

# ONONDAGA COUNTY



# DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT



The past year was filled with monumental moments for our department, starting with the privilege of naming the Onondaga County Emergency Management Center in honor of Lt. Michael "Hootch" Hoosock. Hootch was deeply committed to public safety, his community, and his family. The legacy he left behind following his tragic loss will continue to influence those who were fortunate enough to know him, as well as those who will attend training classes in our facility for years to come.

However, the year wasn't without its tribulations. We lost one of our most dedicated deputy coordinators of over thirty years, Dave Cowburn. Like Hootch, Dave devoted his life to protecting this community and our country through his service in the United States Army Reserves, the South Bay Fire Department, and the Department of Emergency Management. His unwavering commitment to public safety will continue to guide and inspire the members of South Bay and the Department of Emergency Management.

We have also taken delivery of the new Mobile Operations Center (EM50), which enhances coordination, collaboration, and incident management during complex emergencies. EM50 provides a centralized workspace where all public safety agencies in Onondaga County can operate seamlessly together in the field, and it has already proven invaluable during largescale incidents and planned events. These improvements ensure EM50 delivers advanced, reliable support to agencies across the county.

As we look ahead to 2026, our department is preparing to pursue new opportunities that will further expand our capabilities and strengthen our support for public safety agencies throughout the county. This year, we will develop a test program to establish a "drone as a first responder" initiative. The program is designed to increase situational awareness and enhance proactive emergency response by enabling drones to arrive first on scene and provide live, actionable intelligence to commanders and first responders.

# COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT



The prehospital emergency medical care system in Onondaga County has significant resources; however, it has historically faced its challenges. These challenges are seen in systems throughout New York State, and this past year, the county contracted with a consulting firm to perform a comprehensive study of the entire system, ranging from the dispatch of calls through the transfer of care at local hospitals. The goal of the study is to provide recommendations to the county and all service providers on how the system can be improved to enhance patient care and better utilize resources throughout the community. The findings, which will be presented in 2026, will inform the next steps in improving patient care and resource coordination across the county.

We look forward to continuously improving our capabilities and the services provided to the community and partner agencies in 2026. The work we do would not be possible without the continued support of County Executive McMahon and the Onondaga County Legislature.



**Deputy Coordinator  
Dave Cowburn, EM 303**

A blue ink handwritten signature of Daniel Wears.

**DANIEL WEARS, MPA**



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CENTER DEDICATION

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 the Department of Emergency Management's building was ceremoniously dedicated as the **Lt. Michael Hoosock Onondaga County Emergency Management Center**.

Lt. Hoosock served as the ultimate public safety hero, representing three emergency service disciplines: fire, EMS, and law enforcement. Now every time someone steps into this building or drives by, they will be reminded of the ultimate sacrifice Hootch made—and the lasting difference he made as a public safety officer in Onondaga County.



*Onondaga County Sheriff Toby Shelley, Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon, Emergency Management Commissioner Dan Wears and Moyers Corners Fire Chief Mike Brown came together to share remarks on the immense impact of Michael Hoosock's dedication to public safety.*



*Initial artist rendering. Does not reflect the final proposed design.*

## WALL OF HEROES TRIBUTE

The **Officer Michael Jensen Wall of Heroes** will be established at the Lt. Michael Hoosock Emergency Management Center, pursuant to *Onondaga County Legislative Resolution No. 73*. The memorial is being created to honor the dedication, heroism, and memory of Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and other public safety professionals who sacrificed their lives while serving and protecting Onondaga County.

An advisory board was created and has been diligently pursuing design renderings and initiating data collection throughout 2025 to appropriately recognize all heroes.



## OVERVIEW

The Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management leads Onondaga County and our partners in planning, preparedness, response, and recovery for emergencies, large-scale countywide events, multi-jurisdictional incidents, and major disasters. The Department of Emergency Management is an important link in the coordination between emergency services and support, 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.

### VISION

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

### 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.**





## DEPARTMENT HISTORY

In 2003, the County Legislature recognized the importance of emergency management by creating the Department of Emergency Management and then combining 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 and EMS Bureau.

2003

DEPARTMENT

FOUNDED



## FIRE BUREAU

The Fire Bureau 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
- Managing *Project Concern: A Juvenile Firesetters Program*
- Overseeing code enforcement of County owned and operated property
- Supporting several special response teams

## EMS BUREAU

The EMS Bureau 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 Bureau 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.

