing drones and one for Counter UAS equipment. The UAS Unit supported New York State partners by presenting/instructing at the DHSES UAS Summit, OFPC Technical Rescue Conference, and with DHSES Basic and Advanced UAS Courses.

Department of State

The Department of State (DOS) is committed to supporting disaster response and recovery efforts in New York State. The agency aims to address all aspects of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation against potential hazards throughout the state.

In July 2025, the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council (referred to as the "Code Council") adopted new rules that amended and updated the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the "Uniform Code") and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (the "Energy Code"). The Department of State, acting on behalf of the Code Council, strives to be a national leader in developing building codes that ensure the built environment in New York is safe, sustainable, and energy efficient.

The Office of Planning, Development, and Community Infrastructure continues to work with communities to increase their resilience to climate change impacts, particularly coastal flooding. The Office employs key resilience principles that help communities

understand their vulnerabilities, advance resilience measures that reduce risk, including using natural infrastructure and natural processes, and avoid investments that are not highly adapted to a changing climate.

To enhance disaster response capabilities, the Department of State also collaborated with the Office of Fire Prevention and Control to create the New York Safety Assessment Program. This new program replaces both the Department of State's Code Enforcement Disaster Assistance Response (CEDAR) program and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control's Disaster Assessment Response Team (DART). It unifies the approach to better meet community needs and improve efficiency and effectiveness during emergency responses. The Safety Assessment Program is a multi-agency initiative that brings together the expertise of professional engineers, architects, and code enforcement officials from various state agencies to assist local governments in assessing the safety of built environments following a disaster.

The Department of State continually improves its emergency management plan and COOP to ensure essential operations continue during disasters. The Safety Assessment Program remains key in the Department's disaster response efforts, providing training to code enforcement officials and design professionals, which empowers them to conduct safety evaluations of buildings affected by disasters. The Emergency Management Unit developed a series of training courses to prepare code officials for disaster response and recovery operations.

Thruway Authority

The New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) planned for, responded to, and recovered from a wide range of events, incidents, and emergencies along its system this year, as well as participated in and assisted with incidents and emergencies outside its system.

Planning

NYSTA executive staff met with division directors and maintenance sections to review all snow and ice equipment. Staff performed its annual review of winter maintenance operations and conducted meetings with winter maintenance personnel to discuss operations and responses. NYSTA ensured key staff remain current in ICS and NIMS training, and NY Responds. Executive staff and NYSTA's Emergency Management Office reviewed, updated and submitted its COOP and EMOP to DHSES.

Additionally, Thruway Emergency Management staff participated in multiple planning sessions including the Integrated Preparedness Planning workshop as well as the Drought Management, Ice Jam, and H5N1 task forces, and New York State Citizen Alerting Committee meetings.

The Thruway Emergency Management Office attended the annual Canal Corporation Dam Safety meetings and several County Emergency Preparedness Assessment

reviews including Rockland, Ulster, Madison, Herkimer, Columbia and Montgomery. Thruway staff also participated in the National Grid-NY East electrical exercise and the National Grid electrical and natural gas safety demonstration. NYSTA Emergency Management staff attended planning meetings for June/July 2026 special events, including the FIFA World Cup and Sail 250 International Naval Review. Several Thruway personnel also attended the 2025 State EOC functional exercise.

NYSTA continues to coordinate and participate in statewide preparation and planning activities with partner agencies including the Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and DHSES. NYSTA hosted two meetings at its administrative headquarters with the National Weather Service and NYSOEM regional staff. These meetings reviewed snow and ice planning and response operations, including a walk-through of NYSTA's Statewide Operations Center.

NYSTA coordinated with PennDOT, NJDOT, and ConnDOT to exchange information on snow and ice preparations during winter weather events. NYSTA supported snow and ice events with real time messaging, preemptive truck restrictions, and potential closures.

