



ONONDAGA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The Department of Emergency Management has experienced an immense amount of transition and growth throughout the past year. This progress and enhancement to our key mission areas has had a tremendous impact on our ability to continuously improve our capabilities related to the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation to emergency and disaster situations impacting our community. This report provides a summary of our recent activities and accomplishments, as well as a look ahead at our goals for the upcoming year. The support of the County Executive and County Legislature have made these accomplishments possible and enabled our positive outlook as we plan for future years.

We have overcome a number of challenges yet made significant advancements. We have responded to a wide range of emergencies and disasters, including COVID-19, severe weather events, the evacuation of an assisted living facility and other incidents impacting Onondaga County. We have worked tirelessly to build a more resilient emergency management program for the betterment of the community. I am proud of the dedication and professionalism of our staff and partners, who have played a vital role in our efforts to ensure life safety, property and environmental preservation, and also community preparedness. Without our partners, we would not have experienced the successes we have been able to celebrate.

As we look ahead to the upcoming year, we are committed to continuing to improve and enhance our emergency management capabilities. We are focused on building strong partnerships, strengthening our preparedness and response capabilities, and ensuring that we are well-equipped to handle any emergency situation that may arise.

Thank you for the support of our team and the initiatives undertaken by your respective organizations that enhance our overall accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Daniel H. Wears, MPA
Commissioner



OUR MISSION

To partner with stakeholders to promote life safety and preservation of property through a progressive cycle of emergency and disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

OUR VISION

A comprehensive, well-coordinated emergency response and recovery system that has the local capacity to effectively manage emergency situations and disasters.



2022 PRIORITIES

In 2022, the Department of Emergency Management focused its efforts on three main strategic priorities.

- Strengthen our emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities
- Enhance our local and regional partnerships
- Build our training and exercise program to support department needs

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***STRENGTHEN OUR EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE,
AND RECOVERY CAPABILITIES***

2

***ENHANCE OUR LOCAL AND
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS***

3

***BUILD OUR TRAINING AND
EXERCISE PROGRAM TO
SUPPORT DEPARTMENT NEEDS***



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT HISTORY

In 2003, the County Legislature recognized the importance of emergency management by combining the Division of Emergency Management, the Fire Coordinator's Office, and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bureau under one Department. Local Law 6-2003 created a Department of Emergency Management incorporating a Fire Bureau (Division) and EMS Bureau (Division).

2003

DEPARTMENT

FOUNDED

ABOUT US



The Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management (OCDEM) leads Onondaga County and our partners in planning, preparedness, response, and recovery for daily emergencies, large-scale countywide events, multi-jurisdictional incidents, and major disasters. OCDEM is an important link in the coordination between emergency services, as well as the public and private stakeholders in order to collaborate with one another during preparedness for, response to, or recovery from major events and incidents.

The Department also has two divisions within it: the fire and EMS Divisions. These divisions are lead by the director of fire and director of EMS, respectively.

FIRE DIVISION

Director: Gerald Payne

The Fire Division provides coordination and assistance to local fire departments in Onondaga County by:

- Overseeing fire mutual aid in Onondaga County
- Coordinating fire service training with New York State Office of Fire Protection and Control (OFPC) and local fire departments
- Overseeing the County Fire Investigation Unit
- Project Concern: A Juvenile Firesetters Program
- Overseeing code enforcement of County owned and operated property
- Supporting several special response teams

EMS DIVISION

Director: Jeffrey VanBeveren

To further the mission of the Department of Emergency Management, the EMS Division provides leadership, support, education, and coordination of pre-hospital emergency medical care within Onondaga County.

To achieve a collaborative and effective EMS system within Onondaga County, the EMS Division works closely with all EMS providers in Onondaga County by sharing information, maintaining a resource list for mutual aid purposes, supporting training programs, and working collaboratively with EMS agency directors and representatives from local and state public health departments.



ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

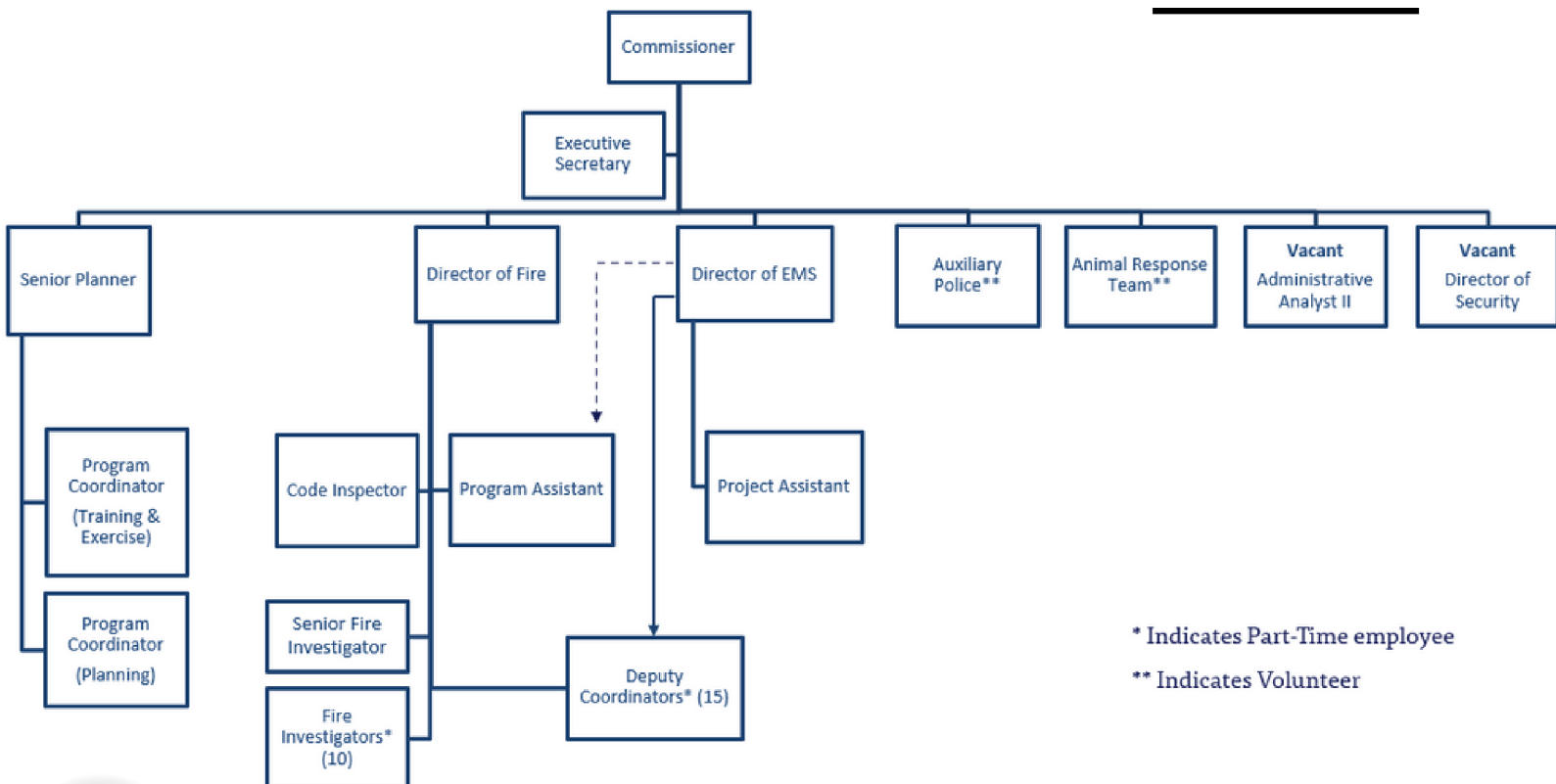
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FULL AND PART
TIME EMPLOYEES

OUR STAFF

The Department of Emergency Management is staffed by 10 full-time employees, 21 part-time employees, and a variety of volunteers. In addition to our staff, OCDEM annually hosts anywhere from 2 - 5 interns from local area colleges and universities with interest in emergency management and/or preparedness.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

