

Appendix F
Hazard Event Documentation



Oswego County Public Information Office

46 East Bridge Street Oswego, NY 13126

phone: 315-349-8322 fax: 315-349-8224

Janet Clerkin,

Tourism & Public Information Coordinator

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September 7, 2018

More EEE and West Nile Virus Found in Mosquitoes

OSWEGO COUNTY - The Oswego County Public Health Department reported that test results received this week indicated new positive results for both the Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile viruses (WNV).

The report listed three mosquito pools as positive for EEE, two are located in the Toad Harbor Swamp and one is in the town of Hastings. Two pools were listed as positive for WNV, one in the town of Hastings and the other in the town of Palermo. The county health department continues to work with the New York State Department of Health to monitor mosquito and virus activity.

"While mosquito counts are low at this time of year, they are still active," said Oswego County Public Health Director Jiancheng Huang. "With the nice fall weather coming, people will be out hiking, fishing, and enjoying other outdoor activities. It is very important for them to continue to follow their personal protection practices and to reduce mosquito populations around their homes."

The Oswego County Health Department advises people to:

- Use a mosquito repellent according to label directions.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt if you are outdoors for long periods of time, and when mosquitoes are most active, between dusk and dawn.
- Empty pails, swimming pool covers, flower pots and other containers of standing water around the home and yard.
- Remove all discarded tires from around your property.
- Replace or repair broken screens.

For more information about protecting your family against mosquitoes, call the Oswego County Health Department at 315-349-3564 or visit the New York State Department of Health's Web site at https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/west_nile_virus/.

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August 17, 2018

Pesticide Info Available at www.oswegocounty.com -

Oswego County Plans Aerial Spraying Monday, Aug. 20

OSWEGO - In an effort to reduce the population of mosquitoes carrying the Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus, the Oswego County Health Department plans to conduct aerial spraying of approximately 10,000 acres in portions of the towns of Hastings, West Monroe and Constantia Monday evening, Aug. 20.

Mosquito samples recently collected from the Toad Harbor Swamp in West Monroe have tested positive for Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus, and a horse in West Monroe died of the virus Aug. 9.

Aerial spraying is dependent on weather conditions. Residents within the spray area will be notified of the spraying by the Hyper-Reach Broadcast Notification Service through Oswego County's E-9-1-1 Emergency Communications Department. If spraying is postponed due to weather conditions, residents will be notified through the news media and information will be posted on the Oswego County website at www.oswegocounty.com.

The area to be sprayed is within these boundaries: U.S. Route 11 in Central Square to the west, NYS Route 49 to the north, up to but not including the village of Constantia to the east; and the shoreline of Oneida Lake to the south. Pesticide will not be applied over the open waters of Oneida Lake. The aerial spray will begin after 6 p.m.

The health department received permission and the permits required to conduct aerial spraying from the state departments of Health and Environmental Conservation. The product Kontrol 30-30, which contains permethrin, will be applied in a diluted form. The county has contracted with Duflo Spray-Chemical from Lowville to conduct the aerial spraying.

A copy of the pesticide label and safety data sheet (SDS) including warnings and fact sheets about permethrin aerial spraying can be found on the Oswego County website at www.oswegocounty.com and www.oswegocounty.com/health/index.html, or obtained by calling the Oswego County Health Department at 315-349-3564 weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. After 4 p.m., call 315-341-0086.

Residents in the spray area should stay indoors and keep windows and doors closed between 6 and 10 p.m. Residents are also advised to:

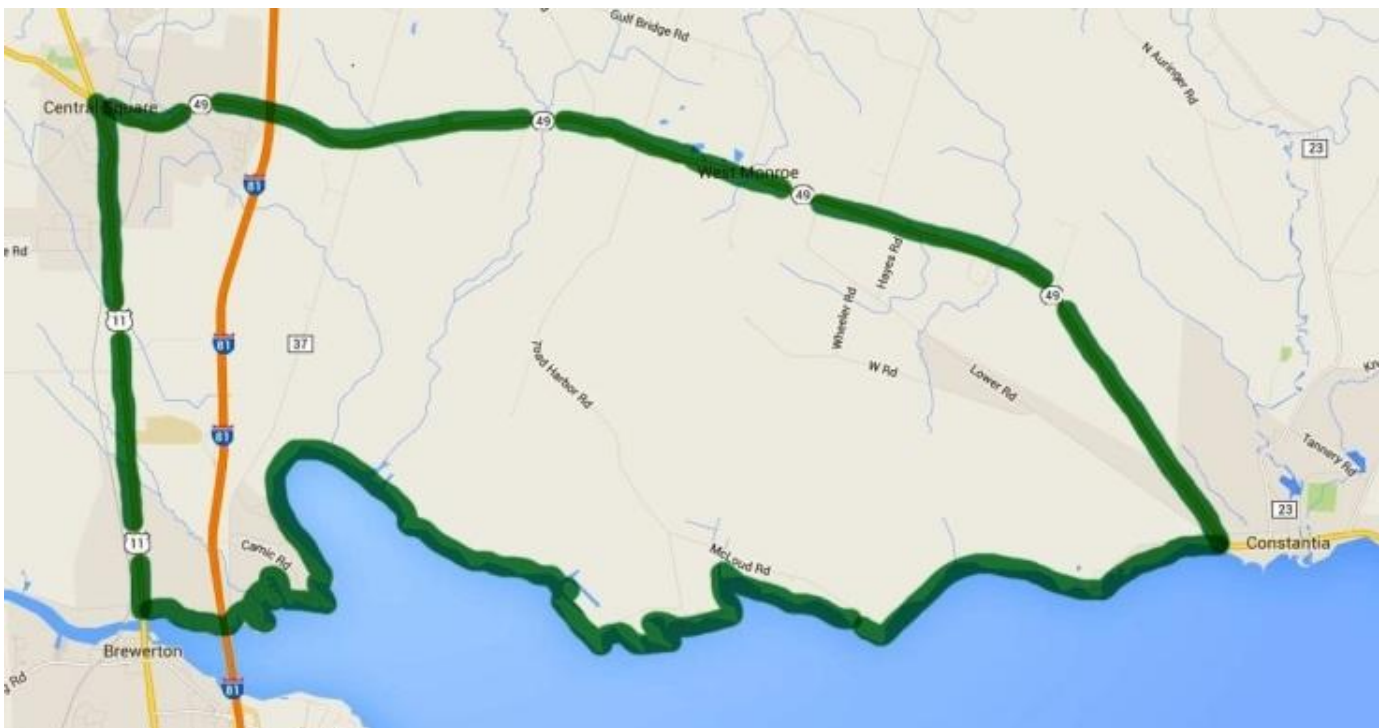
- Keep pets indoors.
- Close the vents on window air conditioners so that outside air doesn't enter the home for one hour.
- Remove outdoor toys, outdoor furniture, and clothing from the clothesline. Items left outdoors should be washed thoroughly with soap and water before using.
- If you are driving through an area while spraying takes place, close your car windows and vents.
- Cover gardens, and rinse homegrown fruits and vegetables thoroughly before cooking or eating.

Oswego County Public Health Director Jiancheng Huang said it is imperative that people take steps to

protect themselves against mosquitoes in areas across Oswego County. Aerial spraying can be effective in reducing mosquito populations, but it does not eliminate all mosquitoes.

"Aerial spraying is a temporary control measure," said Huang. "It is still very important for people throughout Oswego County to continue their efforts to prevent exposure to mosquitoes." People should limit their outdoor activities around dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, shoes and socks when outdoors, and eliminate standing water around the home. Repellents containing DEET are the most effective, but should be used with caution and according to label instructions. Products containing picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus are also effective.

Oswego County residents who would like to receive community alerts by wireless phones, text messages and TTY may register for the Hyper-Reach Broadcast Notification Service through Oswego County's E-9-1-1 Emergency Communications Department at <https://secure.hyper-reach.com/comsignup.jsp?id=12481>, or they may contact the E-9-1-1 administrative office at 315-349-8215 or 1-800-679-3911 and request a registration form. Landline phone customers don't need to register because their numbers are provided to the E-9-1-1 department by the telephone companies that serve Oswego County.



OSWEGO COUNTY PLANS AERIAL SPRAYING AUG. 20 - The Oswego County Health Department plans to conduct aerial spraying for mosquitoes after 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 20 in portions of the towns of Hastings, West Monroe and Constantia.

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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

April 26, 2018

Burn Ban Still in Effect Throughout New York State

OSWEGO COUNTY - Oswego County Fire Coordinator Donald Forbes reminds county residents of the annual statewide ban on all open burning which began on Friday, March 16 and continues through Monday, May 14.

"This is a high-risk period for fires throughout New York State," said Forbes. "Despite recent snowfall, spring is not far off and outdoor fires will happen as tall grass, hay and brush dry."

New York State regulations strictly prohibit open burning except in the following cases:

- Campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width, or diameter.
- Small cooking fires using only charcoal or clean, dry, untreated and unpainted wood.
- Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires
- On-site burning of agricultural or organic waste generated on a farm larger than five acres.