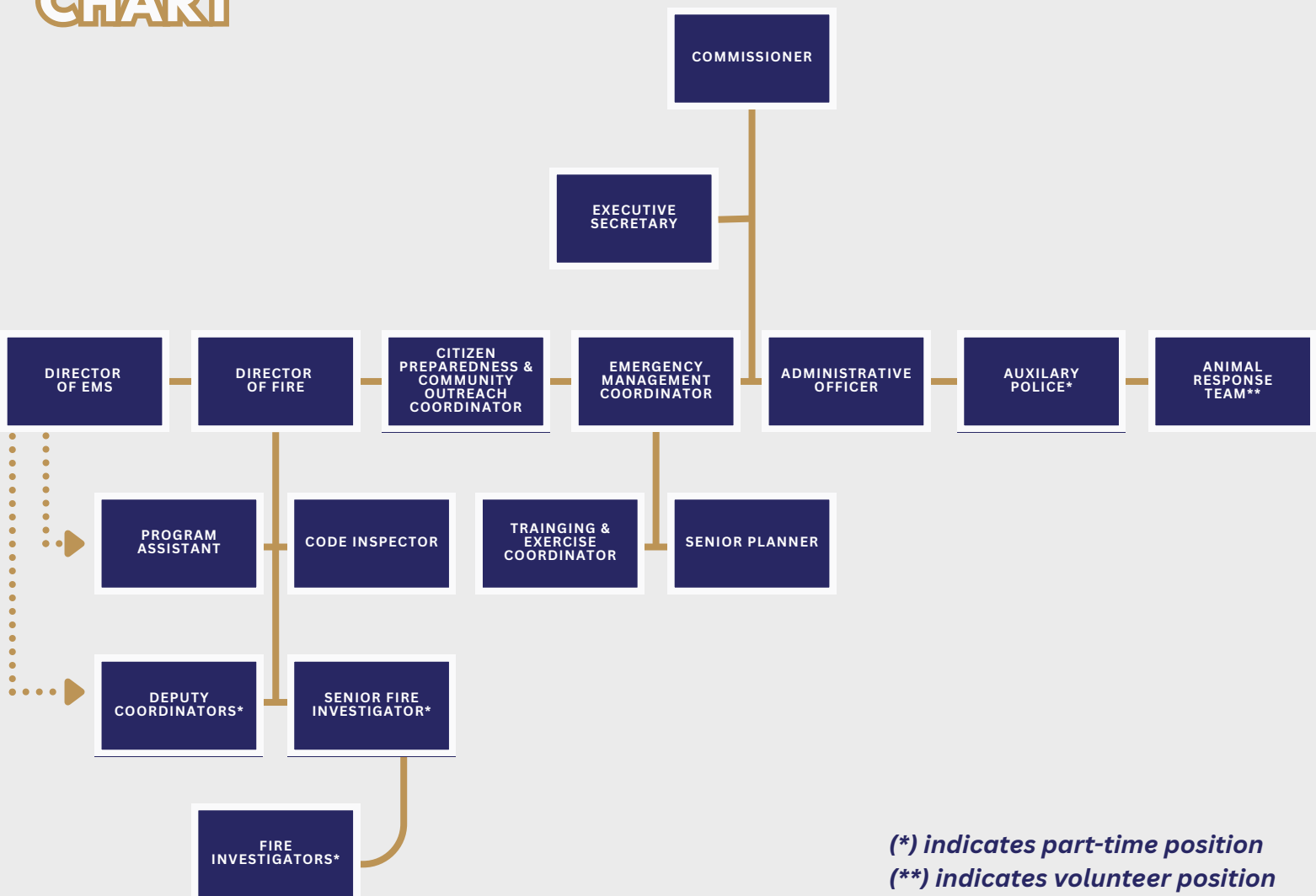


## DEPARTMENT STAFFING

The Department of Emergency Management is staffed by 11 full-time employees, 25 part-time employees, and a variety of volunteers.

In addition to our staff, the department 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 position  
(\*\*) indicates volunteer position



## FULL-TIME

### COMMISSIONER OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Daniel Wears

**Administrative Officer** – Chelsea Clarke

**Citizen Preparedness & Community Outreach Coordinator** – Dale Ostrander

**Executive Secretary** – Deena Donnelly

**Senior Planner** – Robert Whitehead

**Training & Exercise Coordinator** – Andrea Natoli

### DIRECTOR OF FIRE – Gerald Payne

**Code Inspector** – Dale Gillette

**Program Assistant** – Melissa Abend

### DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – Jeffrey VanBeveren

## PART-TIME

### FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

#### **Senior Fire Investigator**

Ron Ryan (EM 106)

#### **Fire Investigators**

Scott Schrilla (EM 105)

Matt Zingaro (EM 107)

Pete Marsenison (EM 108)

William Champlin (EM 109)

John Jaworski (EM 110)

Bill Massaro (EM 111)

Jeremy Hemingway (EM 112)

Mackenzie Nicol (EM 114)

### DEPUTY COORDINATORS

**Division 1** – Joseph Corcoran (EM 301)

**Division 2** – John Lisi Jr. (EM 302)

**Division 3** – David Cowburn (EM 303)

**Division 5** – August Matt (EM 305)

**Division 6** – Tim Nelson (EM 306)

**Division 7** – Ronald Wheatley (EM 307)

**Division 8** – Jim Rossiter (EM 308)

**Division 9** – Scott Clarke (EM 309)

**Division 11** – Nick Pagano (EM 311)

#### **Operational Support**

David Landsberg (EM 317)

Mark Zoanetti (EM 318)

Louie Longo (EM 319)

Stephen Race (EM 320)

John Falgiatano (EM 321)

Joseph Hernon (EM 322)

Shawn Tompkins (EM 323)



## POSITION UPDATES

### CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

In 2025, the department both added and filled the full-time position of Citizen Preparedness & Community Outreach Coordinator. This position was created to develop and implement a comprehensive citizen preparedness program, which includes the research and development of materials based on the community's hazard vulnerability assessment. The position includes public outreach at community events, as well as digital promotion of the program. Additional goals of this position include working with all department programmatic areas to improve stakeholder engagement through communication with local governments and first response organizations before, during, and after emergency situations. This position has already proven to be an interactive and effective way in engaging the whole community.

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

We are excited to announce that the County approved the full-time position of Emergency Management Coordinator with the 2025 budget. This position will involve responsibility for managing planning, training and exercise projects for the department. Activities will include coordinating with stakeholders for development of emergency response and preparedness plans, development of training and exercise programs, as well as analyzing data to allow for informed planning and decision-making. The incumbent will be responsible for supporting the department's emergency management initiatives and managing projects as they relate to emergency management, including the management and organization of the county's emergency operations center.

### TRAINING & EXERCISE COORDINATOR

The department filled the full-time Training & Exercise Coordinator position in June 2025. The primary role of the Training & Exercise Coordinator is to develop and execute a multi-year training and exercise program to meet the needs of the department, which includes initiatives in emergency management, fire, and emergency medical services. This position involves collaboration with departments, agencies, and jurisdictions of the County to develop programs, action plans, and policies to engage the whole community in the training and exercise program.



## ACTIVATION LEVELS

The Onondaga County Emergency Operations Center operates under four (4) activation/deactivation levels, of which are determined by the Commissioner of Emergency Management, their designee, or the County Executive.

### **Daily Operations.**

Emergency Management personnel supporting field operations per normal response plans.