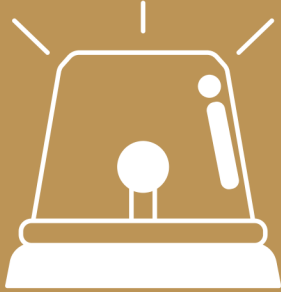


* Indicates Part-Time employee

** Indicates Volunteer



2022 AT A GLANCE



270+
INCIDENTS/EVENTS
SUPPORTED

29
SPECIAL EVENTS
SUPPORTED

2,400
HOURS SPENT
SUPPORTING
INCIDENTS

73
RESOURCE
DEPLOYMENTS

184
FIRES
INVESTIGATED



40
PUBLIC SAFETY
WARNINGS
POSTED

567
STAFF TRAINING
HOURS
COMPLETED

57
AVERAGE HOURS
OF TRAINING PER
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEE

60+
TRAININGS AND
EXERCISES
COORDINATED

296,000+
INDIVIDUALS
REACHED ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

106,000+
COVID TEST KITS
DISTRIBUTED

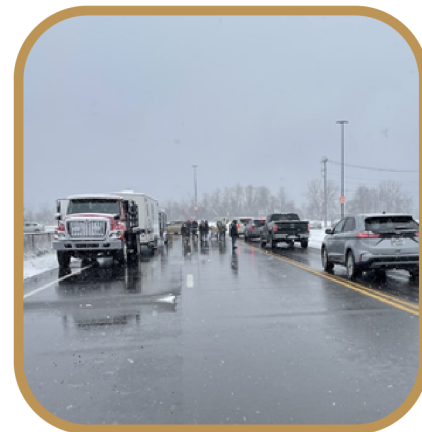
517,000+
PPE ITEMS
DISTRIBUTED



ONGOING INCIDENTS

COVID-19

The Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management continued to support the County's overall response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in 2022. We worked to assist in the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment to frontline workers in the county, distributing over 517,000 pieces in 2022 alone. Additionally, we partnered with local municipalities to facilitate the distribution of at-home COVID test kits in various areas throughout the county, making testing more accessible to community members. These were conducted by setting up drive-thru distribution sites where the public could receive at-home test kits, and KN-95 masks. In addition to the test kit distribution, our partnership with Nascentia Health also allowed for the provision of free COVID antigen testing to the community, increasing accessibility to vital testing resources. We are proud to have played a part in these efforts to keep our community safe and healthy during this challenging time.



During early 2022, the National Ambulance Contract (NAC) was activated in New York State (NYS), bringing approximately 50 ambulances to the region to assist in transferring patients from hospitals and relieving the stress on the EMS system. Although the NAC was activated to decompress local and regional hospitals, two ambulances per day and two per night were integrated into our local 911 system. Over a five week deployment period, these ambulances answered over 500 requests for service.

TROPICAL STORM FRED

In August 2021, Onondaga County was impacted by Tropical Storm Fred which caused significant damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure, totaling over \$2,000,000. The Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management facilitated disaster recovery operations in response to this Presidentially declared disaster. Our department worked closely with FEMA and other state and local partners to assess the impacts of the storm and facilitate disaster recovery operations. These efforts are ongoing with the goal of helping our community partners recover from the impacts of Tropical Storm Fred and build a more resilient future.



LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING

Emergency operations planning is a core function of the Department of Emergency Management, and one of our primary responsibilities in Onondaga County. Regular plan development and revision can facilitate multi-agency and jurisdiction coordination in response to and recovery from a large scale emergency or disaster.

In 2022, our main focus was on developing or revising the following plans; Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan, Public Information and Warning, Mass Care/Human Needs, Harmful Algae Blooms, Flooding, Search and Rescue, Dam Failure, Continuity of Operations (COOP), Debris Management, and Recovery.

ARSON CONTROL PLAN

The Arson Control Plan aims to reduce the number of arson incidents in the county by implementing a comprehensive arson investigation and prosecution program and fostering partnerships with local fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and community organizations. The goal of the plan is to increase public safety and prevent arson-related damage to property and life. This plan was updated in 2022 to ensure industry best practices and local, state, and federal legislation are being followed.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLANNING

COOP is an effort within an organization to ensure that its essential functions continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies until normal operations can be resumed. With lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to build out our COOP plan to reflect present day challenges and solutions that have an impact on our ability to continue essential operations.