There are certain circumstances in which controlled burns, with a written permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), are permissible.

Burning of branches and limbs after May 14 and through March 15 of the following year is permissible in any town with a population less than 20,000; however, individual municipalities can pass their own ordinances regulating open fires. Forbes encourages residents to check with their local authorities to find out if local law prohibits open fires or requires a permit.

According to state regulations, it is illegal to use a burn barrel or open pit as a means for incinerating trash or burning leaves at any time of the year.

Fires cannot be left unattended, must have a ready water supply available and be fully extinguished before walking away.

Violators of open burning state regulations are subject to both criminal and civil enforcement actions, with a minimum fine of \$500 for the first offense.

To report open burning, call the NYSDEC at 1-800-847-7332. For more information, visit the NYSDEC Web site at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/80920.html>.

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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

November 20, 2017

SUNY Oswego is StormReady®

The Oswego County Legislature's Public Safety Committee recognized SUNY Oswego on demonstrating its commitment to emergency preparedness, education and safety, and receiving its StormReady® designation from the National Weather Service (NWS). Ninety-eight percent of presidentially-declared disasters across the country are weather-related and account for approximately 500 deaths and \$15 billion in damages each year. The NWS StormReady® program designates communities, organizations, and other groups that are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning and education practices. Communities across Oswego County are susceptible to a wide variety of severe weather events, during which certain preparedness and communication standards are critical to saving lives. SUNY Oswego met a series of these standards to earn their NWS StormReady® certification and now joins eight other colleges and universities in the state to receive the designation. Pictured from left are James Karasek, District 22; David M. Holst, District 4; Richard Kline, District 12; Oswego County Emergency Services Program Coordinator Terry Bennett; Committee Chairman James Weatherup; SUNY Oswego Police Chief John Rossi; SUNY Oswego Assistant Police Chief Kevin Velzy; Committee Vice Chairwoman Margaret Kastler, District 1; Frank Castiglia, Jr., District 25; Milferd Potter, District 2; and Tim Stahl, District 20.



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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

October 27, 2017

Towns of Sandy Creek, Richland hit hard -

Storm Results in Flooded Roads, Other Issues Throughout Oswego County

OSWEGO COUNTY - Heavy rainfall overnight Sunday into Monday has resulted in road closures throughout Oswego County due to flooding, with many of the issues occurring in the towns of Sandy Creek and Richland.

Sandy Creek Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway declared a local state of emergency at 10 a.m. due to flooding issues.

The Town of Sandy Creek has closed eight roads due to flooding this morning and has announced another 15 are compromised. The Town of Richland reports four roads are closed.

Roads in the Town of Sandy Creek that are closed due to flooding include: Tryon Road, Hinman Road, Weaver Road, Hadley Road, Norton Road, Edwards Road, Kiblin Shores Road, and Kehoe Road. The following roads in the Town of Sandy Creek are compromised: Center Road, Snyder Road, Bremm Road, Button Road, Cummins Road, Fraser Road, Carr Road, Hilton Road, Rainbow Shores Road, Waful Tract, South Ave., Sand Road, Skinner Road, Paye Road, and Henderson Road.

In the Town of Richland, Halsey Road, Lehigh Road, Atkinson Road, and North Herrick Road are closed due to flooding.

In the Town of Oswego, Lakeshore Road is closed at the swamp, Bunker Hill Road is closed at County Route 20 and Cemetery Road, and West Lake Road is closed at the pond one-mile northeast of County Route 20 due to flooding. Hall Road east of the Chapel Road intersection is closed as the road has been undermined by flooding.

The local state of emergency declared for the Town of Sandy Creek is in accordance with the New York State Executive Law Article 2-B. "The conditions in the town today are a threat to public safety," Town Supervisor Ridgeway said.

"The storm system traveling up the east coast has resulted in many issues for Oswego County," said Oswego County Emergency Management Director Dale A. Currier. "The rain has stopped for most of the county, and the water is beginning to recede. However, the high winds that are expected to continue throughout this afternoon are causing additional power outages. The high winds on Lake Ontario are expected to cause shoreline flooding along the lake shore as well."

National Grid has reported scattered power outages throughout the county; many of them on the western side.

"The Town of Sandy Creek, including the Town Highway Department, is working diligently to ensure the safety of the public on our local roads," Town Supervisor Ridgeway said. "People should be very careful driving through the town and avoid any roads that are either flooded or blocked off."

"The rain has stopped and the situation in the Town of Richland is improving," Richland Deputy Town Supervisor Kern Yerdon said. "But conditions are still hazardous, and we urge people to pay attention to their surroundings and avoid driving on flooded roads."