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's Transportation Management Centers (TMC) on traffic management issues, incident management, roadway closure coordination and planning, and coordinated messaging to motorists.

Response

NYSTA supported several NY Responds missions related to weather events and infrastructure failures, including a winter weather event with snow and ice equipment off system, transporting water tankers to communities experiencing water main breaks, transporting personal protective equipment to support wildfire response in Suffolk County, and providing support during a statewide heat event. NYSTA transported equipment from the Oriskany stockpile to the New York State Fairgrounds, as well as two generators – one to Niagara County for a 9-1-1 communications facility power upgrade, and the other to the City of Oswego Wastewater Treatment facility.

In August, NYSTA responded to a major mass casualty incident on I-90 at milepost 403.8 eastbound between Exit 48 (Pembroke, Medina, NY Route 77) and Exit 49 (Depew, Lockport/NY Route 78). The incident involved a tour bus that rolled over. The bus was carrying 58 passengers. 53 occupants sustained varying degrees of injuries and were transported to local hospitals for treatment, and five fatalities occurred.

Statewide Radio Upgrade Project

A project to upgrade the Thruway Authority's legacy analog radio communication infrastructure is currently underway. In 2024, the Authority contracted with L3Harris Technologies for the design, implementation, and maintenance of a public safety grade land mobile radio system. This project aims to replace NYSTA's legacy radio communication infrastructure, originally installed in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Due to technological obsolescence, lack of manufacturer support for critical components, and increasing cost to maintain, the current system requires an upgrade to ensure continued, reliable communication for public safety, maintenance, and emergency response operations. This modernization effort will leverage advanced digital standards, specifically the APCO Project 25 Phase II, which offers improved audio quality, encryption capability and capacity while supporting future regulatory requirements and interoperability. The primary objective is to implement a state-of-the-art radio system that aligns with NYSTA's needs, ensuring secure, efficient, and interoperable communication for operations.

Cybersecurity

NYSTA advanced several cybersecurity initiatives in 2025 to enhance system resilience and security. These enhancements included:

- **Security Information and Events Management (SIEM) Implementation:** The Thruway Authority implemented a SIEM platform with 24/7 monitoring to provide continuous oversight of key security log sources. This capability extends delivering always on threat detection across Thruway's environment strengthening the Authority's security posture. By centralizing and correlating logs from multiple systems, SIEM enables faster identification of anomalous activity, suspicious behavior and threat detection.
- **Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) Enhancement:** As part of strengthening the Thruway Authority's identity management and access practices, MFA controls have been enhanced for privileged accounts. This reduces the risk of unauthorized access and enhances the security of privileged identities.
- **Penetration Testing:** The Thruway Authority adopted an ethical hacking service that involves continuous, simulated cyberattacks like those used by real threat actors. This capability enables the Authority to proactively identify exploitation points, validate mitigation measures, and strengthen its cybersecurity posture. Unlike traditional point in time assessments, this service provides an ongoing view of cyber risk gaps and delivers continuous security assurance for the Thruway Authority.

These initiatives reinforced NYSTA's commitment to cybersecurity and risk mitigation across its operations.

Department of Transportation

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) responded to multiple storms and emergencies, prepared for and managed planned events, and assisted in various asylum seeker resource support missions. NYSDOT was also involved in various planning efforts for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Sail 4th 250, and America 250 events. Additionally, the Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO) and cybersecurity programs continued preparedness, planning, coordination, training, and exercise activities.

Planning

NYSDOT is always working to ensure plans are in place and that its team is well trained to execute missions safely and efficiently. Key to the planning process at NYSDOT are the activities of committees such as ICS Community of Practice (CoP) Group; Road Status and Damage Assessment Tool CoP Group; ESF-1; Emergency Response System (ERS) Working Group; Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Steering Committee; and the Statewide Emergency Event Resource Tracking (SEERT) Working Group.

