

Evacuation Operations

Community Board 14



Agenda

01 Overview of Evacuation Operations

02 Community Board Support

Overview of Evacuation Operations

Coastal Storm Evacuations

Evacuation Decision-making

- NYCEM will convene an interagency Coastal Storm Steering Committee (CSSC) if the National Hurricane Center (NHC) predicts impacts to the region
- CSSC will consider whether an evacuation order is warranted and make recommendations to the Mayor
 - Evacuations are based on storm inundation and flooding, rather than wind or rainfall
- Evacuation orders will be issued no later than –48 hours before the arrival of Zero Hour (arrival of tropical-storm force winds) and will identify specific zones to be evacuated
 - Forecasts are variable and can change timelines and/or impacted zones



Learn your hurricane evacuation zone at nyc.gov/knowyourzone.
Sign up for emergency alerts from NotifyNYC at nyc.gov/notify.



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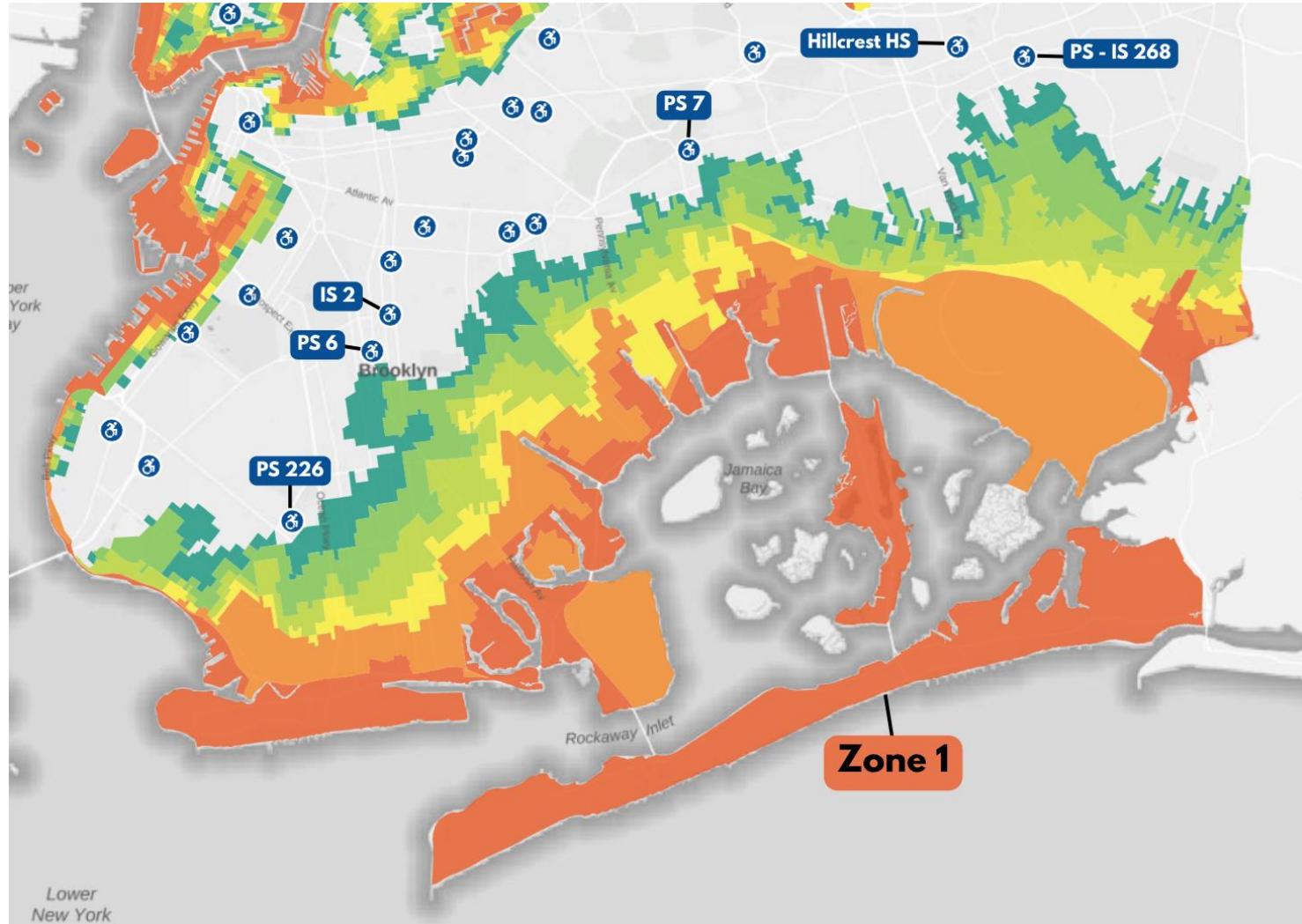
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Coastal Storm Evacuations