The Oswego County E-911 Center has received reports of road closures from throughout Oswego County, with the hardest-hit areas being Sandy Creek, Richland and surrounding areas. Miner Road in the Town of Scriba is washed out, and a sink hole has developed on County Route 14 in the Town of Granby.

"People should be especially careful traveling around Oswego County today," Currier said. "Drivers should never drive through flood waters, and should not drive around barriers for any reason. There may be hazards under the water or on the roadway you can't see."

The National Weather Service - Buffalo Forecast Office has issued a flood warning for Oswego County until noon today. A high wind warning remains in effect in the county until 5 p.m., and a lakeshore flood warning is in effect for the municipalities along Lake Ontario until 8 p.m. today.

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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

May 8, 2017

Oswego County Continues Flood Mitigation Efforts

OSWEGO COUNTY - A Lake Ontario flood warning remains in effect for Oswego County until 11 p.m. Monday due to wind conditions. West-northwest winds are expected to continue pushing Lake Ontario's waters onto the shoreline causing significant flooding as well as beach and coastline erosion.

The Oswego County Emergency Management Office is working closely with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and Office of Emergency Management as well as local municipalities to monitor the situation and coordinate lake flooding mitigation efforts.

"Lake Ontario shoreline flooding continues to affect the towns of Sandy Creek, Richland, Mexico, New Haven, Scriba, and Oswego," said Oswego County Emergency Management Office Director Dale A. Currier. "The long-term forecast for the lake indicates that the water level will continue to rise for the next several weeks. Strong winds hitting the shoreline kick waves up onto the lakeshore properties, worsening the situation."

Lake flooding has also closed Lakeshore Road in the town of Oswego.

Oswego County has received nearly 89,000 sandbags and a sandbag filler on loan from the state. The New York State Army National Guard has been at hand all weekend to fill sandbags and will remain stationed in the county throughout the week.

Filled and unfilled sandbags are being distributed to the shoreline towns. Due to the limited quantity, residents are asked to contact their local highway superintendent to request sandbags. A complete list of highways superintendents is posted online at <http://www.oswegocounty.com/legislature/county%20directory%202017.pdf>.

Currier added, "Residents needing assistance should continue to work with their town officials. The town highway departments have sand and sandbags available and can reach out to the county's Emergency Management Office for other needs."

People along the lakeshore should continue to follow these flood safety tips:

- Have a plan: Prepare an emergency kit in case you have to leave your home on short notice. Be sure to take important papers and contact your insurance agent, employer and family members to let them know when and where you are going.
- Be safe: Follow official emergency instructions and don't walk or drive through flooded areas. Keep away from downed power lines and watch out for displaced animals.
- Call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies.

Oswego County is included in a state of emergency that was issued by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo last week due to flooding along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Those affected by the high Lake Ontario water levels can call 1-866-244-3839 for the latest flooding forecast, help with flood mitigation measures such as sandbags, and for technical assistance regarding on-site repairs to their property.

To receive official emergency information from New York State agencies, subscribe to NY-ALERT (www.nyalert.gov) the state's free, customizable, all-hazards notification system. More safety tips for staying safe before, during, and after floods and other storms can be found on the DHSES Web site: www.dhSES.ny.gov.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along with the NYS Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) have issued guidance regarding storm recovery permits. People can call the state hotline at 1-866-244-3839 and ask to be referred to the DEC for more information.

Flood mitigation and recovery information, including sandbag and levee instructions, clean-up guidelines and home repairs, is posted on www.oswegocounty.com. For those with questions about safe well water and septic system issues, call the Oswego County Health Department's Environmental Division at 315-349-3557.



A HELPING HAND - The New York State Army National Guard is stationed in Oswego County for the week to assist with sandbag filling and distribution. Photo courtesy of Dale Currier.



LAKESHORE FLOODING - Greene Point Marina in Sandy Pond is one of the areas in Oswego County experiencing lake flooding. Photo courtesy of Dale Currier.

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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

May 5, 2017

Oswego County Offers Tips For People Affected by Recent Flooding

OSWEGO COUNTY - Oswego County is included in a state of emergency that was issued by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo earlier this week due to flooding along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

The Oswego County Health Department cautions people to be aware of the location of their private wells or septic systems in proximity to these floodwaters.

"Floodwater can affect more than just the home," said Oswego County Principal Public Health Sanitarian Natalie Roy. "Private well water may be contaminated with waterborne bacteria that can cause serious illness in people and animals. Septic tanks and plumbing can also start to function poorly, becoming sluggish."

