

Weather Emergency Protocols Report Local Law 24/2011

Summary	<p>The New York City Emergency Management Department (NYCEM) has plans and protocols in place to guide New York City’s response to weather emergencies, including plans for winter weather, coastal storms, extreme heat, flash floods, and events causing power outages, damage to structures, and/or significant amounts of debris. The four key weather emergency plans include the <i>Winter Weather Emergency Plan</i>, <i>Coastal Storm Plan</i>, <i>Heat Emergency Plan</i>, and <i>Flash Flood Emergency Plan</i>. Each plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes a coordinated, flexible response to the hazardous weather event. • Defines agency roles and responsibilities. • Guides agencies through key decisions and actions to mitigate effects on people, critical infrastructure, and City operations 																	
Plan Activation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYCEM Watch Command tracks New York City weather conditions in real-time in conjunction with the National Weather Service, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and disseminates related hazard information to agencies. • When a weather emergency meets one or more of the forecast triggers, NYCEM convenes interagency steering committee conference calls to coordinate preparation for the event and activates relevant plans and operations. • NYCEM activates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), when necessary, to prepare for and respond to weather emergencies. • NYCEM provides public messaging through Notify NYC, NYCEM’s website, and the NYC Severe Weather website, as well as social media, emails and calls to elected officials, private and non-profit partners, and other means. • When a weather emergency exhausts New York City’s response resources, NYCEM will work with agencies to identify vendors that can provide appropriate resources or will request support from the state through the established mission request process. • If conditions warrant, NYCEM may concurrently activate additional all-hazards and recovery plans and protocols. 																	
Activation Levels	<p>Based on forecast triggers and interagency steering committee discussion, NYCEM may convene citywide coordination at one of the following levels:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #333; color: white;"> <th style="width: 15%;">Level</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Coordination Center</th> <th style="width: 65%;">Agencies</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">EOC (full)</td> <td>NYCEM personnel, all interagency steering committee agencies, and additional subject matter experts and partners as needed</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">EOC (partial)</td> <td>NYCEM personnel and a subset of interagency steering committee agencies</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Situation Room</td> <td>NYCEM personnel and key interagency steering committee agencies</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Watch Command</td> <td>The City’s EOC is always, at a minimum, at Level 4 activation. In modified Level 4 activations, EOC Team staff and agency representatives serve as an extension of Watch Command, as needed.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Level	Coordination Center	Agencies	1	EOC (full)	NYCEM personnel, all interagency steering committee agencies, and additional subject matter experts and partners as needed	2	EOC (partial)	NYCEM personnel and a subset of interagency steering committee agencies	3	Situation Room	NYCEM personnel and key interagency steering committee agencies	4	Watch Command	The City’s EOC is always, at a minimum, at Level 4 activation. In modified Level 4 activations, EOC Team staff and agency representatives serve as an extension of Watch Command, as needed.
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Mutual Aid Assistance	If resources are required beyond City assets and procurement, NYCEM will request assistance from NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) through the following options (in order):	
	Mutual Aid Options	Description
	State-level or federal-level assets	NYS DHSES coordinates requested resource through appropriate NYS or federal agencies
	Intra-State Mutual Aid Program (IMAP)	Once an emergency is declared, NYCEM requests assistance from participating local governments within New York state
	Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)	After gubernatorial declaration of state of emergency, NYS DHSES requests assistance from member states

This document summarizes the weather emergency protocols that are contained within the NYC *Winter Weather Emergency Plan (WWEP)*.

Triggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowfall exceeding three inches. • High temperatures below 15° F for a 48-hour period • Wind chill below 0° F • Sustained winds exceeding 40 miles per hour. • Forecasted ice storms or freezing rain 	
Winter Weather Emergency Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 311 • American Red Cross • Amtrak • City Hall • Community Affairs Unit • Con Edison • Department for the Aging • Department of Buildings • Department of Citywide Administrative Services • Department of Corrections • Department of Education • Department of Environmental Protection • Department of Health and Mental Hygiene • Department of Housing Preservation and Development • Department of Parks and Recreation • Department of Sanitation • Department of Social Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York City Emergency Management Department • New York City Fire Department • New York City Housing Authority • New York City Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management • New York City Office of Technology and Innovation • New York City Police Department • New York City Service • New York National Guard • New York State Unified Court System • New York State Department of Health • New York State Department of Transportation • New York State DHSES • Office of the Chief Medical Examiner • Office of Labor Relations • Office of Management and Budget

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Transportation • Economic Development Corporation • Federal Emergency Management Agency • Greater New York Hospital Association • Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice • Mayor's Office of Contract Services • Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities • Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations • Mayor's Public Engagement Unit • NYC Health + Hospitals • Metropolitan Transportation Authority • National Grid • National Weather Service • New Jersey Transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Authority of New York and New Jersey • Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated (PSEG) – Long Island • Regional Emergency Medical Services Council • Taxi and Limousine Commission • Transportation Operations Coordination Committee (TRANSCOM) • United States Coast Guard • Verizon • Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) 	
Operational Strategies	The following are WSEP strategies implemented by agencies and coordinated by NYCEM:		
	Objective	Operational Strategy	Agencies
	Provide Hazard Awareness and Disseminate Public Messaging	Issue Alerts and Declarations	DCAS, DOE, DOHMH, DSNY, DOT, FDNY, LAW, Mayor's Office, NYCEM, NYPD, OLR
		Disseminate Public Information	311, OTI, DSNY, Mayor's Office, NYCEM, Steering Committee agencies
	Reduce Hazards on Roadways and Transportation Systems	Transportation Network Condition Assessment	311, DOT, DSNY, FDNY, NYCEM, TRANSCOM
		Street and Facility Clearing	311, DCAS, DEP, DOT, DPR, DSNY, MTA, NYCEM, PANYNJ
		Winter Weather Towing	DCAS, DOT, DSNY, FDNY, MTA, NYCEM, NYPD
		Transportation Network Operations and Suspensions	DOT, FAA, MTA, NYPD, NYS DOT, PANYNJ
	Reduce Building Infrastructure and Utility Hazards	No Heat/No Hot Water	311, CON ED, DOHMH, HPD, NATIONAL GRID, NYCHA, NYCEM
		Respond to Electric Utility Issues	CON ED, PSEG-LI
Monitor and Support Vulnerable Populations	Situational Awareness and Resource Escalation	ARC, DOE, HPD, MTA, NYCEM, Advance Warning System Agencies	
	Homeless Outreach	311, DPR, DSNY, DSS, FDNY, MTA, NYPD, PANYNJ	
Key Actions	The following represents the range of decisions and actions city agencies may initiate:		

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	Action	Description
	Issue Travel Advisory and Hazardous Travel Advisory	Increase hazard awareness for the public and diminish numbers of vehicles on roadways.
	Close schools or reduced hours	Reduces number of children and parents using roadways.
	Suspend alternate side parking and/or meter rules	Reduces number of people moving vehicles due to parking rules.
	Begin towing operations	NYPD, DSNY, or entity designated by DOT may remove vehicles obstructing traffic or illegally parked.
	Activate Tow Truck Task Force	Coordinated towing of stuck ambulances, buses, and other vehicles.
	Issue Cold Weather Alert	Triggers increased outreach to vulnerable populations; issued automatically when overnight temperatures are forecast to fall below 32°F.
	Issue DSNY Snow Alert	Triggers mobilization of DSNY resources and activation of PlowNYC link on the NYC Severe Weather Website; issued when snow is predicted within 24-48 hours. Open Street partners will be notified if road treatment is needed, and Open Restaurants partners will be asked to demobilize if weather conditions is extreme.
	Issue weather emergency declaration	A mayoral weather emergency declaration may include any of the actions listed above necessary to protect public safety.
<i>Plan Activations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYCEM activated the <i>Winter Weather Emergency Plan</i> one (1) time during the reporting period of November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023: February 27, 2023 	

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This document summarizes the weather emergency protocols contained within the NYC *Coastal Storm Plan (CSP)*.