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLANNING

In 2022, OCDEM built out our debris management capability and plan. After staff attended hours of debris management training, they were able to apply their knowledge to this planning effort to ensure best practices were included and applied throughout. By doing this, Onondaga County is better prepared to manage, transport, and dispose of debris after a storm or incident ensuring health and safety after a disaster.

COMMUNITY LIFELINE INTEGRATION

Beginning in 2022, the department began to implement the concept of Community Lifelines (developed by FEMA) into our planning, preparedness, and emergency operations center (EOC) activities. Community Lifelines are a comprehensive framework that helps communities identify and prioritize critical infrastructure and services during an emergency. By categorizing these services into lifelines, such as safety and security, food, water, shelter, and healthcare, we can better assess the potential impacts of an emergency on our community and identify critical resources and capabilities needed to maintain these lifelines. We believe that the Community Lifelines concept will greatly enhance our ability to effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies in Onondaga County.



TRAINING & EXERCISE

MULTI-YEAR TRAINING AND EXERCISE PLAN

The Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP) from 2023-2025 focuses on four key priorities: EOC operations, mass casualty incident (MCI) management, mass fatality incident (MFI) response, and active shooter response and management. The plan aims to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of emergency responders and organizations by providing comprehensive and repetitive training and exercising opportunities. The training and exercises will cover various scenarios, from natural disasters to man-made incidents, and will involve various response partners from the public and private sectors. For all exercises conducted, an after action report and improvement plan (AAR/IP) will be completed following the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) best practices. The AAR/IP process allows for us to identify gaps, strengths, and weaknesses in capabilities, and provide a structure for improving those capabilities. The MYTEP also aligns with planning priorities, allowing for us to update plans, policies, and/or procedures, and then test, train, and exercise them prior to an emergency or disaster, allowing for a more efficient and effective response.

TRAINING OVERVIEW



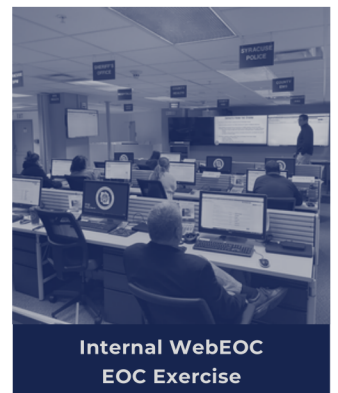
UTV Operator
Course

In 2022, the department coordinated over 60 training courses totaling over 2,000 instructor hours and over 800 individuals trained. Trainings coordinated covered a variety of disciplines including firefighting, EMS, hazardous materials response, emergency management, and incident management. Topics included emergency management for local elected officials, MCI management, Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) principals, EOC operations, hazardous materials spill response, and Amtrak passenger train emergencies.

In addition to coordinating these training opportunities, the full-time staff of the department completed 567 hours of training and professional development, averaging out to approximately 57 hours per person. The trainings covered over 60 disciplines within emergency management, including (but not limited to) emergency management professional development, EOC functions, incident management, active shooter response, MCI response, and MFI response.

EXERCISE OVERVIEW

In 2022, the department coordinated or participated in 10 exercises including workshops, tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises. These exercises covered a variety of topics including EOC operations during a complex coordinated terrorist attack, utility disruption, incidents at large-scale planned events, hazardous materials release, active shooter incident, severe weather, and radiological incidents.



Internal WebEOC
EOC Exercise

CPR TRAINING

The Department of Emergency Management is an American Heart Association training center. In 2022, instructors with the department taught over 400 CPR classes reaching over 3,100 people.



STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



WEBEOC

Onondaga County partnered with the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and Oswego County on the procurement and use of WebEOC. This provides the Central New York (CNY) region a single location to share information, allowing for a coordinated response to incidents and events that impact these organizations. WebEOC also provides all partners with an improved ability to manage resources during emergencies and disasters.

CORE ADVISORY GROUP

In 2022 we reinstated our Core Advisory Group (CAG). The mission of the CAG is to educate, inform, and assist emergency management services within Onondaga County with the development and implementation of operational guidelines to address the needs of those with disabilities in planning, preparation, response, and recovery services. The CAG meets monthly and discusses topics identified as having an impact on the accessibility and functional needs community to ensure Onondaga County is inclusive in its emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning efforts.



FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

The purpose of the Onondaga County Fire Advisory Board is to provide advice and recommendations to Onondaga County on issues related to the fire service in Onondaga County. The Fire Advisory Board is also tasked with the Fire Mutual Aid Plan - a document that outlines the roles and responsibilities of fire departments in Onondaga County when responding to incidents outside of their home jurisdiction. This plan was reviewed in 2022 and will be updated in 2023.

LAKEVIEW AMPHITHEATER PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING COMMITTEE

In 2022, we partnered with the Onondaga County Office of the County Executive, Onondaga County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications (E-911), Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency and ASM Global to review and update public safety plans, procedures, and operations at the Lakeview Amphitheater. The changes made by this group enhance the overall safety and security of the public while attending events at this venue.



NASCENTIA HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

On March 30th, the Department of Emergency Management and Nascentia Health were awarded the 2022 Central New York Business Journal Nonprofit Collaboration Award for our work over the last two years of the pandemic. With this partnership, thousands of people in schools, assisted living facilities, and the community at large were able to have access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines.



CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS

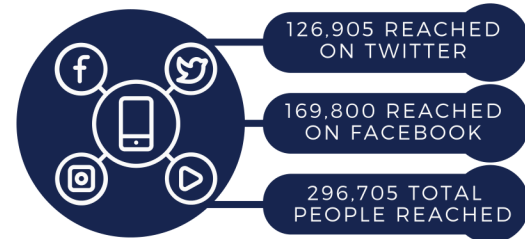
In 2022, we began to focus on enhancing a citizen preparedness program that will improve the capability of citizens in the Onondaga County community to be more resilient when they encounter both day-to-day emergencies, as well as larger scale disasters. During 2023, we are building out our citizen preparedness website, planning on conducting more outreach, as well as having courses available for organizations and community partners to request. Our goal for promoting citizen emergency preparedness is to help residents feel more confident and prepared in the face of emergencies and also help to build a more resilient community as a whole.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND WARNING

In the past year, the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management has continued to prioritize providing timely and accurate emergency public information to residents. Through our various communication channels, we have been able to reach a wider audience and keep them informed during emergencies and disasters.

We have also focused on improving our public information strategies through community outreach and collaboration with individuals with accessibility and functional needs through the CAG, helping us ensure that our messaging is able to reach as many individuals using the appropriate methods. Our efforts have been successful in educating the public about the importance of emergency preparedness and providing them with the necessary resources to stay informed and safe. We will continue to prioritize emergency public information as a critical component of our emergency management program.

In 2022, the department issued public safety alerts/warnings on 40 different occasions, mostly regarding weather-related incidents.



ONONDAGA COUNTY IS STORMREADY!

Onondaga County is part of the National Weather Service's Weather-Ready Nation, and recognized as a StormReady community. Among other criteria, "StormReady" communities must (at a minimum):

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.



FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

Within the Department of Emergency Management, the director of fire oversees the Fire Investigation Unit (FIU). The FIU is a team of highly trained individuals who play a crucial role in determining the circumstances that led to a fire and this information is used to support arson investigations, provide information to insurance companies, and help prevent future fires. Through NYS General Municipal Law Chapter 24, Article 10, Section 204-D, it is the responsibility of the fire chief of any fire department to determine the cause of a fire or explosion their department responds to. The FIU serves as a resource to support fire chiefs and local law enforcement outside of the City of Syracuse. Fire investigators use a combination of scientific and investigative techniques to determine the origin and cause of a fire, including examination of burn patterns and examination of the physical evidence at the fire scene. In 2022, Fire Investigators conducted over 1,570 hours of investigations, investigating over 180 incidents.



CODE ENFORCEMENT



In 2022, the code enforcement team continued to play an integral role in ensuring the safety and stability of our community through its rigorous inspections and permitting process for county owned or operated property. The division conducted 432 inspections and issued 96 permits for a total construction value of \$11,732,400. These efforts helped to ensure that all new construction projects met local and state regulations as well as promoting public safety. In addition, our code enforcement staff implemented an electronic permit application system to streamline the process and increase the overall efficiency. The dedication and hard work of the code enforcement team was evident in the successful completion of numerous high-impact construction projects throughout the year and their commitment to upholding the highest standards of quality and safety.