Many people have concerns about their water and septic systems during flooding.

Roy suggests, "After flooding, people should avoid using water from private wells for drinking or cooking until it is determined to be safe for consumption. After an initial assessment and any needed repairs, the well should be flushed and disinfected. A sample water test will show if it is safe."

Those with slow-working plumbing and septic systems in flood conditions should conserve water as much as possible. Using less water reduces the amount of sewage that the septic tank has to process. People can save water by not using toilets and washing machines.

Another suggestion is wait until floodwaters have receded before having the septic tank pumped or making repairs. Roy said, "A high level of groundwater might crush a septic tank that has been pumped dry. Often, systems are completely functional once water levels go back down, so people should wait to make repairs until the ground has dried out."

Some repairs may also require approval from the health department.

Flood recovery information about clean-up and home repairs is posted on <http://www.oswegocounty.com/>.

For more information about safe water and septic system issues, call the Oswego County Health Department's Environmental Division weekdays at 315-349-3557.

Those affected by the high water levels of Lake Ontario can call the New York State flood assistance hotline at 1-866-244-3839 for the latest flooding forecast, help with flood mitigation measures such as sandbags, and for technical assistance regarding on-site repairs to their property.

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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

January 15, 2014

FLOODING EASES IN SANDY CREEK; TOWN OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO URGE CAUTION

Town of Sandy Creek - Flood waters in the Town of Sandy Creek west of Route 3 along the shoreline of Lake Ontario are beginning to recede today, town officials reported, but people in the area should continue to use caution and follow flood safety tips.

The water has receded about 8 inches overnight following flooding that occurred along North Pond in the Town of Sandy Creek. While the water is continuing to recede, town officials stressed, the levels are still not back below normal and changes in weather conditions could cause them to rise again.

Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway, Town Highway Superintendent Mike Kastler, and County Legislator Margaret Kastler (1st District), along with Oswego County Emergency Management Office Director Dale A. Currier continue to monitor the situation closely. Highway Superintendent Kastler said roads in the area, especially ones that have had water over them, are being watched carefully.

"People should continue be very aware of their surroundings," Town Supervisor Ridgeway said. Residents and property owners west of Route 3 in the town should continue to check their residences and ensure their propane and other gas tanks are secured. If necessary, they should turn off electrical power.

People who have a life-threatening situation should call 911.

"We also have a concern for ice fishermen on Sandy Pond," Highway Superintendent Kastler said. "We urge them to use extreme caution and to check the New York State Department of Conservation web site (www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7733) for recommended guidelines on ice thickness."

Highway Superintendent Kastler reminded travelers not to drive over flooded roadways.

Town officials have lined up a source of bottled water in the event it's necessary, Town Supervisor Ridgeway said. "We're fortunate to have the assistance of the Salvation Army in our town," she said.

Town residents with questions or needing assistance other than life-threatening situations may email the town supervisor at scsupervisor@frontiernet.net, or call the town hall at 315/387-5456 during business hours. For updates, people can go to the town's web page at www.sandycreekny.us

The Governor's declaration of a State of Emergency for heavy lake effect snow on the Tug Hill last week includes Oswego County and is still in effect, Currier said. County Emergency Management and town officials are working to secure state resources to aid the flooding situation in the town.



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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

Jan. 14, 2014

Town of Sandy Creek Responds to Flooding

Sandy Creek – Flooding is occurring west of Route 3 in the Town of Sandy Creek along the shoreline of Lake Ontario, and Town officials are urging residents and homeowners to take precautions and follow flood safety tips.

Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway, Town Highway Superintendent Mike Kastler, and County Legislator Margaret Kastler (1st District), along with Oswego County Emergency Management Office Director Dale A. Currier are monitoring the situation closely.

“The town wants to ensure the safety of residents,” Supervisor Ridgeway and Highway Superintendent Kastler said. “People should be very aware of their surroundings.”

People who have a life-threatening situation should call 911.

Town officials are asking residents and property owners west of Route 3 in the town to check their residences, secure propane and other gas tanks, and turn off the electric power if necessary.

“Please don’t travel over flooded roadways,” Highway Superintendent Michael Kastler stressed. “A few inches of water can wash away a vehicle. Turn around and go another way.”

The Governor’s declaration of a State of Emergency for heavy lake effect snow on the Tug Hill last week includes Oswego County and is still in effect, Currier said. County Emergency Management and town officials are working to secure state resources to aid the flooding situation in the town.

For updates, people can go to the town’s web page at www.sandycreekny.us.