Trigger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Weather Service forecasts a coastal storm impact north of North Carolina with potential impacts to New York City. 	
Coastal Storm Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 311 3PL Administration for Children’s Services Amtrak American Red Cross City Hall Community Affairs Unit Con Edison Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Department of Buildings Department of Citywide Administrative Services Department of Corrections Department of Design and Construction Department of Education Department of Environmental Protection Department for the Aging Department of Finance/Sheriff Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Department of Housing Preservation and Development Department of Parks and Recreation Department of Sanitation Department of Small Business Services Department of Social Services Department of Transportation Economic Development Corporation Federal Emergency Management Agency Greater New York Hospital Association Greater New York Health Care Facilities Association IRPO End State Renal Disease Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice Mayor’s Office of Contract Services Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation Mayor’s Office of Housing Recovery Operations Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Mayor’s Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Mayor’s Office of Operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Grid National Parks Service National Weather Service New Jersey Transit New York City Emergency Management Department New York City Fire Department New York City Housing Authority New York City Law Department New York City Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management New York City Office of Labor Relations New York City Office of Technology and Innovation New York City Office of Technology and Innovation New York City Police Department New York Racing Association New York State Board of Elections New York State Courts New York State Department of Health New York State Department of Transportation New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs New York State Office of Mental Health NYC Health + Hospitals NYC Service Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Office of Management and Budget Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated (PSEG) – Long Island Regional Emergency Medical Services Council Southern New York Association Taxi and Limousine Commission

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities • Mayor’s Public Engagement Unit • Metropolitan Transportation Authority • Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Operations Coordinating Committee (TRANSCOM) • United States Coast Guard • United States Army Corps of Engineers • U.S. Department of Health and Human Services • Verizon • Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
Operational Strategies	New York City’s coastal storm response is guided by the following strategic, operational, and tactical documents. These planning documents are stand-alone documents implemented by agencies and coordinated by NYCEM:	
	Coastal Storm Functional Plan	Description
	Coastal Storm Plan (CSP)	The Coastal Storm Plan is a companion document to the Coastal Storm Activation Playbook (CSAP). The CSP provides a high-level, citywide overview of response, relief, and recovery operations during a coastal storm. Specifically, it defines authorities, timelines, and procedures for communication, coordination, decision-making, and operations.
	Coastal Storm Activation Playbook (CSAP)	Provides structure to a citywide response. The CSAP consists of quick sheets, which are outlines of operational strategies used for reference. Quick sheets include task lists, organization charts, conference call forms, critical information dashboards, incident data reports, incident timelines, and ESF roles and responsibilities.
	Advance Warning System Protocol*	Pushes targeted emergency information to organizations that serve people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs during emergencies.
	Evacuation	Describes the systems, processes, and procedures to evacuate at-risk population from areas of the city that may be inundated with storm surge to safer areas prior to the predicted Zero Hour.
	Healthcare Facility Evacuation Center Manual	Describes a coordinated operation to evacuate at-risk healthcare facilities in evacuation zones to like facilities on higher ground.
	Sheltering	Explains the procedures to activate and manage a disaster sheltering system for New Yorkers and visitors unable to find alternative shelter outside of storm surge areas.
	Transportation Branch Manual	Describes coordinated allocation of transportation resources for discrete transport missions.
	Logistics*	Outlines the basic activities and timelines needed to effectively implement shelter system support and post-storm commodities distribution operations.