Cybersecurity

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 significant accomplishment in 2025 by the group was the creation of a standardized “welcome packet” for use in all NYSDOT regions to give deployed highway maintenance workers important information and contacts in one packet. Additionally, the SEERT Working Group is in the process of collaborating with New York State Information Technology Services to enhance its resource tracking tool and reports that can be generated, focusing on creating electronic documents along with interactive dashboards.

The federal government updated TIM training material. The ETO program used the updated material to develop a four-hour NYSDOT specific TIM training course. The ETO program also updated key agency documents and procedures, including the Department’s ETO Playbook, EMOP and COOP.

In 2024, the ETO program initiated a regional COOP Workshop to standardize and update regional COOPs across the Department. This effort was completed in 2025. The ETO program continues to work with the regions to create “mini” COOPs for Traffic Management Centers and NYSDOT Residencies. The Department’s Pandemic COOP continues to include all necessary guidance. The Statewide Transportation Information Coordination Center incident reporting procedures were reviewed, verified, and updated.

The ETO and ERS SharePoint sites continued to be improved in 2025. The ETO program added/updated various training materials, documents, and linkages to the ETO

site, making it more of a one-stop-shop for emergency related preparedness and training resources. In 2025, ETO, with the assistance of New York State Information Technology Services, continued to refine and update the ERS regional situational awareness reporting form. These updates continue to enhance usability and help create consistent reporting from the regions. Various training materials and documents were updated to correlate with the upgrades.

NYSDOT was also involved with planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Sail 4th 250 and America 250. NYSDOT is on three committees run by the host committee: Readiness and Testing, TDM, and Roadway. NYSDOT also participated in a FIFA tabletop exercise held by the host committee in New Jersey.

Additionally, 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 fleet personnel, working with vendors, overnighing of parts, and ensuring prompt availability of fleet equipment. Every effort is made to ensure close to 100 percent uptime regardless of local weather conditions since all assets may be needed immediately.

Finally, the NYSDOT Cybersecurity Team enhanced the Department’s resistance to evolving cyber threats by conducting cybersecurity awareness training and a tabletop exercise for TMC personnel, in addition to executing department-wide phishing simulations. The NYSDOT Cybersecurity Team continues to conduct data classifications for OT information assets, ensuring each asset is appropriately categorized and secured. Lastly, the NYSDOT Cybersecurity SharePoint site continues to be improved, adding various cybersecurity advisories, articles, and other helpful resources to foster a security-conscious culture at NYSDOT.

Outreach and Coordination

Continuous outreach is vital to NYSDOT’s preparedness program. In 2025, the Department participated in several conferences, meetings, and presentations. Along with internal coordination among regions, the ETO unit also interacts with numerous state and local agencies and emergency response partners. NYSDOT held several meetings to discuss agency capabilities as well as communication and collaboration during response activities. Participants of these meetings included several state agencies as well as local police, the National Weather Service, the Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC), and the Transportation Operations Coordination Committee (TRANSCOM).

When severe weather was forecasted, NYSDOT participated in event coordination calls with NYSOEM and other state and local emergency response agencies. To improve efficiency for the National Weather Service, NYSDOT continued to work closely with other state agencies to host and consolidate statewide multi-agency weather calls.

NYSDOT continued partnership with the New York State Weather Risk Communication Center to provide enhanced weather briefings and forecasting data. NYSDOT maintained a strong working relationship with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Parks who provided 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 2025, REMs provided TIM training for towing companies, participated in dam drills and radiological exercises, participated in tabletop exercises with various airports, 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. NITTEC serves an important role in organizing and facilitating conference calls during major incidents – including weather events, where agency planning and response coordination takes place between local stakeholders. NYSDOT and NITTEC continue to utilize our past experiences to refine the Regional Expressway Closure Guidelines for transportation agencies and first responders, including NYSOEM, Thruway Authority, county departments of public works, local emergency management, law enforcement agencies, and fire departments. The installation of closure gates at expressway access points is one example of leveraging partnership to more effectively utilize limited NYSDOT and first responder resources available during major incidents. Coordination and participation in regional stakeholder workshops and TIM training for first responders are part of the collaborative partnership between NYSDOT and NITTEC.