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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

Jan. 4, 2014

Emergency Management Director Urges Caution During Lake Effect Snowfall

Fulton – With the impending lake effect snowstorm forecast for the Tug Hill region in Oswego County Monday afternoon through Wednesday, Oswego County Director of Emergency Management Dale A. Currier reminds local residents to use extreme caution while traveling in inclement weather.

Emergency response agencies including fire, emergency medical services, law-enforcement, and highway are gearing up as the National Weather Service-Buffalo Forecast Office forecast indicates for heavy lake effect snow for the northern section of the county along with extreme cold and a wind chill warning. The National Weather Service indicates this is a potentially dangerous situation with up to 4 inches of snow falling an hour in the most persistent bands, compounded by winds of 20 to 30 hours an hour.

“There will be zero visibility due to the blowing snow and dangerously cold wind chills of -20 degrees F,” Currier said.

“People should be very aware of their surroundings and avoid travel in heavy snow whenever possible,” Currier continued. “The NWS is forecasting frequent whiteout conditions due to heavy lake effect snow and considerable blowing and drifting snow. If you must travel, tell someone when you’re going and when you expect to reach your destination. Carry a cellular phone. Clear your vehicle completely of snow and ice, and always match your speed to road conditions.”

People should carry a car kit in their vehicle at all times, Currier said. The kit should include blankets, a shovel, flashlight and extra batteries, extra warm clothing, set of tire chains, battery booster cables, quick energy foods, and brightly colored cloth to use as a distress flag. “Make sure your gas tank is full to prevent gasoline freeze-up,” Currier said.

“Always check the weather forecast and road conditions before going out,” Currier stressed. “In lake effect snow the weather can vary from locally heavy snow in narrow bands to clear skies just a few miles away. Be prepared for rapid changes in road and visibility conditions.”

For anyone who must go outside in extreme winter conditions, Currier said, tips to follow include dressing for the cold and slowing down when working outside.

“Wear loose, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers,” he said. “Trapped air between the layers acts as an insulator. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent and hooded. Always wear a hat and gloves or mittens, and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs from extreme cold. With the wind chills forecast over the next couple of days, frostbite can occur to exposed skin within minutes.”

Cold temperatures can put extra strain on the heart when doing heavy tasks such as shoveling snow, clearing debris or pushing a car. “Stay warm, dress warm, and slow down when working outside,” Currier said. “Take frequent rests to avoid overexertion. If you feel chest pain, stop and seek help immediately.”

People should also follow common sense when operating a snow blower. “Never leave your snow blower running and unattended, and never put your hands into the discharge chute or augers to clear stuck snow and ice,” Carrier stressed. “Never add fuel when the engine is running and hot. Make sure you know how to turn the machine off quickly.

“Lake effect snow and extreme cold are nothing new to Oswego County residents,” Carrier said. “If people follow common sense safety precautions, they can minimize the impact on their lives.”

More information is available by visiting the Oswego County website at www.oswegocounty.com/emo. Oswego County is a NWS StormReady Community and has multiple methods of receiving and disseminating hazardous weather information.

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August 31, 2012

Ammonia Spill Contained at Birdseye Plant

Fulton - A release of an undermined amount of ammonia from the closed Fulton Birdseye plant was contained and isolated by emergency personnel last night, Aug. 30, while a precautionary evacuation of several nearby residents took place, Fulton Fire Department Acting Chief Paul Foster said.

The leak was reported about 8:22 p.m. Chief Foster said the leak occurred in a 1 ¼ inch return pipe of the refrigeration system and was located, isolated and contained by on-site maintenance. The Oswego County Hazardous Materials Team, the Oswego County Health Department and the State Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Response also responded to the scene with the Fulton Fire Department.

As a precaution, residents in the area of Jerome and Gansvoort Streets in Fulton were evacuated. The Oswego County E-911 Communications Center and Fulton Police Department notified nearby residents.

Chief Foster said any ammonia remaining in the surrounding atmosphere may be an irritant to residents and those experiencing any irritation may wish not to stay at home tonight. Displaced residents may go to the War Memorial or the Community Room at the Fulton Municipal Building.

The plant is owned by Pinnacle Foods.