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	Public Information*	Outlines steps for City public information efforts before, during, and after a coastal storm.
	Recovery Playbook	Outlines the phases of recovery and how the City supports them through various task forces and plans.
	Debris Management*	Provides organizational structure, guidance and standardized procedures for debris clearance, removal, storage, and disposal.
* All-Hazards plans not limited to coastal storm activations.		
Key Actions	The following represents the range of decisions and actions City agencies may initiate:	
	Action	Description
	Issue recommended evacuation	Issued when risks do not warrant an evacuation order; may target specific areas, facilities, or populations.
	Close schools	Reduces number of children and parents using roadways. Schools must close before buildings can open to the public for sheltering operations.
	Issue ordered evacuation	Issued under authority of executive law; empowers the mayor to make emergency orders to protect life and property, inclusive of general population, healthcare facilities, and homebound evacuations.
	Issue recommended/ordered cessation of non-essential services	Allows citywide resources to be directed toward response operations, especially in specific areas or facilities.
	Open shelters	Allows voluntary evacuation as a response to a localized threat or supports a mandatory evacuation.
	Issue weather emergency declaration	A mayoral weather emergency declaration may include any of the actions listed above necessary to protect public safety.
Plan Activations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYCEM activated the <i>Coastal Storm Plan</i> zero (0) times during the reporting period of November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023. 	

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This document summarizes the weather emergency protocols that are contained within the NYC *Heat Emergency Plan* (HEP).

Triggers	<p><i>Heat Emergency Plan</i> Activation Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted heat index of 100°F or higher for one day or more. • Predicted heat index of 95°F or higher for two consecutive days or more. <p>In addition to <i>Heat Emergency Plan</i> activation criteria, triggers for excessive heat considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted heat index of 105 °F for any duration, or • Predicted heat index of 95 °F for four days or more 	
Heat Emergency Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 311 • American Red Cross • Brooklyn Public Library • Community Affairs Unit • Con Edison • Department of Buildings • Department of Citywide Administrative Services • Department of Corrections • Department of Design and Construction • Department of Environmental Protection • Department of Youth and Community Development • Department of Education • Department of Health and Mental Hygiene • Department of Housing Preservation and Development • Department of Parks and Recreation • Department of Sanitation • Department of Social Services • Department of Transportation • Economic Development Corporation • Greater New York Hospital Association • NYC Health + Hospitals • Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities • Mayor’s Office of Housing Recovery Operation • Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice • Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Transportation Authority • National Weather Service • New York 811 • New York City Aging • New York City Emergency Management Department • New York City Fire Department • New York City Housing Authority • New York City Police Department • New York City Office of Labor Relations • New York City Office of Technology and Innovation • New York Public Library • New York State Department of Health • New York State Board of Elections • New York State Office of Emergency Management • Office of the Chief Medical Examiner • Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management • Port Authority of New York and New Jersey • Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated (PSEG) – Long Island • Queens Public Library • Regional Emergency Medical Services Council • Salvation Army • Verizon • Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
	<p>The following are HEP strategies implemented by agencies and coordinated by NYCEM:</p>	

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	Objectives	Operational Strategy	Agencies
Operational Strategies	Provide Hazard Awareness and Disseminate Public Messaging	Disseminate Public Information	311, DOHMH, FDNY, NYCEM
	Minimize Impacts to Public Health	Activate the Advance Warning System	ACS, ARC, Brooklyn Public Library, CCBQ, CCNY, Con Ed, DFTA, DOC, DOE, DOHMH, DSS, DPR, DYCD, ESRD, God's Love We Deliver, HBCA, H+H, Mayor's Office, MOPD, MTA, NYCEM, NYCHA, NY Public Library, NYS DOH, NYS DHSES, NYS OMH, NYS OPWDD, PSEG – LI, Queens Public Library, SA, VA, Visiting Nurse Service of NY
		Activate Cooling Centers	311, Brooklyn Public Library, DFTA, OTI, DPR, DYCD, NYCEM, NYCHA, NYPD, NY Public Library, Queens Public Library, SA
		Conduct Homeless Outreach	311, DSS, DPR, DSNY, MTA, NYC DOT, NYCEM
	Minimize Impacts to Infrastructure	Relieve Stress on Electric System	Con Ed, DCAS, NYCEM, PSEG-LI
		Issue Excavation Safety Alert	Con Ed, DDC, DEP, DOT, DPR, MTA, NYCEM, NY 811, PSEG-LI, Verizon
		Distribute Spray Caps	DEP, FDNY, NYCEM, NYPD
	Key Actions	The following represents the range of decisions and actions city agencies may initiate:	
Action		Description	
Disseminate public information		Communicate information about heat safety and power conservation tips to the public.	
Activate the Advance Warning System		Disseminate information about forecast, potential hazards and available resources such as cooling centers to service providers who work with individuals with access and functional needs.	
Activate cooling centers		Open free air-conditioned facilities (e.g., senior centers, libraries, community centers) to the public to assist individuals without access to air-conditioning.	
Conduct homeless outreach		Increase monitoring and outreach to the homeless population to determine need for further protection from heat exposure.	