### **Enhanced Monitoring.**

Pre-planned events, active monitoring of weather forecasts with possible issuing of advisories to promote life safety.

### **Partial Activation.**

Emergency conditions with some threat to life, health or property, but confined to a narrow area, usually within one municipality or involving small population.

### **Full Activation.**

Significant emergency with broad impact across the county; major risk to life safety and high potential for considerable property damage.

## WATER CONSERVATION MONITORING

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, OCWA – Central New York’s Water Authority announced a major transmission break impacting parts of Onondaga and Madison counties, which led to a state of enhanced monitoring for the Department of Emergency Management. In Onondaga County, the Towns of Manlius (including the Villages of Minoa, Fayetteville & Manlius), Pompey and Dewitt were impacted. By December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 OCWA issued mandatory conservation for customers in the impacted areas.

The Department of Emergency Management collaborated with appropriate stakeholders on a regular basis to maintain situational awareness surrounding the incident, as well as to initiate the preparation of emergency measures. The Fire Bureau worked with fire departments in the impacted areas to reduce hydrant usage through activation of tanker plans. The Department also worked diligently to secure bottled water and stage a water distribution point of dispensing site, if needed.

*This is an ongoing incident and remains in a state of enhanced monitoring as calendar year 2025 ends.*

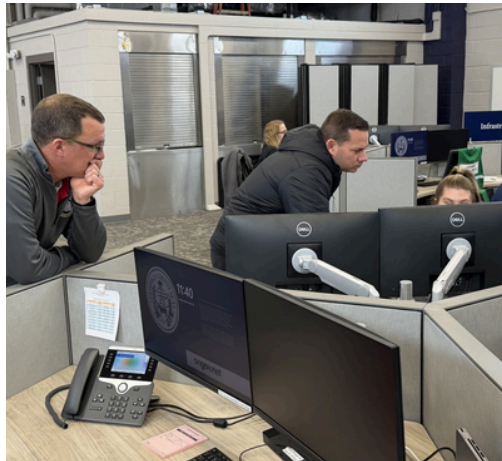
## WINTER STORM ACTIVATION

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Onondaga County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II, suspended county operations for December 30<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of a forecasted severe winter storm projecting strong winds and lake effect snow, with snowfall of up to 18-24 inches. The Onondaga County Emergency Operations Center was activated at a partial activation level on December 30<sup>th</sup> at 0700 hours to support the potential implications of the storm through situational awareness and resource allocation.

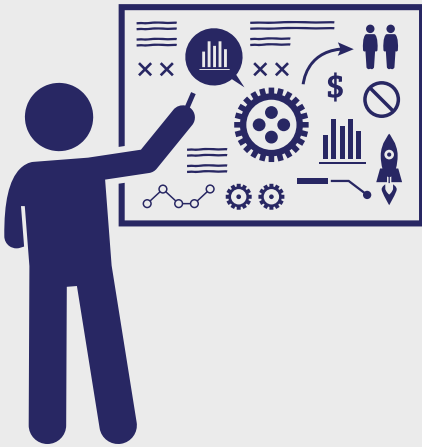
Representatives from the following agencies collaborated in the EOC throughout the duration of the event to monitor and support storm impacts through 1500 hours, when the incident was determined stable to return to daily operations.

- Onondaga County Department of Transportation
- Onondaga County Emergency Communications (911)
- Onondaga County Emergency Management
- Onondaga County Sheriff's Office
- City of Syracuse Department of Public Works
- City of Syracuse Fire Department
- City of Syracuse Police Department
- National Weather Service - Binghamton
- New York State Department of Transportation
- New York State Police

The National Weather Service of Binghamton deployed a representative to the EOC the night before the storm to further support situational awareness.



## PLANNING OVERVIEW



The department consistently updates and develops emergency plans that align with the identified hazards facing the county. This structured process is driven by identifying local risks, establishing clear procedures for effective response and recovery, and committing to continuous improvement through training and exercises to address capability gaps.

### COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2025, the department initiated an in-depth revision of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). This significant update incorporated the FEMA Community Lifelines framework, streamlining resource management and response protocols to prioritize the stability of essential community services.

### EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION ANNEXES

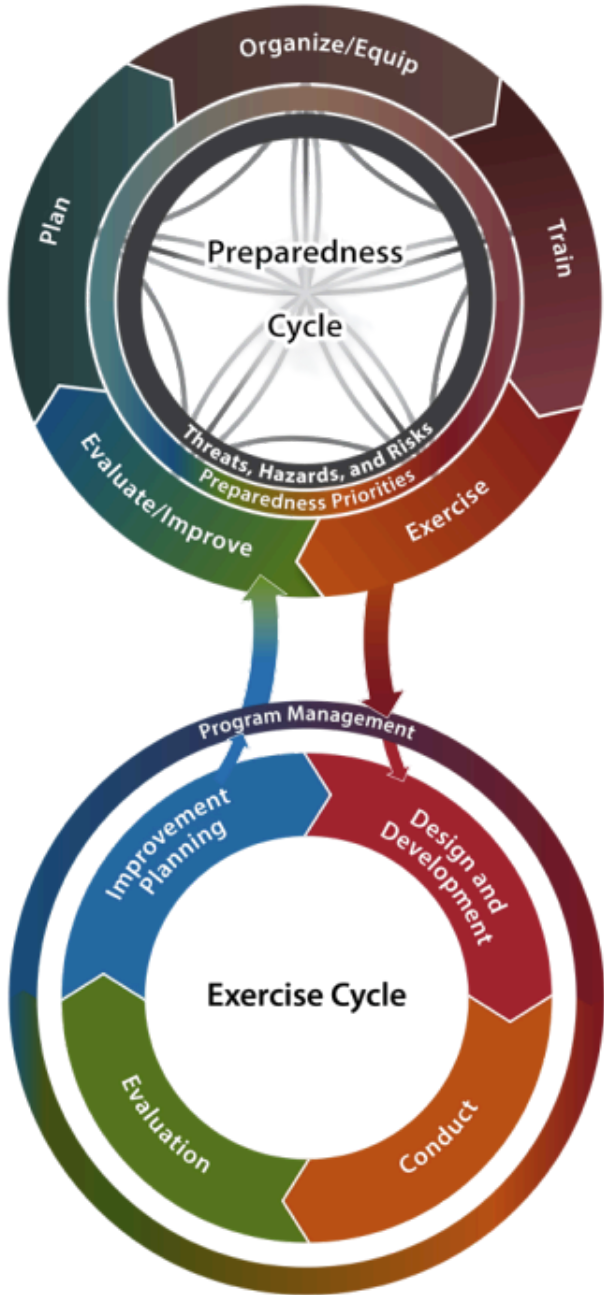
Complementing the CEMP revision, the department further initiated the structured revision of all Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes to the CEMP. This process is also actively incorporating the Community Lifelines framework to ensure seamless alignment between the overarching CEMP strategy and functional annex procedures.

