

Local Law 12/2022 Report

New York City Emergency Management Department (NYCEM) works with agency partners and other stakeholders to develop and maintain dozens of emergency plans for the City of New York. Emergency plans help prepare the City to respond effectively during an incident to reduce disruptions to people and services. These plans are scalable, flexible, and are made up of a menu of operations and response options.

Since no two emergencies are the same and every emergency can create new and unforeseen conditions, having a menu of options that can be used or adapted for a wide range of incidents and hazards is essential – especially due to the evolving threat landscape in New York City (NYC). No matter the event, the City can leverage or modify existing strategies and tools from our plans to quickly coordinate the response to an event to address incident-specific needs. This includes holding interagency coordination calls, monitoring and track impacts to critical services and infrastructure, identifying key decisions and resources needed to reduce impacts from the event, and tracking key actions to support the response by agency partners.

NYCEM conducts annual plan maintenance and seasonal preparedness activities for heat, flash flood, coastal storm, and winter weather. During this process, key information such as operations and agency roles and responsibilities are reviewed and socialized with agencies. NYCEM also meets regularly with its agency partners to discuss other major hazards and plans (e.g., utility disruptions, cyber attack, air quality, and hazard mitigation) to enhance the City’s preparedness. Below is a brief summary of key citywide emergency plans.

For more information on the City’s all-hazards response framework, see the Citywide Incident Management System (CIMS): https://www.nyc.gov/assets/em/downloads/pdf/Appendix_cims_charts.pdf. CIMS establishes roles and responsibilities and designates authority for City, state, other government entities, and nonprofit and private-sector organizations performing and supporting emergency response.

	Description
Heat	<p>The City works closely with the National Weather Service (NWS) to monitor severe weather threats that could affect the five boroughs. This includes a Heat Emergency Steering Committee made up of interagency partners that convene during heat emergencies.</p> <p>During periods of extreme heat, NYC will issue public messaging via Notify NYC, the City of New York's official emergency communications program which is amplified through other social and media channels. The City may also alert the public in an emergency through NYCEM press releases, text short code, 311 VMS, 311 relays, social media, elected outreach, community engagement efforts, and private sector coordination.</p> <p>The Advance Warning System (AWS) will also be utilized to send targeted emergency information to organizations that serve people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs during emergencies. The City may open cooling centers which are free-air conditioned facilities (e.g., older adult centers, libraries, community centers, and other public facilities) that typically operate during daytime hours to the public to assist individuals without access to air-conditioning. Enhanced homeless outreach is also conducted.</p> <p>To minimize impacts on infrastructure, the City will work closely with its utility partners (e.g., natural gas and electric companies) to monitor for impacts and identify strategies for reducing load on electric system to prevent localized or widespread power outages. Additionally, the NYC Fire Department (FDNY) and NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) make fire hydrant spray caps available to conserve water. Opening hydrants without a cap result in a drop in local water pressure and threatens firefighting capabilities.</p>

	<p>For additional information and resources, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYCEM’s Weather Emergency Protocols Report for Local Law 24 of 2011 • NYCEM’s Cooling Center Report for Local Law 85 of 2020 • DOHMH’s Extreme Heat page • NYCEM’s Plan for Hazards: Extreme Heat page • NYC Hazard Mitigation Plan: Extreme Heat Profile
Flash Flood	<p>Before, during, and after a flooding event, the City works closely with NWS to monitor weather forecasts. The City may implement strategies such as providing hazard awareness and disseminating public information, mitigating impacts to transportation and infrastructure capacity, and assisting residents impacted by flood conditions.</p> <p>The City’s Notify NYC alert system is a critical tool to warn the public, especially for residents living in basement apartments, because these units are often more susceptible to flooding. Receiving real-time weather and emergency alerts enables these residents to make timely and informed decisions, such as evacuating before floodwaters reach dangerous levels. The City also uses several forms of outreach to alert the public in an emergency, including AWS, NYCEM press releases, text short code, 311 VMS, 311 relays, social media, elected outreach, community engagement efforts, and private sector coordination.</p> <p>Prior to an event, City agencies deploy personnel to designated chronic flood locations to clear debris from streets and catch basins. Agencies and volunteers will monitor and respond to flooding conditions during a flash flood event. This can escalate to deploying dewatering equipment and personnel to support a flood response at critical sites and for life safety during an event.</p> <p>Recovery operations may be needed after flash flood events that caused major impacts or damage to restore services where needed and evaluate the full scope of damage to infrastructure and buildings. The City may coordinate operations such as damage assessments and community outreach.</p> <p>For additional information and resources, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYCEM’s Weather Emergency Protocols Report for Local Law 24 of 2011 • DEP’s Rainfall Ready NYC Action Plan website • NYCEM’s Plan for Hazards: Flooding page • MOCEJ’s NYC Stormwater Resiliency Plan • NYC Hazard Mitigation Plan: Flooding Profile
Coastal Storm	<p>Describes a citywide response to a large-scale coastal storm event, particularly a hurricane. The City uses different tools and a structured timeline to guide decision making and commences operations to respond to a potential storm that could bring wind, rain, or storm surge from a coastal storm.</p> <p>To do this, the City works closely with the NWS and National Hurricane Center to monitor severe weather threats that could affect the five boroughs and convenes an interagency Coastal Storm Steering Committee, as needed. The City also uses several forms of outreach to alert the public in an emergency, including Notify NYC, AWS, NYCEM press releases, text short code, 311 VMS, 311 relays, social media, elected outreach, community engagement efforts, and private sector coordination.</p>