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	Relieve stress on electric system	Identify strategies for reducing load on the electric system during heat emergencies, especially during peak load periods.
	Issue excavation safety alert	Provide guidance to contractors on enhanced protective measures to excavate safely to protect underground critical facilities.
	Distribute spray caps program	Distribute fire hydrant spray caps to the public to provide relief from the heat and minimize impact to fire hydrant water pressure.
Plan Activations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYCEM activated the <i>Heat Emergency Plan</i> two (2) times during the reporting period of November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023: July 26, 2023 September 4, 2023 	

This document summarizes the weather emergency protocols and procedures that are contained within the NYC *Flash Flood Emergency Plan* (FFEP).

Trigger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Weather Service NY determines flash flood risk is at a low, moderate, or high level. At the request of City Hall or key operational agencies (e.g., DEP, DSNY, FDNY, MTA, NYC DOT, NYCEM, NYPD, and Parks). 	
Flash Flood Conference Call Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 311 American Red Cross Community Affairs Unit City Hall Press/Communications Con Edison Department of Buildings Department of Citywide Administrative Services Department of Corrections Department of Education Department of Environmental Protection Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Department of Parks and Recreation Department of Sanitation Department of Social Services Economic Development Corporation Greater New York Hospital Association Mayor's Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations Metropolitan Transportation Authority National Weather Service New York City Department of Transportation New York City Emergency Management Department New York City Fire Department NYC Health + Hospitals New York City Housing Authority New York City Housing Preservation and Development New York City Office of Technology and Innovation New York City Police Department New York State DHSES New York State Department of Transportation New York State Police Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated (PSEG) – Long Island

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs 			
<i>Operational Strategies</i>	The following are FFEP strategies implemented by agencies and coordinated by NYCEM:			
	Operational Strategy		Agencies	
	Provide Hazard Awareness and Disseminate Public Information		DEP, DSNY, DOT, MTA	
	Mitigate Impacts to Transportation and Infrastructure Capacity		DEP, FDNY, NYPD, DOT, NYCEM, NYS DOT	
	Assist Residents Impacted by Flood Conditions		ARC, CAU, DEP, DOHMH, DSS, OTI, NYCEM	
<i>Key Actions</i>	The following represents the range of decisions and actions City agencies may initiate:			
	Action		Description	
	Commence targeted cleaning and maintenance operations		City agencies deploy personnel to designated chronic flooding locations to clear streets and catch basins of debris.	
	Monitor chronic flood locations		City agencies and volunteers provide targeted monitoring of chronic flood locations to improve response during a flood event and to help direct recovery efforts.	
	Begin dewatering operations		FDNY provides dewatering equipment and personnel to support flood response at critical streets and intersections.	
	Provide recovery assistance		City agencies provide services and distribute appropriate recovery resources to affected residents through reception centers or shelters.	
	Disseminate public information, including travel advisories		Increase hazard awareness to the public by communicating information about forecast, potential hazards, and flood recovery including mold remediation and services.	
	Issue weather emergency declaration		A mayoral weather emergency declaration may include any of the actions listed above necessary to protect public safety.	
<i>Plan Activations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYCEM activated the Flash Flood Emergency Plan fifteen (15) times during the reporting period of November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023 (this plan is specific-agency actions and not EOC activation): 			
	March 13, 2023	May 20, 2023	June 22, 2023	July 1, 2023
	July 7, 2023	July 13, 2023	July 20, 2023	July 26, 2023
	August 6, 2023	August 9, 2023	August 13, 2023	September 8, 2023
	September 21, 2023	September 28, 2023	October 5, 2023	