Similarly, TRANSCOM serves as a conduit for coordinating response plans between the 16 transportation agencies and first responders located in the tri-state area downstate. 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 New York 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 NY (TANY), the American Trucking Association (ATA), and independent truckers.

The New York State 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 traffic 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. The committee recently updated the Statewide TIM training, and they are always looking for new ways to engage with the responder community. To date, more than 17,000 first responders in New York State were 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 partners with National Grid and 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. NYSDOT's Utility and Energy Management Bureau continues to improve coordination between the Department and various utilities. Additionally, the ETO program constantly works to improve our relationship with National Grid and other utilities as well as with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to ensure seamless coordination during large scale events.

The Department 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 2025. Statewide training was provided in the following emergency response topics:

- Basic Emergency Response (ICS) for all employees (mandatory online course)
- Development/adoption of a detailed five-year NIMS Training Program based on ICS position
- Asset Management System
- Samsara
- Road Status and Damage Assessment II
- Snow University (snow and ice operations training for managers)
- ICS Environmental Permitting & Damage Assessment Documentation and Reporting
- ICS Communications and Reporting

- Statewide Emergency Event Resource Tracker (SEERT)
- COOP

Additional training by the ETO program was provided related to our SharePoint site and Emergency Response System (ERS) to help improve event reporting. Training included REMs/Deputy REMs, main office logistics and planning section staff, and Advanced SharePoint.

In 2025, the ETO program continued to coordinate with the Workforce Learning and Development Bureau within NYSDOT to refine the newly released Learning Management System that is utilized statewide. This system offers user-friendly experience for the employees, and it also enables ETO to better track our NIMS compliance statewide.

In September 2025, the Department began planning the multiagency/multidiscipline Traffic Incident Management Symposium (TIMPosium), to be held at the State Fairgrounds. This bi-annual event highlighted the intricacies of different disciplines, focusing on enhancing situational awareness of responders during live incidents and expanding knowledge of new technologies to increase safety and reduce hazards to first and second responders. This event was attended by more than 100 participants from partners from across New York State.

To supplement operator resources for Department snow and ice operations, NYSDOT developed a program to train 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 2025, but the framework is in place in case they are needed.

Exercises

The Department conducted and participated in numerous drills during 2025, 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; NY Responds; 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 major staging area drill in June in Oneida County that included multiple partner agencies.

Technology Updates

System updates were developed, implemented, and tested, including SEERT platform upgrade; Asset Management System updates; Samsara updates; ERS SharePoint Site updates, e.g., regional reporting form; ETO SharePoint Site updates; and various cybersecurity initiatives.

Response

Storm response is a core function of NYSDOT. In 2025, the Department responded to 15 significant events. Out of these 15 events, nine were for winter storm response which included ice jam monitoring and clearance activities. Other responses were for high winds/severe weather, wildfires, border crossing delays between Canada and the United States, and the potential Long Island Railroad Strike.

The Department continued to ensure continuity in the delivery of mission essential functions, including ensuring employees had technology needed to work from home such as RSA tokens, network connectivity, and computers. The Department also continued to offer an interim voluntary telecommuting program which allows employees to work from home up to five days per pay period where it is operationally feasible to do so and enhances program needs.

In 2025, the Department staged two long-reach excavators in anticipation of river ice jams that could potentially cause flooding and result in detrimental impacts to state highway infrastructure. These excavators were not used in 2025.