	<p>The City may order residents to evacuate depending on the hurricane’s track and projected storm surge. At-risk populations may be evacuated from areas of the city that may be inundated with storm surge to safer areas prior to onset of tropical storm winds. New York State Department of Health, NYCEM, and other key agency partners may coordinate operations to evacuate at-risk healthcare facilities in evacuation zones to like facilities on higher ground, if needed. A disaster sheltering system may also be activated for New Yorkers and visitors unable to find alternative shelter outside of storm surge areas.</p> <p>Other operational strategies needed to respond to the impacts of a coastal storm include, but are not limited to, operations as logistics management, donations and volunteer management, commodity distribution, debris management, interim flood protection measures, public information, recovery, and restoration. Additional decisions may include emergency declarations, cessation of services, closures or modifications to school operations, and transit shutdowns.</p> <p>For additional information and resources, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYCEM’s Weather Emergency Protocols Report for Local Law 24 of 2011 • NYC Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder • NYCEM’s Plan for Hazards: Coastal Storms & Hurricanes page • MOCEJ’s Coastal Infrastructure website • NYC Hazard Mitigation Plan: Coastal Storms Profile • 311’s Hurricane Evacuation page
<p>Winter Weather</p>	<p>During winter weather emergencies, the City works to provide hazard awareness and disseminate public information, reduce hazards on roadways and transportation systems, reduce building infrastructure and utility hazards, and monitor and support vulnerable populations.</p> <p>To do this, the City closely works with the NWS to monitor severe weather threats that could affect the five boroughs and convenes an interagency Winter Weather Steering Committee, as needed. The City will issue weather alerts and disseminate risk information to the public through various channels, including Notify NYC, AWS, NYCEM press releases, text short code, 311 VMS, 311 relays, social media, elected outreach, community engagement efforts, and private sector coordination.</p> <p>The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) leads snow removal operations on city streets across the five boroughs, coordinating closely with the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) and other agencies to ensure that all roadways and sidewalks are cleared as soon as possible. DSNY tracks progress in real time and works with agency partners in the City’s Emergency Operations Center to address problems as they arise.</p> <p>The City works with government, private-sector, nonprofit, and volunteer partners, including NYC CERT, to address all types of winter weather conditions to meet the needs of incident conditions as they arise.</p> <p>For additional information and resources, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYCEM’s Weather Emergency Protocols Report for Local Law 24 of 2011 • DSNY’s Snow Response website • DSNY’s Borough Snow Plans for Local Law 28 of 2011 • NYCEM’s Plan for Hazards: Winter Weather page • NYC Hazard Mitigation Plan: Winter Weather Profile