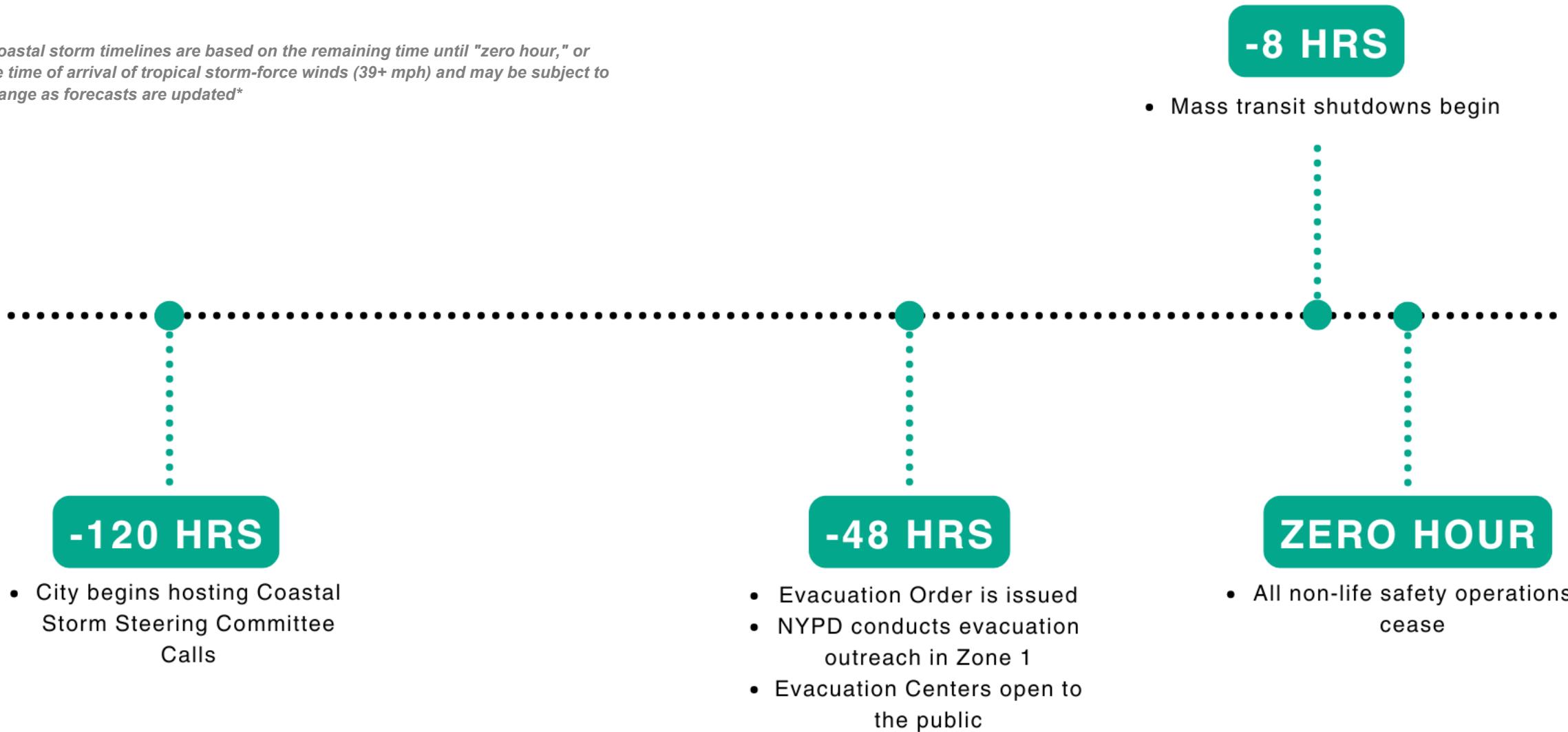
Evacuation Zone Map



Coastal Storm Evacuations

Evacuation Timeline

Coastal storm timelines are based on the remaining time until "zero hour," or the time of arrival of tropical storm-force winds (39+ mph) and may be subject to change as forecasts are updated



Coastal Storm Evacuations

Evacuation Zones

- Entirety of the Rockaways is in Evacuation Zone 1
- Residents and visitors are encouraged to shelter with friends and family or evacuate to other accommodations (hotels, motels, etc.) but can also evacuate to a City-run Evacuation Center (EC)
 - Evacuees will either shelter at the EC or be transported to an associated shelter



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Coastal Storm Evacuations

Sheltering Operations

- The Emergency Sheltering System is designed to provide shelter for residents, visitors, and their pets who are required to evacuate if they don't have family or friends living outside of the evacuation zones
- Evacuees that seek public shelter should travel to their closest EC but can go to any of them if a different one is more convenient. There are 60 ECs spread across the 5 boroughs and they will all open at the same time.
- ECs include accessible facilities and accommodations for people with disabilities and access and functional needs, as well as medical triage.
- Pets and service animals are allowed at City shelters
 - Please bring supplies to care for your pet or service animal, including food, leashes, a carrier, and medication



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Coastal Storm Evacuations

Sheltering Operations

- If you are going to an EC, pack lightly, and bring:
 - Your Go Bag
 - A change of clothes
 - At least a week's supply of any medication (if possible), medical supplies, or medical equipment you use regularly
 - Toiletries
 - Entertainment for children
 - Personal comfort items, such as a pillow.



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Coastal Storm Evacuations

Evacuation Signs

- Direct drivers in evacuation zones to the shortest route to high ground away from the threat of storm surge, rather than specific Evacuation Centers
 - Individuals can identify their closest Evacuation Centers at nyc.gov/knowyourzone
- Original signs (prior to 2017) directed drivers to specific evacuation centers along single routes & had several disadvantages:
 - Majority of signs were not placed in evacuation zones
 - Previous routing strategy less well-suited for a dense urban environment, where there are multiple potential routes
 - Drivers following the signs could be taken to an Evacuation Center that is not their closest EC