NYSDOT continues to maintain a strong and productive partnership with the University at Albany Center of Excellence and the State Weather Risk Communications Center (SWRCC). As part of this partnership, the Center provides the Department with custom webpages, dashboards, and weather forecast briefings that leverage information collected from the 127 Mesonet stations across the state. This information continues to be vital in 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, in addition to, cutting edge AI machine learning to determine winter road conditions. This work is being done as part of the University at Albany's collaboration with the NSF (National Science Foundation) and AI2ES (Artificial Intelligence to Environmental Science) program.

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 3,715 out of a total of 3,769 disconnects included under this initiative.

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 4472 (2019 Halloween Winds and Flooding): All projects submitted to FEMA. NYSDOT is waiting for review and/or obligation.
- DR 4480 (COVID 19): FEMA is reviewing all projects submitted. The event is nearing the final stages of FEMA reimbursement.
- DR 4567 (2020 - Tropical Storm Isaias): Event transitioned to DHSES. FEMA approved/obligated all PWs. Awaiting close out.
- DR 4615 (2021 - Tropical Storm Ida): Event transitioned to DHSES. FEMA approved/obligated all PWs.
- DR 4625 (2021 - Tropical Storm Fred): Event transitioned to DHSES. FEMA approved/obligated all PWs. Awaiting close out.
- DR 4694 (Dec. 2022 Buffalo Blizzard). One project remains for FEMA review and obligation.
- DR 4723 (July 2023 Rain event). One project remains for FEMA review and obligation. DR 4755 (Late September 2023 Rain event). Event transitioned to DHSES. FEMA approved/obligated all PWs. Awaiting close out.
- DR 4814 (Hurricane Beryl). Event transitioned to DHSES. FEMA approved/obligated all PWs. Awaiting close out.
- DR 4825 (Tropical Storm Debby). Four projects have been obligated by FEMA. Two projects are under review by FEMA. Work with DHSES to provide documentation for one project.
- DR 4839 (Mid-August 2024 Rain event). Event transitioned to DHSES. FEMA approved/obligated all PWs. Awaiting close out.
- FM 5547 (Jennings Creek Fire). NYSDOT submitted required documentation. Awaiting FEMA response/review.

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: Closed out event.
- NY 13-01 Hurricane Sandy: Active event. Projects for New York City Department of Transportation and Nassau County are progressing. Additional funds being sought to complete project. Source of funds is unclear currently.
- NY 20-01 October 2019 storms: FHWA approved/obligated all eligible projects. The event is nearing the final stages of FHWA reimbursement. Closing out event.
- NY 21-02 (2021 - Tropical Storm Fred): Active event. Most documentation was provided. This event is in the beginning stages of FHWA reimbursement.
- NY 23-01 July Rain Event: Active Event. Most documentation was submitted to Main Office from regions. FHWA approved future funding for event once documentation is provided and approved.

- NY 24-01 Tropical Storm Debby - Active Event. Some documentation was submitted by regions.
- NY 24-02 Suffolk County Rain Event – Event was declared, working with region to collect and process Municipal DDIRs.
- NY 24-03 July Storm Event: Active Event consisting of 4 DDIRs from Region 7. Currently awaiting Municipality sites.

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.

Cybersecurity

In 2025, NYSDOT further enhanced its ability to provide the public with a secure digital transportation infrastructure. The primary focus of the NYSDOT Cyber Team was the operational technology at its 10 TMCs. Improvements made are a result of increased security personnel, security being implemented into planning and procurement efforts, as well as collaboration between the NYSDOT Cyber Team, Traffic Safety and Mobility Office (TSMO), and the Office of Information Technology Services' (NYSITS) dedicated NYSDOT team. NYSDOT's ability to tackle identified shortfalls and vulnerabilities across regions through its security program section is bolstered by the hiring of dedicated cybersecurity professionals, the onboarding of a new Chief Information Security Officer, and more NYSITS personnel committed to the NYSDOT mission.