<p>Utility Disruptions</p>	<p>Describes a coordinated response to widespread and non-routine utility disruptions to mitigate impacts on critical infrastructure, vulnerable populations, and City operations.</p> <p>The City works with relevant agencies and utility companies to prepare for and respond to widespread and non-routine disruptions to electricity, gas, steam, and water supply. For example, the City and utility companies monitor the City’s electrical system and may ask the public to conserve energy to prevent widespread outages. During an emergency, the City will work with relevant agencies — such as the NYC Police Department (NYPD), FDNY, DEP, and utility companies that serve New York City — to identify critical infrastructure, facilities, and at-risk populations that may be affected by a disruption or an outage. While the responsibility for restoring utilities lies with the providers themselves, the City supports them in their efforts by providing staging locations for equipment, helping to facilitate access to areas where repairs are necessary, and identifying critical customers who have lost service. The City also distributes or amplifies utility providers’ guidance and updates to the public.</p> <p>For additional information and resources, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYCEM’s Plan for Hazards: Utility Disruption page
<p>Cyber Attack</p>	<p>Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), in conjunction with other City agencies, works to eliminate cyber threats and cascading impacts following a cyber incident.</p> <p>OTI is a centralized organization created by Executive Order to lead the City's cyber defense efforts, working with more than 100 agencies and offices to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from cyber threats. OTI’s Cyber Command is committed to protecting NYC infrastructure and critical systems from malicious attacks through the use of the latest technologies, public-private partnerships, and regular training and exercises for City employees.</p> <p>For additional information and resources, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTI website • OTI’s NYC Secure App • NYCEM’s Plan for Hazards: Cybersecurity page • CISA’s Cybersecurity Awareness Program • NYC Hazard Mitigation Plan: Non-Natural Profile
<p>Air Quality</p>	<p>The City works closely with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and NWS to monitor the Air Quality Index (AQI), especially during the warmer months.</p> <p>NYSDEC will issue an Air Quality Advisory when the AQI is 100+. Public messaging about incoming hazards and guidance will be issued through Notify NYC.</p> <p>Based on guidance from DOHMH and NYSDEC, escalated actions and decisions may be taken to mitigate potential health impacts as the AQI levels increase. The City will monitor and track impacts to critical services and infrastructure such as transportation. DOHMH, NYC Department of Social Services (DSS), Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), and other agencies, will enhance communication with and outreach to vulnerable populations. Additional actions and decisions include interagency coordination calls, distribution of masks to the public, modifications to school operations, curtailment of services and outdoor events, and enhanced outreach and messaging.</p>

	<p>For additional information and resources, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOHMH’s Air Quality website • NYSDEC Air website • U.S. EPA’s Air Quality website • Environment and Health Data Portal: Air Quality in NYC • NYC Hazard Mitigation Plan: Poor Air Quality Profile
Hazard Mitigation	<p>The 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan is a FEMA required plan that establishes the City’s eligibility for pre/post-disaster mitigation funding. The plan identifies natural hazard risks and vulnerabilities that are common to New York City and long-term strategies for reducing those risks and vulnerabilities. The 2024 update profiles 10 hazards including Coastal Erosion, Coastal Storms, Flooding, Extreme Heat, Earthquakes, Poor Air Quality, High Winds, Drought, Winter Weather, and non-natural hazards. Each hazard profile assesses the probability of occurrence, severity of impact, areas of the city most vulnerable, social vulnerability, and historic events. To demonstrate what the City is doing to reduce the impacts of these hazards, the plan also includes a mitigation database of existing and future actions as well as current capabilities to implement mitigation actions.</p> <p>For additional information and resources, see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYC’s Hazard Mitigation Plan • NYCEM’s Plan for Hazards: Hazard Mitigation page

Working together with agencies to write a plan is merely the beginning of a process. Training and exercising the City’s plans is an important part of maintaining readiness and working with the appropriate agencies – those that own the core competency and operational responsibility – to prepare for citywide response in any emergency. NYCEM maintains a robust training and exercises program that includes both online and classroom training in areas such as logistics, emergency operations, sheltering operations, and field response, with all the components of interagency coordination incorporated. NYCEM also hosts regular exercises with all relevant agencies focused on specific areas of plans. These efforts, combined with a continual emphasis on public and private sector preparedness, are the keys to success in responding to hazards.

The public may submit comments by emailing PlanFeedback@oem.nyc.gov. When submitting comments, please:

1. Clearly identify the issue you are commenting on. For instance, if you are commenting on a specific sentence, include the page number and line number. For broader comments, include the relevant part or section number.
2. Provide a reason for each comment.