SYRACUSE AIRPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT TRANSITION

In 2022, Hancock International Airport (Syracuse Regional Airport Authority) transitioned its fire protection from contracting with the City of Syracuse Fire Department to the 174th Air National Guard. During this transition we worked closely with both departments to ensure a seamless transfer of responsibility, including facilitating discussions and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each agency. We also worked with local volunteer fire departments to ensure they understood their roles as mutual-aid providers in the event of an incident at the airport. Through our efforts, we were able to ensure that the highest level of emergency response capability was maintained and that the airport and surrounding communities were adequately protected.



SPECIALTY RESOURCE TRACKING



The Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management continues to leverage WebEOC, a web-based incident management platform, to track specialty resources owned by fire departments or other public safety response agencies throughout the county. This includes specialty resources such as ATV's/UTV's, brush fire apparatus, specialty rescue equipment and water rescue resources. This tool helps us better understand the availability of resources during an incident and their location. The data collected in WebEOC improves overall situational awareness and decision-making capabilities. We continue to expand the types of resources tracked in WebEOC to include more public safety agencies, and explore additional ways to improve our resource tracking and management capabilities.



EMS CRISIS

The Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management's EMS Division plays an integral role in facilitating critical discussions regarding the ongoing EMS crisis in Onondaga County. The Division worked closely with EMS organizations, government officials, and stakeholders to provide analysis of data regarding EMS wait times in the emergency departments, as well as the provision of mutual aid, and to identify solutions and ways to improve the current EMS system. Discussions focused on recruitment and retention efforts, implementing a tiered response EMS system, and facilitating the implementation of a Nurse Navigation program with the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications. The division's efforts were integral in addressing the ongoing crisis and improving the overall EMS response in Onondaga County.

TIERED RESPONSE

In 2022, the EMS Division facilitated the implementation of a tiered EMS response system in Onondaga County. The tiered response system has been implemented with select types of low-acuity medical calls that BLS-level ambulances (EMT's only) would be dispatched to, and if it is determined that an ALS level of care (paramedic) was needed, the appropriate resource would then be dispatched to either the scene or to meet with an ambulance while they are enroute to the hospital, helping to better manage EMS resources in the county.



NURSE NAVIGATION PROGRAM

The EMS Division assisted with the implementation of a Nurse Navigation program with E-911 during 2022. This program has been an important addition to the EMS system, allowing E-911 to transfer low-acuity medical calls to a nurse who can evaluate the situation and provide recommendations for alternative treatment options or transfer the call back to 911 if an ambulance is needed. This program has helped reduce unnecessary ambulance transports to emergency departments and enabled E-911 to better utilize resources while providing appropriate care to the public. The program has been well-received by the public, has shown significant improvements in overall response time and patient care, and is a step in reducing unnecessary ambulance transports to the emergency departments.

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING & EXERCISES

The EMS Division continued to prioritize training and preparedness efforts for emergency response in high-risk violent situations. In 2022, the EMS Division restarted active shooter training and exercise programs for EMS personnel in coordination with local law enforcement agencies. The training focused on the latest tactics and techniques for responding to and managing active shooter incidents. Topics taught this year included patient extraction and triage in an active shooter environment, as well as coordinating a full-scale active shooter exercise.

This capability is one that was identified and included in our MYTEP, which means the Department of Emergency Management will be coordinating future training and exercises for emergency responders to participate in with the objective of enhancing that capability and overall improving our response to an incident of that nature.



SPECIALTY TEAMS

ONONDAGA COUNTY ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Onondaga County Animal Response Team (OnCART) is comprised of volunteers with expertise in managing and solving emergencies involving animals - both large and small. Team members have been trained to extricate large animals from compromising situations, such as being stuck in mud unable to move or trapped in a space too small to get out of without assistance. The Team includes vet techs and owners who are committed to animal safety.

In 2022, OnCART members spent over 1,300 hours either training for, standing-by for, or responding to incidents in Onondaga County. OnCART staff provided 960 hours of on-call coverage during the NYS Fair. OnCART members volunteered an average of 61 hours per member in 2022.



AUXILIARY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Onondaga County Auxiliary Police (APD) is a special response team that supports county emergency management by providing security, traffic management, and disaster assessment services under the authority of the Commissioner of Emergency Management. Auxiliary Police are all volunteers who are trained and certified by NYS as peace officers.

