

What We're Watching

Hurricane Preparedness Indicators

December 2024



NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
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Storms, heavy rains, and intense hurricanes are becoming more frequent and severe with climate change. This June, Hurricane Beryl was the earliest category 5 storm on record. As the City gears up for what's expected to be an abnormally active hurricane season, the Comptroller's Office is monitoring key preparedness indicators through the end of 2024 to assess the City's ongoing readiness for severe storms. City government has a crucial role to play in managing emergency response to severe storms and flooding, from communicating emergency alerts to cleaning catch basins to building more resilient infrastructure. It is critical that we pay sharp attention to these issues to ensure our city is as prepared as we can be for climate emergencies. Earlier this summer, the Comptroller's Office [requested](#) data from the City on key preparedness indicators. Our goal to provide transparency to help ensure that New Yorkers are kept safe in the face of climate threats and disasters. As of December 2024, the City has made modest progress to increase enrollment in emergency notifications, replace aging catch basins, and finish spending post-Sandy recovery and resiliency funds, but far more is needed to be fully prepared for heavy storms.

Indicator	Progress as of August 2024	August Evaluation	Updated Numbers as of December 2024	December Evaluation
NotifyNYC emergency weather enrollment	1,258,474 people are enrolled in NotifyNYC, compared to 1,224,949 subscribers in April 2024.	NotifyNYC subscribers only increased by 2.7% (33,525 subscribers) since last April.	1,280,923 people are enrolled in NotifyNYC	NotifyNYC has only seen a 1.8% growth in new subscribers.
Basement alert enrollment	NYCEM doubled the number of people enrolled in basement alerts from 2,387 subscribers to 5,147 subscribers in April 2024.	Improved but that still only makes up 1-2% of the estimated number of basement residents .	6,035 subscribers have been enrolled in basement alerts.	The number of subscribers increased by 17% (888 people).
Availability rate for specialized catch basin cleaning trucks	The City only has 19 working catch basin cleaning trucks, representing 39% of its total fleet.	No Progress, this number remains unchanged as of April 2024.	The City has 25 working catch basin cleaning trucks representing 52% of its total fleet.	While the City has improved the availability rate of the catch basin cleaing trucks, 48% of trucks are still out of service.

Indicator	Progress as of August 2024	August Evaluation	Updated Numbers as of December 2024	December Evaluation
Number of full catch basin replacements completed	DEP has replaced 48 catch basins out of 1,500 identified as needing replacement.	In progress, but only represents 3.2% of the total replacements.	DEP has replaced 279 catch basins out of 1,500 identified as needing replacement.	In progress, but only represents 19% of the total replacements.
Number of catch basin hardware replacements completed	DEP has replaced hardware for 131 catch basins of 1,927 identified as needing replacement.	In progress, but only represents 6.7% of the total replacements.	DEP has replaced hardware for 958 catch basins of 1,927 identified as needing hardware replacement.	The City has completed roughly 50% of the total replacements.
Post-Sandy FEMA Recovery and Resiliency Spending	75% of funds have been spent, compared to 66% in 2022.	Improved, but still significant funds unspent at 23 agencies.	75% of funds have been spent . No significant change	Remains unchanged from August.
Post-Sandy HUD CDBG-DR Recovery and Resiliency Spending	97% of funds have been spent, up from 92% in 2022.	Improved.	98% of funds have been spent.	Slight improvement from August.