Accomplishments

- Incident Response Plan Exercise: With an established Incident Response Plan for information security, the NYSDOT Cyber Team executed a tabletop exercise with regional TMC technical staff, TMC leadership, as well as regional emergency manager participation. This exercise included a cybersecurity awareness training covering multiple aspects of cybersecurity such as device protection, intelligence threat reports, and artificial intelligence technology implemented at NYSDOT. The tabletop exercise identified and addressed areas of concern at the regional level such as communication channels, responsibility of NYSDOT First responders at TMCs, as well as identifying digital infrastructure concerns.
- Incident Response: The NYSDOT Cyber Team established a footprint in the incident response process regarding end point attacks within NYSDOT owned systems. The Cyber Team also tracks these incidents to identify reoccurring concerns that violate policy. Communication efforts are pursued to provide awareness to NYSDOT personnel on common issues to mitigate State policy violations.

- **Phishing Campaign:** The NYSDOT Cyber Team partnered with the NYSITS to execute a department wide phishing campaign, e.g., approximately 8,000 personnel to provide the NYSDOT Cyber Team with an assessment of end user capacity to detect and report a phishing attempt from an adversary.
- **Information Asset Classifications:** The NYSDOT Cyber Team continued to conduct and track data classifications for OT technology. The NYSDOT Cyber Team completed 31 information asset classifications this year. The Cyber Team also assists in coordination efforts for AI assessments that involve collaboration with legal as well as the program area procuring technology with artificial intelligence capability.
- **Cyber Risk Coordination:** The DOT Cyber Team is responsible for reviewing the Office of ITS consolidated reviews after their vetting process of technology being procured at NYSDOT. The Cyber Risk Coordinator accepts identified risks and the DOT Cyber Team works with information owners to establish Security Plans based on identified risks.
- **Vulnerability Management:** Analyze and track threat report information disseminated from official sources and coordinate remediation efforts to eliminate identified vulnerabilities.
- **Network Security:** The NYSDOT Cyber Team orchestrated the deployment of major upgrades to NYSDOT's TMC network infrastructure such as firewalls, routers, and switches. These upgrades were foundational to enhancing TMC network security with modern infrastructure.
- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** The NYSDOT Cyber Team worked with regional TMCs as well as NYSITS to implement MFA across various systems that enhanced identity and access management security of NYSDOT systems.
- **Remote Access Security:** Efforts to expand secure network access for TMC systems have been accomplished. TMC systems were vetted to identify systems that required a remote access tool. Systems identified with a need to utilize remote access features now have a Virtual Private Network solution deployed to further secure network access at TMCs. Remote access capability was removed from systems without this need.
- **Collaboration and communication:** A major effort to establish positive collaboration and communication with stakeholders of cybersecurity at NYSDOT was ongoing. The NYSDOT Cyber Team established relationships with NYSITS SST, TMC engineers, NYMTC engineers, and TSMO leadership to enhance incident response and systems security.

Office of Victim Services

The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) engaged 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. This included participating in tabletop exercises with DHSES and community partners to demonstrate how the agency would assist after a mass casualty incident.

The agency had 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 aid onsite in the event of a criminal mass casualty incident. The agency's Director and senior staff monitored mass incidents and other high-profile victimizations to activate, test, and update the agency's EMOP.

OVS also launched the Mass Violence Response Council (MVRC) in 2025. The MVRC assists in addressing immediate and long-term needs experienced by victims, survivors, and those impacted by mass violence events. The MVRC is made up of approximately 34 members, including state agencies, local jurisdictions, and victim assistance organizations. Along with other stakeholder partners, the MVRC will address challenges and gaps related to mass violence and expand collaboration related to mass violence response amongst New York State agencies and with local stakeholders.

Additionally, OVS contracted with the University of Albany to develop and administer a multi-year, state-wide Disaster Mental Health Preparedness Training (DMHPT) for key stakeholders in response to a mass violence event. With a focus on trauma mitigation, trauma education, and emotional first aid, the DMHPT training will explore how to adapt to basic techniques for individuals and groups in psychological first aid. OVS intends to use this multi-year endeavor to equip local and regional leaders and stakeholders with the necessary skills to navigate challenging situations and foster resilience within a community in the aftermath of a mass violence incident.