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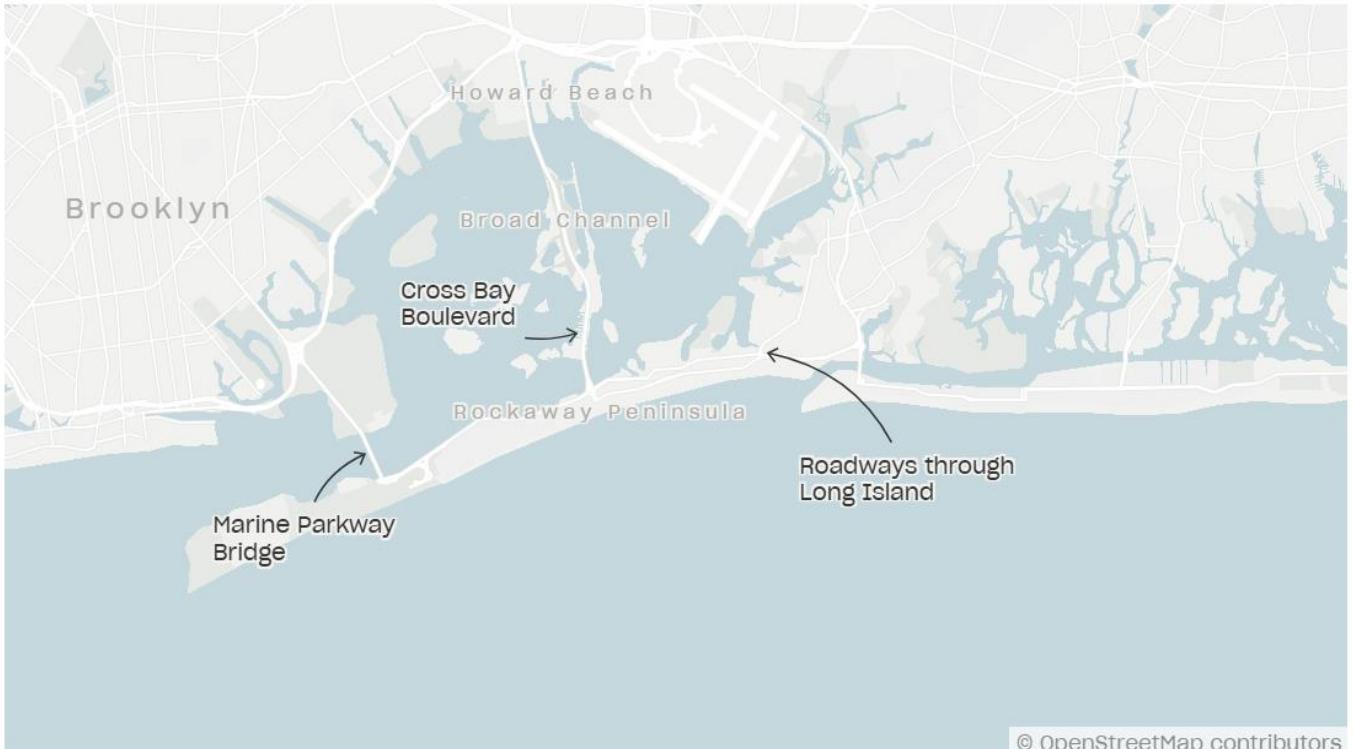


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Coastal Storm Evacuations

City Actions: Traffic Management

- Monitoring of known chokepoints
 - Cross Bay Bridge / Addabbo Bridge
 - Marine Parkway Bridge
 - Nassau Expressway (NY 878)
 - Belt/Shore Parkway



Map: Haidee Chu / THE CITY

THE CITY



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Coastal Storm Evacuations

City Actions: Traffic Management

- Suspension of toll collection (w/ approval of Governor)
- Modification of traffic signal timing
- Suspension of alternate side parking
- Deployment of personnel to direct traffic