### STAKEHOLDER PLAN REVIEWS

Throughout the year, the department also conducted thorough reviews of numerous emergency plans from key community stakeholders. This effort was undertaken to gain critical perspective on community capabilities and clarify the department's role in supporting and assisting local partners during major incidents.

## INTEGRATED PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Formerly referred to as the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP), the restructured Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) shifts away from a focus solely on training & exercise to include all five (5) elements of the Integrated Preparedness Cycle: Planning, Organizing, Equipping, Training, and Exercising (POETE).



The Relationship of the Integrated Preparedness Cycle and the HSEEP Cycle (HSEEP, January 2020)

The IPP is a 3-year strategy designed to combine efforts across the elements of the Integrated Preparedness Cycle to ensure that the department has the core capabilities to handle identified threats and hazards. The established multi-year preparedness priorities then guide the exercise program to produce individual exercises which are used to build, sustain, and deliver capabilities.

### The 2026 - 2028 IPP focuses on 5 key priorities:

1

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER OPERATIONS**

2

**VICTIM & FAMILY REUNIFICATION OPERATIONS**

3

**STRENGTHENING INCIDENT MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES**

4

**MASS FATALITY INCIDENT (MFI) RESPONSE & OPERATIONS**

5

**ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT RESPONSE & MANAGEMENT**

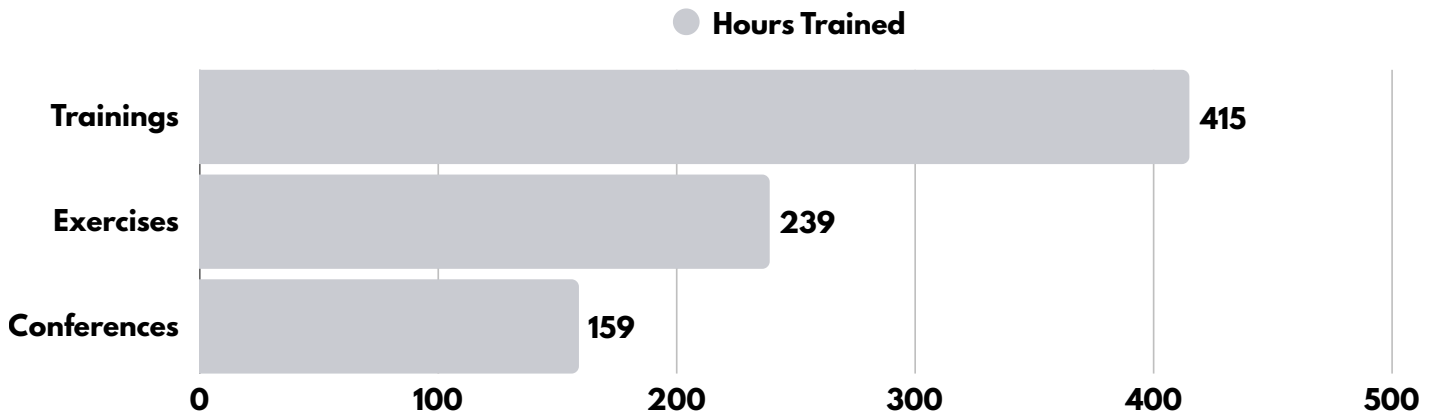
The IPP furthermore strategically guides the department to update plans, policies, and/or procedures, and then test, train, and exercise them in alignment with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Cycle prior to an emergency or disaster, overall leading to a more efficient and effective response.



