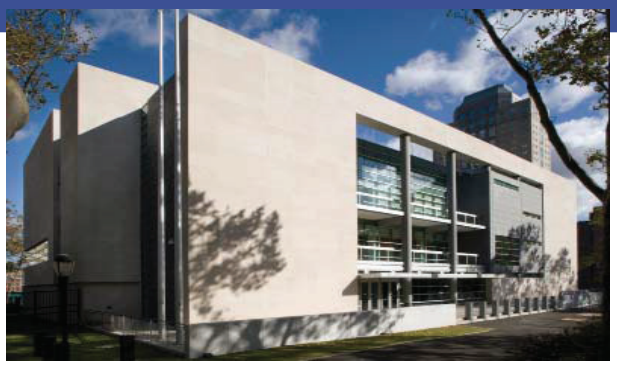
NYC Emergency Management



ABOUT NYCEM

NYCEM plans and prepares for emergencies, educates the public about preparedness, coordinates response and recovery, and collects and disseminates emergency information.

Established in 1996 as a mayoral office, NYCEM was granted departmental status in the New York City Charter in November 2001.

Preparing the City for Emergencies

Planning and preparedness activities—from contingency planning and nurturing private sector partnerships to conducting drills and seeking funding for programs—are central to NYCEM's mandate.

- **Citywide Incident Management System (CIMS):** Since 2004, New York City has used CIMS – a system developed and managed by NYCEM - to define roles and responsibilities for City, state, and other government entities, and non-profit and private sector organizations that perform and support emergency response.
- **Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP):** NYCEM manages the City's COOP program, which ensures City agencies can continue providing vital public services in the event of an emergency.
- **Contingency planning:** NYCEM oversees planning efforts for natural and man-made hazards.
- **Public-private initiatives:** NYCEM helps companies develop business continuity plans, conducts basic emergency management training, and fosters public-private communications.
- **Training and exercises:** NYCEM conducts citywide preparedness exercises to test plans and response techniques to identify areas of improvement.
- **Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCPGP):** A joint project of New York City and the Northern New Jersey Urban Area Working Groups, the RCPGP improves catastrophic preparedness by linking regional operational capabilities, resources, and plans.

Educating and Informing the Public

Among NYCEM's biggest tasks is educating New Yorkers about preparing for all types of disasters.

- **Community Outreach:** Introduced in 2003, NYCEM community outreach programs include:
  - **Ready New York:** NYCEM's Ready New York preparedness campaign educates New Yorkers about the hazards they may face and encourages residents to prepare for emergencies.
  - **Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT):** CERT members are trained in basic response skills including fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and traffic control. CERT teams support their local communities by assisting with emergency education and response.
  - **NYC Citizen Corps Council:** Part of the national Citizen Corps program, New York City's council brings together local leaders from community organizations, government, the private sector, and volunteer programs to promote grassroots emergency preparedness and volunteerism.
- **Social Media:** In 2009, NYCEM launched its Facebook page to help keep New Yorkers informed and prepared for emergencies. NYCEM social media presence has since grown to include Twitter (@NotifyNYC and @nycoem), YouTube, and Tumblr sites.

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Coordinating Emergency Response and Recovery

NYCEM works to ensure information gathering, decision making, and resource allocations are carried out effectively.

- **Incident monitoring:** Through Watch Command, NYCEM tracks local, regional and national incidents affecting New York City 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **Field Response:** NYCEM sends Citywide Incident Coordinators to large incidents to facilitate interagency communication and resource requests, and to ensure agencies follow CIMS.
- **Urban Search and Rescue:** NYCEM manages New York City's Urban Search and Rescue team, New York Task Force 1, one of the country's 28 FEMA task forces that respond to catastrophic events involving structural collapse.
- **Logistics:** NYCEM works with government agencies and nonprofit and private sector partners to lead logistics planning, preparedness, response and recovery efforts, ensuring that the right resources are acquired and delivered to the right place at the right time.
- **Emergency Operations Center (EOC):** During major events, the EOC is a central point for information coordination, resource requests, and decision making.
- **Recovery and relief:** Following an emergency, NYCEM works with government agencies and non-profit organizations to provide assistance and disaster relief.

Collecting and Disseminating Information

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** Through its GIS division, NYCEM can can easily map data—from flood zones and local infrastructure to population density and road closures—before, during, and after an emergency. By linking maps to databases, GIS enables users to visualize, manipulate, analyze, and display spatial data.
- **Notify NYC:** Notify NYC, the City's source for emergency information, allows subscribers to receive updates by e-mail, text message, or phone about incidents affecting New York City.