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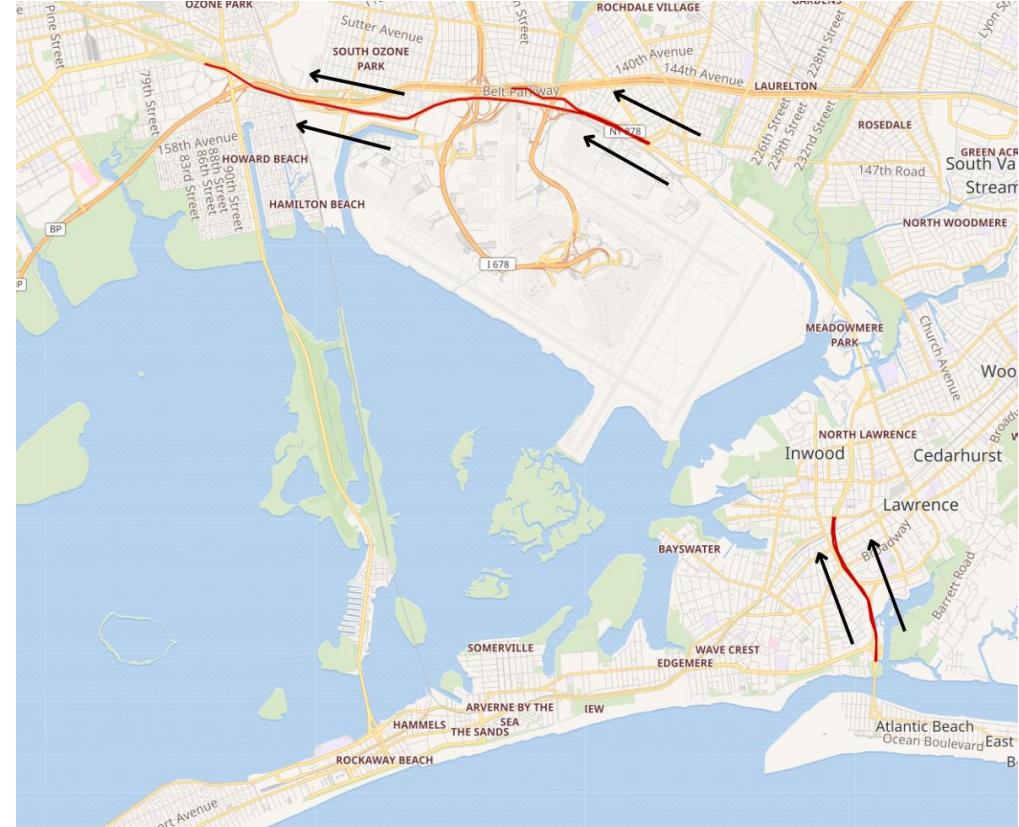
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Coastal Storm Evacuations

City Actions: Traffic Management

- If other traffic management strategies are insufficient, will implement lane reversals / contraflow (reversal of direction of traffic)
 - Cross Bay Bridge / Addabbo Bridge
 - Marine Parkway Bridge
 - Nassau Expressway / NY 878

Lane Reversal on the Nassau Expressway



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Coastal Storm Evacuations

MTA Actions: Transit Modifications

- Provision of additional and/or modified service on subway and buses
- Modification of bus routes to facilitate easier travel to Evacuation Centers
- Suspension of fares (with Governor approval)



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Coastal Storm Evacuations

Public Messaging

- Distribution of messaging via media, social media, City agencies and webpages, 311, etc.
- Amplification of evacuation messaging by NYPD in Zone 1 upon issuance of an evacuation order for the area
- Roadway messaging via variable message sign (VMS) notices



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Community Board Support

communityboards@oem.nyc.gov

Community Board Support

Actions to Take

- **Amplify City messaging:**
 - Boost official City-issued messaging to ensure all residents have the information they need to act and keep themselves and their loved ones safe during a coastal storm.
 - Encourage Far Rockaway residents to sign up for Notify NYC: nyc.gov/notify or call 311
 - Promote the City's hurricane evacuation zone finder: nyc.gov/knowyourzone
- **Address misinformation:**
 - Direct constituents to official sources of information.
 - Encourage residents to evacuate when they're ordered to do so.
- **Practice personal preparedness:**
 - Build out your own personal emergency plan and encourage other community members to do so as well.



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Community Board Support

Supporting Community Preparedness

Community Emergency Response Team: New York City
Community Emergency Response Team (NYC CERT) members are dedicated volunteers who undergo a training program that provides basic response skills needed for fire safety, light search and rescue, community disaster support, disaster medical operations, and traffic control.

2026 training dates to be announced in December. More information available at: nyc.gov/cert



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Community Board Support

Supporting Community Preparedness

Strengthening Communities: Local coalitions of community and faith-based organizations can apply for NYCEM's Strengthening Communities program. Selected coalitions will receive funding and training to build community plans and enhance local readiness.

Apply by November 26th: on.nyc.gov/SC2025

Interested coalitions can attend a Zoom FAQ session about the application on November 12th at 1 pm.

Register here: https://nycem-nyc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qPuwOSHR7exd0w3n2A0CA.



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