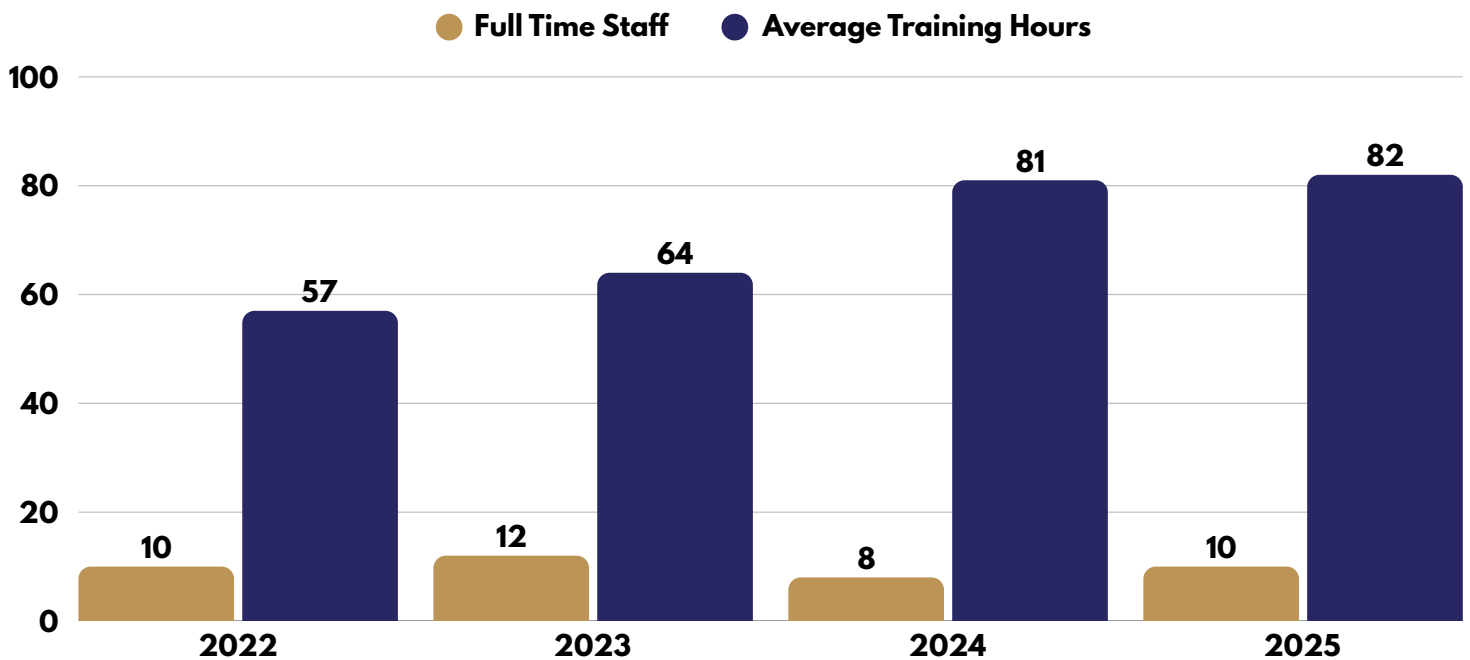
## STAFF TRAINING

In 2025, 10 full-time staff members completed approximately 816 hours of training and professional development through training courses, exercises, and conferences.

### 2025 Training Hours Breakdown



The trainings covered a wide array of disciplines including, but not limited to: Active Assailant Awareness, Code Enforcement, Cybersecurity, EOC Roles & Functions, Fire/Arson Investigations, Grants Management, Hazardous Materials, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), Incident Command System (ICS)/National Incident Management System (NIMS), Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI), Public Information, Severe Weather, and WebEOC.

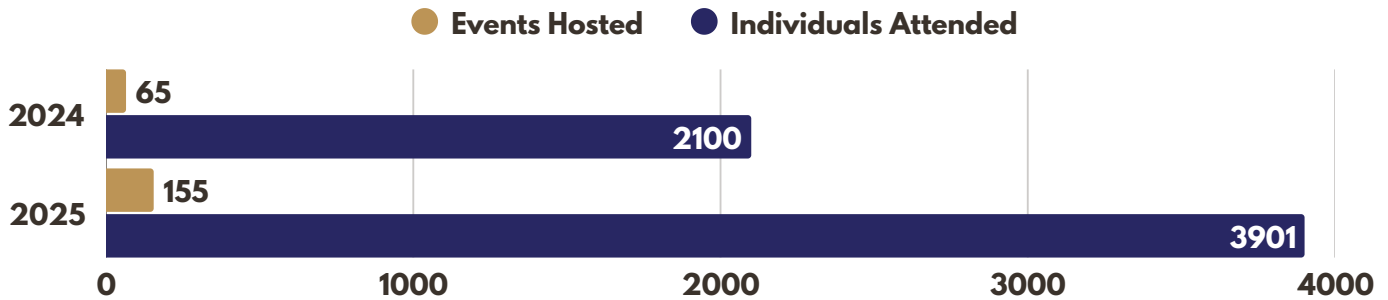


## TRAINING ROOM USAGE

Following the opening of the new EOC in 2024, the Department of Emergency Management was subsequently able to offer training room reservations to other County departments, as well as to our partner organizations, at no expense.



**The training rooms accommodated 155 events, hosting over 3,900 individuals in 2025!**

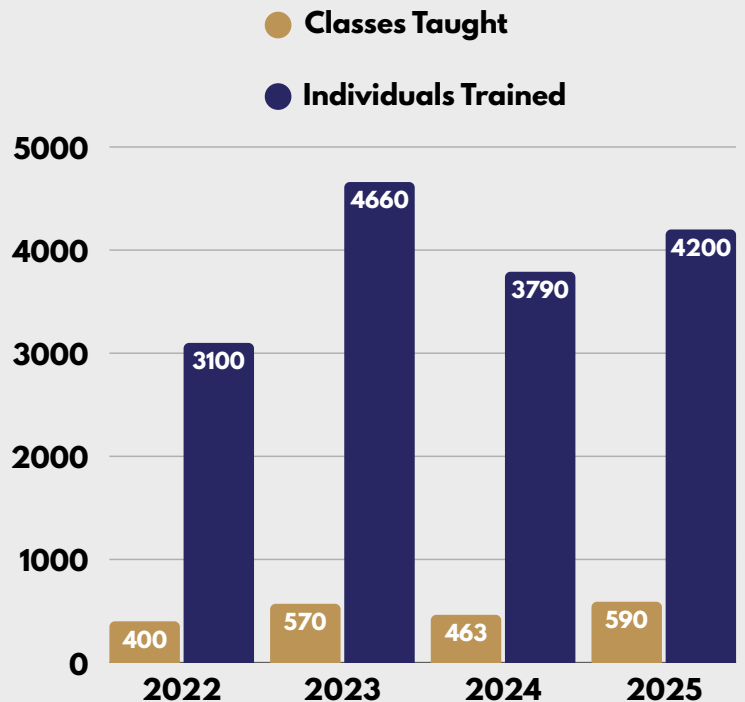


## CPR TRAINING

The Department of Emergency Management is an American Heart Association training center.