During emergencies, the APD can be activated to provide on-site security for the EOC, mass gathering shelters, feeding centers, and any other setting where a law enforcement presence is needed and can relieve personnel from county, city, or town and village police agencies. The APD is comprised of nine officers and the department provides regular, annual training for all officers.

In 2022, the APD supported four events. Two were parades, one was a foot race, and many officers also took to the streets and patrolled on foot during Halloween to ensure all individuals out in the public were safe.



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

OVERVIEW

In 2022 the Department was awarded \$1,000,000 in grant funding with another \$1,100,000 in local money to renovate a former Army Reserve Center into a new, state-of-the-art EOC. The new EOC will provide a centralized location for emergency management personnel and partners to coordinate the response to and recovery from emergencies or disasters that impact Onondaga County. It will be equipped with the latest technology, including communication systems, mapping capabilities, high tech audiovisual systems, and real-time data analysis tools, an increased EOC capacity, breakout rooms, and a dedicated media briefing room. The facility will also serve as a classroom training and exercise center for emergency service personnel, helping to ensure that our community and partners are prepared for any emergency that may arise.

FUNDING

With the support of the Onondaga County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II, as well as support and appropriation from the Onondaga County Legislature, \$1,100,000 in local funding was made available for this project. In addition to that, a \$1,000,000 grant was secured by former Representative John Katko. The funding for this project is a testament to the dedication of all of those involved to the safety and security of our community. We are grateful for their support and for recognizing the importance of investing in our emergency management capabilities. This project will help to ensure that our community is well-prepared to respond to and recover from any emergency or disaster.



TIMELINE

This building was owned by Onondaga County prior to the grant funding being announced. The Department of Emergency Management relocated many of our response assets to this location throughout 2022. Grant funding was officially awarded in October of 2022 and the tentative timeline will have the EOC, offices, breakout rooms, and training areas operational by the end of 2023.

CAPABILITIES

This location will not only serve as the new EOC, but will also have many additional capabilities. The location of this facility is centrally located near major highways allowing for quick access to the facility, as well as resource deployments anywhere in the county. The garage space allows for most deployable assets to be in the same accessible location, as well as co-located with the department allowing for shorter deployment timeframes to incidents.

The building itself will not only have a state-of-the-art EOC, but will have office space, three conference areas, a dedicated media briefing room, and a large training room that can be separated into two independently functioning training rooms, each holding over 25 students.



Current EOC



2023 OBJECTIVES

OVERVIEW

In 2023, our department will continue to focus on our three main strategic priorities from 2022. In addition to those strategic priorities, additional objectives for 2023 include:

- Beginning development of a county incident management team (IMT)
- Opening our new EOC,
- Restarting various emergency planning/preparedness committees
- Conducting tabletop exercises for local municipalities and other response partners

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STRENGTHEN OUR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY CAPABILITIES

Incident Management Team

Creating an IMT will allow the department and other organizations to enhance our response capabilities during emergency situations and have a team of well trained experts working together to ensure life safety and property and environmental protection. This team will consist of trained and experienced professionals who can be deployed to support the management of various incidents in Onondaga County

New Emergency Operations Center

The new EOC will provide a modern and fully equipped environment for coordinating the response to various incidents. The new EOC was made possible by our local elected officials securing grant funding, and matching the total amount to allow for this facility to have some of the most high-tech and innovative emergency response solutions.

ENHANCE OUR LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Preparedness Committees

Restarting various emergency preparedness committees allows us to bring local stakeholders and partners together to ensure the community is prepared for emergencies. By restarting these committees, the department is able to improve coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities, and ultimately better protect the safety and well-being of the community.

BUILDING OUR TRAINING AND EXERCISE PROGRAM

Municipal Tabletop Support

To further enhance our preparedness efforts, we will be conducting tabletop exercises for local municipalities and other partners to test and evaluate their emergency plans. By conducting these tabletop exercises, the Department of Emergency Management can ensure that all response partners have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities during an emergency or disaster. Additionally, tabletop exercises can help identify gaps in resources or communications, which can be addressed before an actual emergency occurs, improving the overall response and recovery efforts.