"Resource Connect" is the agency's online resource to locate programs by keyword search or by geographic location. OVS is in the final stages of developing and testing an online emergency banner that OVS will activate in the event of a mass casualty emergency. The banner feature will alert individuals of the victim assistance programs that can provide immediate assistance and resources to the community impacted by the mass casualty emergency.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross served the residents of New York State by meeting its core mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. To meet this core mission, the Red Cross provided disaster relief efforts, lifesaving blood products, and health and safety classes throughout the State.

Whether responding to single-family house fires or significant natural disasters, it was Red Cross volunteers who answered the call for help every day. From supporting New York State in its response, a mass casualty motor vehicle accident involving a charter bus in Western NY to supporting the New York State Emergency Operations Center with trained representatives of the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross continues to deliver on its core mission through the impactful dedication, determination and compassion that our volunteers bring to every single disaster regardless of size or scope.

The American Red Cross continued its successful Home Fire Preparedness campaign in 2025. 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. Smoke alarm installations occurred throughout the year. In 2025 the American Red Cross installed over 27,500 smoke alarms in 8,500 households of New York State. This includes access and functional needs support to over 1,000 individuals with a disability, nearly 5,000 older New Yorkers while also serving 5,000 youth.

When not responding to residential fires and disasters in New York State, more than 500 volunteers of the American Red Cross from New York supported disasters relief operation deployments across the United States including the Los Angeles wildfires, Alaskan tsunami, flooding in Texas, and dozens more disasters. While not directly providing services to New York State, these volunteers gain experience and knowledge across the country to provide in support of the next significant incident.

As a full-service blood center provider, the American Red Cross continued 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. Blood donations were collected to provide blood products to individuals in need. The Red Cross Training Services continued its efforts to provide training to New Yorkers in CPR/AED/First Aid, aquatics and other health and safety courses.

211NYS

Statewide Information and Referral Services

As a statewide information and referral system connecting New Yorkers to health and human services, 211 provides 24-hour regional access to trained Community Resource Specialists in multiple languages. In 2025, the statewide 211 network handled 2,159,257 calls, including 327,277 calls and 5,214 text message interactions from communities outside New York City.

Through a network of eight regional contact centers across the state and in partnership with 311NYC, 211 maintains a comprehensive database of community programs and resources while also providing government and nonprofit partners with insight into emerging community needs. During emergencies, the availability of reliable information

through 211 helps reduce non-emergency calls to 911, helping to ensure that emergency lines remain available for life-threatening situations.

Community Needs and Service Trends

The most frequently requested needs identified through 211 in 2025 included food insecurity, housing and income support. Call trends throughout the year indicated increased demand for basic needs support. The federal government shutdown in October and November created uncertainty for many households that rely on public benefits and services. At the same time, changes to federal assistance programs, including adjustments and delays to SNAP benefits, contributed to rising food insecurity and financial strain among vulnerable populations. Requests related to food and other basic needs increased significantly compared to the previous year, underscoring how disruptions to safety-net programs can create immediate hardship while also affecting long-term community resilience.

Expanding Access to Affordable Broadband

211 NY partnered with Empire State Development's ConnectALL Office to support implementation of the Affordable Broadband Act (ABA), a first-in-the-nation law that recognizes high-speed home internet services as a basic need that should be accessible for all residents. 211 Community Resource Specialists screen callers for awareness, eligibility and interest in ABA services, then offer referrals for low-cost home broadband options for income-eligible households. For those needing more support an appointment is scheduled with a 211 Enrollment Specialist who can walk them through the application. Expanding access to reliable internet helps improve residents' ability to access critical time-sensitive information, receive emergency alerts, and stay connected to services during disasters and other emergencies.