**In 2025, instructors taught 590 CPR classes reaching over 4,200 people.**



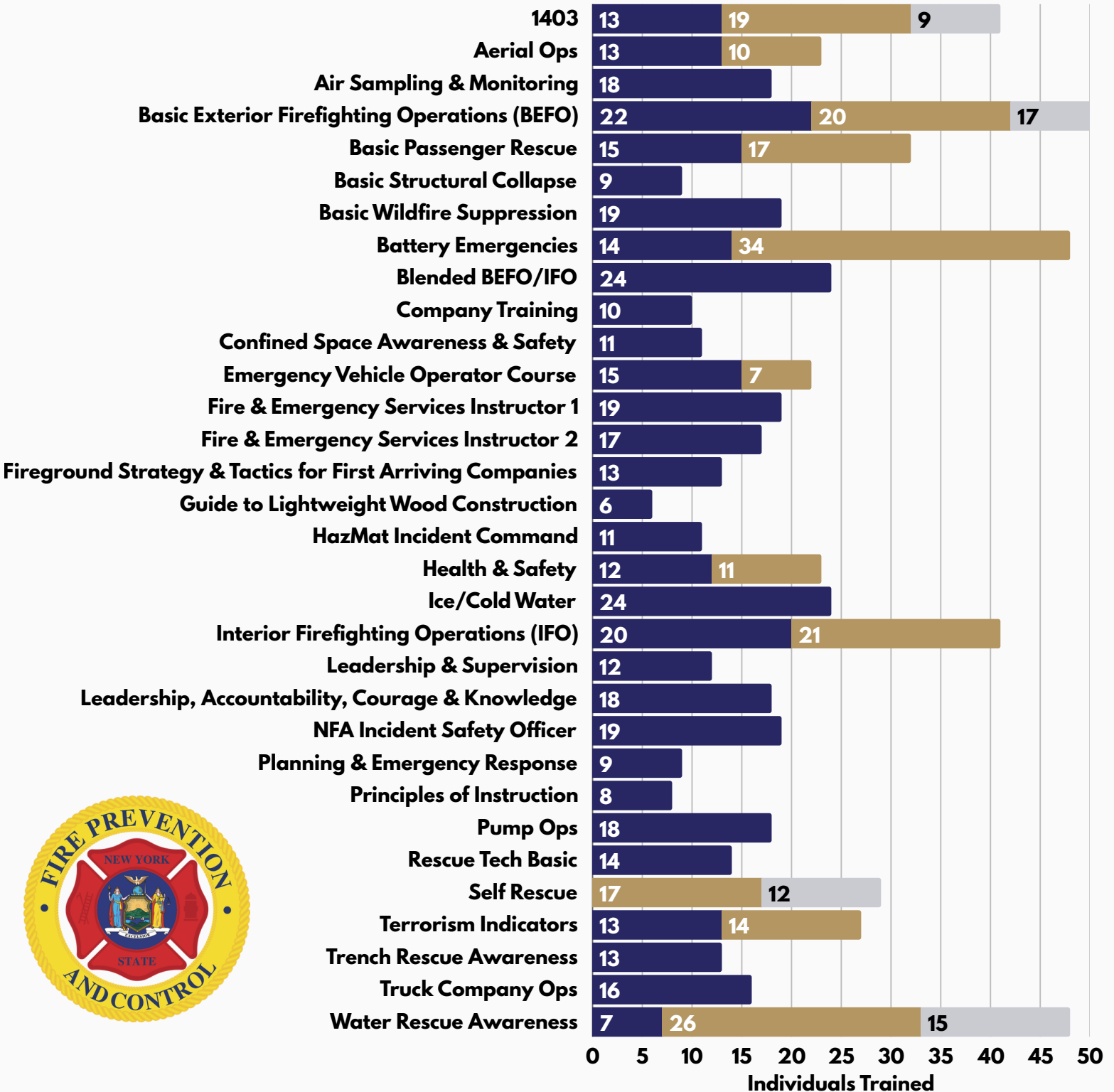


## COORDINATED TRAININGS

57 Office of Fire and Prevention Control course offerings were coordinated in 2025, hosted by 15 agencies and accounting for 979 firefighters trained.

### Course Offerings

● Offering 1 ● Offering 2 ● Offering 3



## EXERCISE OVERVIEW

**In 2025, the department conducted 3 & participated in 14 exercises, of which included workshops, tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises.**

These exercises covered a variety of topics including: Cybersecurity, Dam Failure, EOC Operations, Hazardous Materials, Human Needs, Infectious Disease, Mass Casualty Incidents, Mass Fatality Incidents, Reception Center Activation, and Severe Weather.

For all exercises conducted, an After-Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) is completed following Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) best practices. The AAR/IP process allows for the identification of gaps, strengths, and weaknesses in capabilities, and provides a structure for improving those capabilities.



## EOC FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE

In February 2025, the department hosted an EOC Functional Exercise for Onondaga County and its stakeholders. This exercise was conducted following a series of EOC operations trainings & exercises conducted throughout 2024 and into early 2025. The trainings leading up to this exercise were specific to Agency Representatives, Policy Group, Logistics & Resource Support, Information & Planning, and EOC Management.

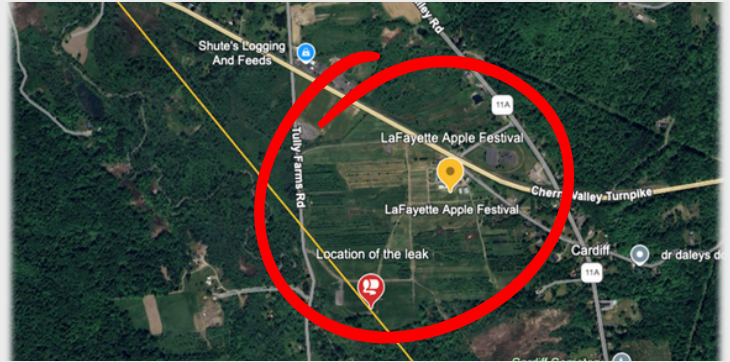
The skills learned and refreshed in these trainings were then exercised through the EOC Functional Exercise, which included a complex scenario involving an infectious disease outbreak simultaneous with a severe weather event. This exercise validated capabilities related to EOC activation, resource requests for emergency support functions and community lifelines, development of an incident action plan, promotion of shared situational awareness, and creation of specific mission plans to address incident needs.