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[\[Public Information Main Menu\]](#) [\[Oswego County Homepage\]](#)

Dec. 6, 2010

Oswego County Receives Third StormReady® Designation



OSWEGO COUNTY IS STILL STORMREADY® - Officials from the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo congratulate the Oswego County Legislature's Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee on becoming re-certified as a StormReady® Community. From left are: Legislators John Martino, District 6; Morris Sorbello, District 23; Oswego County RACES member and Skywarn Coordinator Judy LaMay, K2SUM; National Weather Service Warning Forecast Meteorologist Judy Levan, Buffalo; Committee Chairwoman Linda Lockwood, District 11; Emergency Management Office Director Patricia Egan; National Weather Service Meteorologist-in-Charge Tom Niziol, Buffalo; Oswego County RACES Alternate Radio Officer Bob LaMay, WA2AFF; and Legislators Amy Tressider, District 16; Margaret Kastler, District 1; and Mary Flett, District 17.

Oswego County - Officials from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo recently congratulated the Oswego County Legislature's Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee for continuing to meet a set of rigorous warning criteria necessary to maintain the distinction of being StormReady®.

"StormReady® communities have the improved communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property - before and during an event," said Judith Levan, warning coordination meteorologist for the Buffalo Forecast Office.

The nationwide community preparedness program uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle local severe weather and flooding threats. The program is voluntary and provides communities with clear-cut advice from a partnership between local National Weather Service Forecast Offices and state and local emergency managers.

StormReady® started in 1999 with seven communities in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area and there are now nearly 1,700 StormReady® communities across the country.

Thomas Niziol, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo, presented a letter of recognition to the Oswego County Legislature's Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee during their November meeting.

"I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Patricia Egan, director of the Oswego County Emergency Management Office, for the tremendous effort she has put forth to accomplish the goals of the program," Niziol told the committee. "Pat has developed an excellent working relationship with the National Weather Service over the years and we recognize her diligent effort to maintain community readiness in anticipation of natural disasters of any type."

Niziol cited several weather emergencies over the years in which county staff worked well with the National Weather Service, including a tornado in Palermo on June 28 of this year, the 2007 lake effect snowstorm that buried the county with 141 inches of snow in two weeks, and the 2003 ice storm.

"Oswego County, in partnership with the National Weather Service, has made the effort to ensure that they have the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property in the event of another weather-related disaster," Niziol continued. "You are an excellent example for other counties in New York State."

"We're pleased to be re-designated a StormReady® community," Egan said. "We take very seriously the need to be prepared for all hazards that might occur. Severe weather - winter storms, potential flooding, high winds, and so forth - is just one of the threats we face throughout the year."

Egan praised members of the Oswego County Emergency Communicators Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), a group of amateur radio operators that assist the Oswego County Emergency Management Office with back-up communications during emergencies. Members of the group who served on the county's StormReady® Reapplication Committee include Radio Officer John Darling, K2QQY; Skywarn Coordinator Judy LaMay, KC2SUM; and Alternate Radio Officer Bob LaMay, WA2AFF.

Oswego County was first designated as a StormReady® community in 2004 and re-certified by the National Weather Service in 2007.

- To be recognized as StormReady®, a community must:
- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises

"Just like communities, families need to be storm ready by having an action plan for severe weather," Levan said. "The National Weather Service strives to educate everyone about what to do when severe weather strikes because it is ultimately each individual's responsibility to protect him or herself." She encouraged residents to develop disaster plans to prepare themselves for all hazards that can affect their area.

The Oswego County Legislature's Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee oversees the Oswego County Emergency Management Office. It includes Chairwoman Linda Lockwood, District 11; Vice Chairman Kevin Gardner, District 13; and legislators Mary Flett, District 17; Margaret Kastler, District 1; John J. Martino, District 6; Morris Sorbello, District 23; and Amy Tresidder, District 16.

For more information about emergency preparedness or the Oswego County Emergency Communicators, contact the Oswego County Emergency Management Office at 315-591-9150 or oswegocounty.com/emo. You can also find details about RACES on their Web site at www.oswegoraces.org.

StormReady® is a registered trademark used by the National Weather Service.