Emergency Coordination and Response

During incidents requiring coordination through the State EOC, 211 monitored NY Responds and participated in multi-agency coordination calls to support situational awareness and information sharing, including excessive heat in June and winter weather events, as well as the June storm and tornadoes. Participation in planning activities related to ESF-6 and ESF-15 ensures community resource information and referral capabilities were integrated into statewide response operations. Leadership from the 211 network also served in coordination roles within the voluntary agency sector, including as co-chair of NY VOAD, to help strengthen collaboration between voluntary organizations and government partners during disaster response and recovery. 211 NY is also a member of the newly convened New York State Mass Violence Response Council.

Following the severe storms and tornado that impacted Madison and Oneida Counties on June 22, 211 NY and regional provider 211 Mid-York supported affected communities by working closely with the Herkimer-Oneida Organizations Active in

Disaster (HOOAD), and the Madison County COAD, and local governments to coordinate available response and recovery resources within the nonprofit sector. 211 served as the primary intake point for residents seeking assistance with needs such as food, recovery support, and debris removal. 211 also promoted the DHSES Damage Self-Reporting tool to callers and pushed it out by text message to increase response rate. Information gathered through 211 calls was also shared with response partners to help identify emerging needs and mobilize resources to address unmet community needs.

211 also serves as an important source of public information during extreme weather events. During Code Blue conditions, when temperatures or wind chill reach dangerous levels, information about emergency shelter options is shared with individuals who may not otherwise qualify for services. In some communities, 211 partners with local governments to serve as a primary point of contact for Code Blue information and after-hours service coordination.

Preparedness Collaboration with the New York State Office of Mental Health

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) received the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Supplement as part of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). This funding is to collaborate with state and local partners on the development and implementation of a robust emergency response system as well as a sustainability strategy to ensure the needs of individuals in New York with serious mental illness (SMI) and children with severe emotional disturbance (SED) are met during a disaster or traumatic community event.

To accomplish these goals, OMH established a close working relationship with 211 NY as a sub-grantee to give the OMH Bureau of Emergency Preparedness & Response (BEPR) an opportunity to connect communities to mental health resources. During a disaster, the 211 number becomes a lifeline number and should be known as a separate and distinct from 911 and 988. Much outreach and education are needed for the public, emergency management personnel and mental health providers on the appropriate use of 911, 211 and 988.

OMH BEPR is working with 211 NY to plan a series of regional workshops. The workshops are intended to build relationships and improve coordination and role clarity during disaster response and recovery. The grant is also supporting an additional staff member to expand 211 NY's capacity to coordinate preparedness activities and strengthen collaboration with emergency management agencies, 211 providers, and community partners. The grant also supported creation of a disaster preparedness page on www.211newyork.org to help New Yorkers access reliable information before, during, and after emergencies. The webpage provides guidance on creating emergency plans, building preparedness kits, and accessing preparedness and disaster assistance resources.

Training

211 NY staff participated in training and professional development opportunities focused on crisis response, disaster coordination, and community resilience. These included participation in the Collaborative Coalition Conference, the Institute for Disaster Mental Health, and Psychological First Aid training hosted by the New York State Office of Mental Health. Staff also completed several training sessions that included NY Responds Incident Management System, State EOC, and Local Volunteer and Donations Management. 211 NY provided input to NYSOEM Planning regarding CMIST and AFN, as well as participated in the State EOC functional exercise in November.

Increasing Awareness of 211 NY

211 NY continues to outreach to local emergency managers to increase awareness of how 211 can partner with them in disaster response, including through presentations at professional conferences and emergency management forums. In 2025, 211 NY presented at the New York 911 Coordinators Association, NYSDOH Western Regional Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition, the New York State EMC&T workshop and coordinated a presentation with OMH BEPR for the New York State Emergency Management Association conference. Through these efforts, 211 New York continues to serve as a key information and referral partner supporting the state's disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.