## CITY OF SYRACUSE



*Exercised a high-pressure natural gas leak 300 yards of the JMA Wireless Dome concurrent with a Syracuse vs. Duke Men's Basketball game and snowy weather conditions.*

## ONONDAGA COUNTY



*Exercised a gasoline pipeline rupture concurrent with the annual LaFayette Apple Festival, with gasoline flowing toward festival grounds and an unrelated traffic crash impacting the area.*

## HAZMAT TEAM PIPELINE EXERCISE SERIES

Emergency Management previously applied for and was awarded \$121,000.00 through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Agency (PHSMA) FY23 "Pipeline Emergency Response Grant" (PERG) on behalf of the Central New York Regional Hazardous Materials Team (CNYRHMT). The grant funding was utilized to hire a contractor to conduct four (4) individualized tabletop exercises (TTX) pertaining to pipeline incidents, one (1) in each of the four (4) divisions of the CNYRHMT, with a goal of strengthening preparedness for and response to a major pipeline incident in the region. Throughout 2025, each TTX was conducted with excellent discussion for response capabilities and improvements.

## OSWEGO COUNTY



*Exercised several-days long residential and commercial gas leaks with high methane concentrations concurrent with the annual Oswego Harborfest weekend.*

## MADISON COUNTY



*Exercised natural gas leak caused by a reckless vehicle full of teens who drove down an unpaved pipeline access road, with initial responding officers found unconscious.*



# FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) operates within the Department of Emergency Management, under the oversight of the Director of Fire. The FIU is a team of highly-trained individuals who play a crucial role in determining the circumstances that led to a fire.

Through NYS General Municipal Law Chapter 24, Article 10, Section 204-D, it is the responsibility of the fire chief of any department to determine the cause of a fire or explosion that their department responds to. The FIU serves as a resource to support county fire chief's 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 2025, the FIU conducted over 900 hours of investigations, investigating a total of 162 reported incidents.**

## 2025 Fire Investigation Unit Breakdown

Incident Type	# of Incidents
Other	8
Phone	16
Structure	113
Vehicle	25

Cause of Fire	# of Incidents
Accidental	133
Incendiary	11
Under Investigation	9
Undetermined	8



# CODE ENFORCEMENT

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 and operated property.

Throughout 2025, the team conducted **723** inspections and issued **249** permits for a total approved permit construction value of **\$39,836,000.00**. These efforts not only helped to ensure that all new construction and renovation projects met local and state regulations, but also promotes public safety.



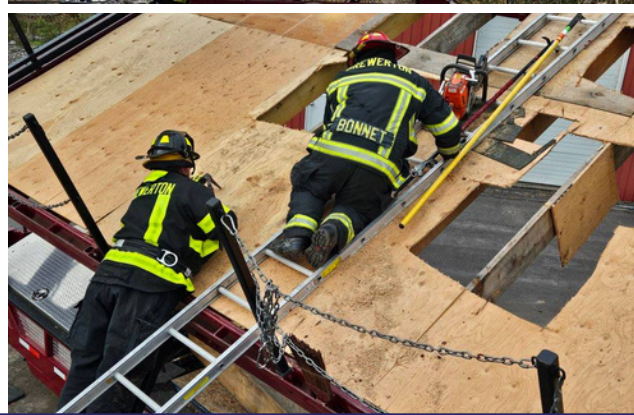
Codes Category	Permits Issued	Inspections Conducted
Annual Building Inspections	N/A	273
ASM Events	96	76
Demolition	2	42
Events & Tents, County Parks	26	20
Mobile Food Trucks	94	143
New Construction & Alterations	13	144
Pyrotechnics	9	10
Welding & Hot Work	9	15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>723</b>

## FIRE TRAINING TRAILER

In 2023, the department acquired a fire training trailer (FTT) which allows for fire departments to conduct training in their areas of expertise, and in some cases, practice skills they would not have otherwise had the opportunity to exercise, including: forcible entry, vertical ventilation, horizontal ventilation, and emergency bailout procedures.

**The FTT was loaned out to 9 fire departments throughout Onondaga County, in 2025, reaching an additional 9 departments through mutual aid.**

The FTT is loaned out for a minimum of two (2) weeks to a maximum of two (2) months at a time, if there are no other requests.



## EMS STUDY

In August 2025, the Department entered a contract to initiate a county-wide EMS study. At this time, there is not a county-wide EMS system in place in Onondaga County. As Onondaga County does not currently provide any EMS to the County, we are reliant on 18 independent transporting ambulance agencies, which are a mix of 11 non-profit corporations, two (2) for-profit corporations, four (4) municipal fire-based, and one (1) collegiate based. There are 53 fire agencies in the county, of which the majority are Basic Life Support First Response agencies. A comprehensive study of the current EMS system will assist in providing scalable, recommended improvements. The projected outcomes of this project are not only identify the strengths and weaknesses in the current system, but to also to provide the County with adequate resources and EMS sustainability.

The EMS Bureau led Phase 1 of the study, which was completed in 2025 and involved stakeholder meetings to provide information on the projects objectives and ensure participation from all necessary entities. Phase 2 of the study involves raw data collection and is kicking off promptly as we enter 2026.

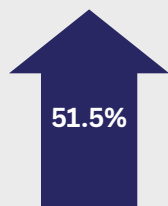


## SOCIAL MEDIA

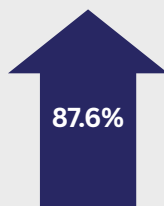
In 2025, a focus for the department was to substantially increase citizen preparedness through social media efforts. The Citizen Preparedness & Community Outreach Coordinator position was specifically tasked with this effort and was instrumental in expanding outreach to the community. This position managed the development and distribution of a multi-faceted digital strategy, utilizing platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and X to disseminate actionable safety information and real-time updates during emergencies. The initiative aimed to make preparedness information more accessible and engaging for diverse demographics, moving beyond traditional methods to foster a "Whole Community" approach to disaster readiness. This targeted effort successfully boosted the department's digital footprint and enhanced public engagement, leading to a demonstrable increase in community awareness and readiness.