Questions about the Oswego County Public Information Office?
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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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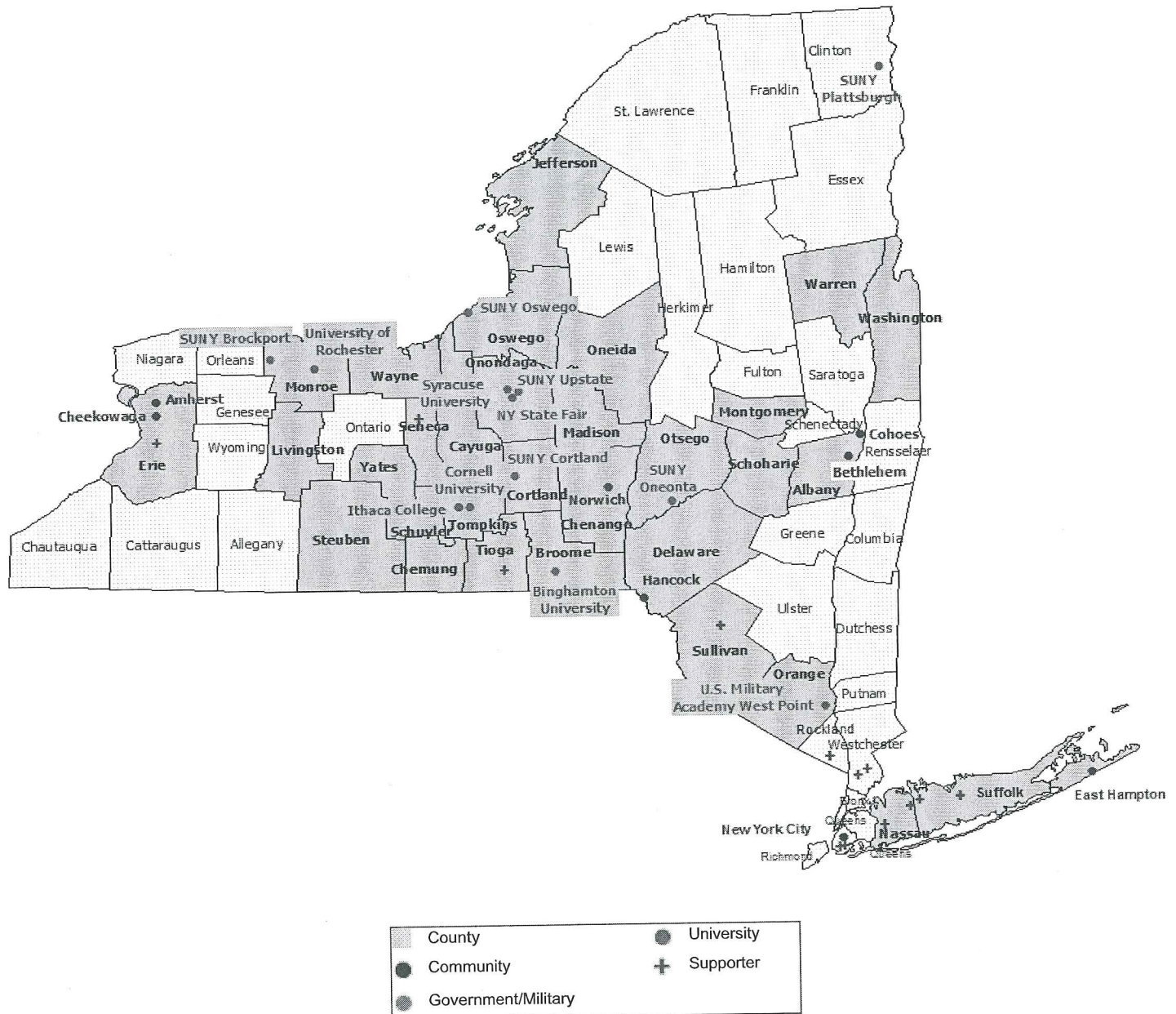
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StormReady
National Program

53 Sites:

31 Counties, 9 Communities,
1 Government Site, 11 Universities
13 Supporters

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Counties		Communities	Government Sites	Universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albany Broome Cayuga Chemung Chenango Cortland Delaware 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onondaga Orange Oswego Schoharie Schuyler Seneca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amherst Bethlehem Champlain Cheektowaga Cohoes East Hampton Hancock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New York State Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binghamton University Cornell University Ithaca College State University of New York, Brockport State University of New York, Cortland State University of New York, Oneonta State University of New York, Oswego

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Erie▪ Jefferson▪ Livingston▪ Madison▪ Monroe▪ Montgomery▪ Nassau▪ Oneida	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Steuben▪ Suffolk▪ Sullivan▪ Tioga▪ Tompkins▪ Warren▪ Washington▪ Wayne▪ Yates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ New York City▪ Norwich	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ State University of New York, Plattsburgh▪ State University of New York, Upstate▪ Syracuse University▪ University of Rochester▪ U.S. Military Academy West Point
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Buffalo Bills at Ralph Wilson Stadium▪ Catskill Regional Medical Center▪ Lockheed Martin, Owego▪ SFX Entertainment▪ WABC-TV 7	Shopping Centers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Galleria at White Plains▪ Roosevelt Field Mall▪ Smith Haven Mall		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Shops at Nanuet▪ The Westchester▪ Walt Whitman Shops▪ Waterloo Premium Outlets▪ Woodbury Common Premium Outlets