

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 Winter Weather Emergency Plan, Coastal Storm Plan, Heat Emergency Plan, and Flash Flood Emergency Plan. 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 OEM through the following options (in order):	
	Mutual Aid Options	Description
	State-level or federal-level assets	NYS OEM coordinates requested resource through appropriate NYS or federal agencies
	Intra-State Mutual Aid Program (IMAP)	Once an emergency is declared, NYS OEM requests assistance from participating local governments within New York State
	Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)	After gubernatorial declaration of state of emergency, NYS OEM requests assistance from surrounding 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 • 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 Information Technology and Telecommunications • Department of Parks and Recreation • Department of Sanitation • Department of Social Services • Department of Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Jersey Transit • 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 Police Department • New York City Service • New York City Street Conditions Observation Unit (SCOUT) • 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 Office of Emergency Management • Office of the Chief Medical Examiner • Office of Labor Relations

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Corporation • Federal Emergency Management Agency • Greater New York Hospital Association • Mayor’s Office • Mayor’s Office of Contract Services • Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities • Mayor’s Office of Housing Recovery Operations • Mayor’s Office of Resiliency • Mayor’s Public Engagement Unit • NYC Health + Hospitals • Metropolitan Transportation Authority • National Grid • National Weather Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Taxi and Limousine Commission • Transportation Operations Coordination Committee (TRANSCOM) • United States Coast Guard • Verizon • Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
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The following are WVEP strategies implemented by agencies and coordinated by NYCEM:

	Objective	Operational Strategy	Agencies
Operational Strategies	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, DOITT, DSNY, Mayor's Office, NYCEM
	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

The following represents the range of decisions and actions city agencies may initiate:

	Action	Description
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	Issue hazardous weather advisory	Identifies weather-related hazards and advises the public to stay off roads, use public transportation, and exercise caution while driving.
	Close schools or delay opening	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	DSNY operates normally and prepares for storm; issued when snow is predicted within 24-48 hours.
	Issue NYCEM Travel Advisory and Hazardous Travel Advisory	Increase hazard awareness for the public and diminish numbers of vehicles on roadways
	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>Winter Weather Emergency Plan</i> two times during the reporting period of November 15, 2019 to November 14, 2020: December 2, 2019 December 10, 2019 	

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 making landfall 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 Community Affairs Unit Con Edison CUNY Cyber Command Department of Buildings Department of Citywide Administrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Grid National Parks Service National Weather Service NYC Health + Hospitals NYC 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

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	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Information Technology and Telecommunications • 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 • Mayor’s Office • 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 • Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities • Mayor’s Office of Resiliency • Mayor’s Public Engagement Unit • Metropolitan Transportation Authority • Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York City Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management • New York City Office of Labor Relations • 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 Office of Emergency Management • 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 • Taxi and Limousine Commission • Transportation Operations Coordinating Committee (TRANSCOM) • United States Coast Guard • U.S. Department of Health and Human Services • Verizon • Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
Operational Strategies	<p>The following functional plans comprise the NYC <i>Coastal Storm Plan</i>. Each document is a stand-alone document implemented by agencies and coordinated by NYCEM:</p>	
	Coastal Storm Functional Plan	Description

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Activation Playbook	Provides a summary view of the plan and includes a series of timelines designed to guide decision-makers through the actions needed to activate and implement the numerous operations that constitute the citywide response.
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 who are unable to find alternative shelter outside of storm surge areas.
Logistics*	Outlines the basic activities and timelines needed to effectively implement shelter system support and post-storm commodities distribution operations.
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.
	Issue ordered evacuation	Issued under authority of executive law; empowers the mayor to make emergency orders to protect life and property.
	Suspend alternate side parking and/or meter rules	Reduces the number of people moving vehicles due to parking rules.
	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.

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Plan Activations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYCEM activated the <i>Coastal Storm Plan</i> two times during the reporting period of November 15, 2019 to November 14, 2020. 	
	July 10, 2020*	August 4, 2020*
<p>*The activations for Tropical Storm Fay and Isaias were held virtually due to the ongoing activation of Coronavirus that began on February 27, 2020.</p>		

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

Triggers	<p>Heat Emergency Plan 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, the following 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 for the Aging Department of Education Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Department of Housing Preservation and Development Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications Department of Parks and Recreation Department of Sanitation Department of Social Services Department of Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Mayor’s Office of Resiliency Metropolitan Transportation Authority National Weather Service New York 811 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 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 Library Regional Emergency Medical Services

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Mayor of Operation’s Office • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council • Salvation Army • Verizon • Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) 	
Operational Strategies	The following are HEP strategies implemented by agencies and coordinated by NYCEM:		
	Objectives	Operational Strategy	Agencies
	Provide Hazard Awareness and Disseminate Public Messaging		311, DOHMH, FDNY, NYCEM
	Minimize Impacts to Public Health	Activate the Advance Warning System	ACS, ARC/GNY, 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, DoITT, DPR, DYCDNYCEM, NYCHA, NYPD, NY Public Library, QN Library, SA
		Conduct Homeless Outreach	311, DSS, DPR, DSNY, MTA, 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.	
Relieve stress on		Identify strategies for reducing load on the electric system during heat emergencies,	

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	electric system	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> six times during the reporting period of November 15, 2019 to November 14, 2020: 	
	July 9, 2020*	July 18, 2020* July 23, 2020* July 26, 2020*
	August 9, 2020*	August 23, 2020*
	* These activations were held virtually due to the ongoing Coronavirus activation which began on February 27, 2020.	

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"> Rainfall rate of one inch per hour for the duration of 60 minutes or longer 	
Flash Flood Conference Call Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 311 CAU City Hall Department of Environmental Protection Department of Parks and Recreation Department of Sanitation Department of Transportation Mayor's Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management Metropolitan Transportation Authority National Weather Service 	<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 Police Department New York State Office of Emergency Management New York State Department of Transportation Mayor's Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Operational Strategies	The following are FFEP strategies implemented by agencies and coordinated by NYCEM:	
	Operational Strategy	Agencies
	Targeted Cleaning and Maintenance	DEP, DSNY, DOT, MTA
	Monitoring and Response	DEP, FDNY, NYPD, DOT, NYCEM
	Recovery Assistance	ARC, CAU, DEP, DOHMH, DSS, DoITT, NYCEM
Key Actions	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 recurring flooding locations to clear streets and catch basins of debris.
	Monitor recurring flood locations	City agencies and volunteers provide targeted monitoring of recurring flood locations to improve response during a flood event and to help direct recovery efforts.

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	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 Disaster Assistance Service Centers (DASC).		
	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>Flash Flood Emergency Plan</i> ten times during the reporting period of November 15, 2019 to November 14, 2020 (this plan is specific-agency actions and not EOC activation): 			
	December 13, 2019	April 13, 2020	April 29, 2020	July 2, 2020
	July 9, 2020	July 31, 2020	September 10, 2020	September 29, 2020
	October 9, 2020	October 27, 2020		