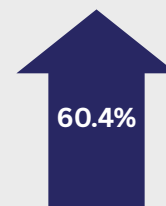
[facebook.com/OnondagaEM](https://facebook.com/OnondagaEM)



*followers*



*content interactions*

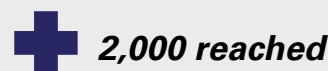


*page visits*



[@OnondagaEM](https://instagram.com/OnondagaEM)

The department joined Instagram in August 2025.



## OUTREACH EVENTS

With the addition of the Citizen Preparedness & Community Outreach Coordinator position, the department was able to improve representation at public safety events. The department is working to improve community outreach by leveraging strategic networking and consistent event attendance to build trust and broaden its audience. Targeted event attendance has allowed for meaningful, in-person dialogue, which is highly effective for establishing relationships and ensuring the public understands the role of emergency management and key preparedness initiatives. A crucial insight from these interactions was the identified need for the procurement of specialized children's outreach materials, such as interactive brochures and activity books, which are essential for engaging families and ensuring information is accessible and appealing to all demographics. This inclusive, multi-faceted approach helps the department reach a broader spectrum of residents, including traditionally hard-to-reach populations, and gather valuable data to drive future efforts.





## EQUIPMENT UPDATES

### NEW MOBILE OPERATIONS CENTER (EM-50)



With the support of the County and House Appropriations Committee, the former Mobile Incident Command vehicle (EM-50) that supported the County for over 2 decades was able to be replaced and upgraded. The costs associated with ongoing maintenance and essential system upgrades are increasing and were not found to be justifiable long-term. The old vehicle was traded in and the new vehicle is fully in service.

EM-50 has been rebranded as the Mobile Operations Center, which better represents its capabilities as a self-contained, deployable asset that serves as a central command, control, and communications hub for supporting agencies at incident scenes or planned events. The Mobile Operations Center provides on-site coordination and technology to support incidents by bridging communication gaps and situational awareness to support decision-making.



## EQUIPMENT UPDATES CONT'D

### FOTOKITE

In 2025, the Department invested in a Fotokite drone. This is a unique addition as it is an actively tethered drone, which conserves personnel by launching, flying, and landing with the single push of a button; no piloting required. The drone is further equipped with a radiometric thermal camera, a wide-angle color camera, and a zoom color camera mounted on a three-axis gimbal. The data from these camera sensors is combined to provide simultaneous video streams to the user at any time, providing critical situational awareness from elevated perspectives. This addition has been utilized to improve public safety and event security, and will also be utilized for future damage assessments.



### ARCHER RAPID GATE

To further improve incident and event security, the Department identified the need for and invested in an Archer Rapid Gate. The Archer Rapid Gate is a deployable asset used to create a portable access point for emergency vehicles or authorized traffic. The 10-14 foot gate features 180° horizontal rotation for flexible lane access and integrates with other barriers for extended perimeter control. Assembly is efficiently able to be completed within minutes with just 2 people, requiring no power, hydraulics, or anchoring.





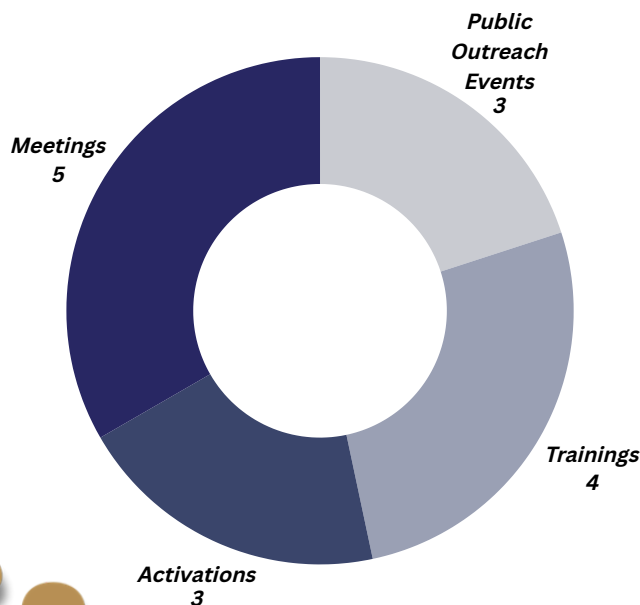
## SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAMS

### ONONDAGA COUNTY ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM

#### OnCART is dedicated to...

- Provide training to facilitate safe rescue practices for responders and animals.
- Provide sheltering and rescue of companion animals and livestock in disaster situations.
- Facilitate the coordination of agencies and resources to manage an emergency involving animals.

**In 2025, OnCART completed a total of 208 volunteer hours.**



OnCART is always looking for volunteers and training is FREE!  
Interested in joining? Contact us at [onondagacart@gmail.com](mailto:onondagacart@gmail.com)

*The team includes collaboration amongst multiple agencies and private sector organizations, as well as the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets. We welcome volunteers from EMS, fire service, law enforcement, veterinary professionals, and the public!*

*The team is **all volunteer**, supported by the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management.*





## GRANT FUNDING

In 2025 the department was **awarded \$42,300.00 in grant funding** through both competitive and non-competitive State and Federal grant programs.

Grant	Granting Agency	Amount Granted	Funding Allocation(s)
<b>FY24 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness</b>	New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	\$16,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides financial support to the CNY Regional HazMat Team</li> <li>• Supports travel &amp; registration fees for eligible conferences and trainings</li> </ul>
<b>FY25 Pipeline Emergency Response Grant</b>	Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Agency	\$26,300.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides financial support to the CNY Regional HazMat Team</li> </ul>

