



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Jeffery L. McCann
Deputy County Executive

August 16, 2023

Hon. Rachel Barnhart
Legislator - District 21
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14609

Dear Legislator Barnhart,

I am writing in response to your letter dated July 31, 2023.

The Monroe County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has reviewed both the NYU/Wagner School, Lessons Learned from the Buffalo Blizzard, as well as the recently released NYSDHSES, Blizzard of 2022 After Action Report. OEM regularly reviews and updates emergency plans to ensure the safety of the residents of Monroe County. Below is in response to your questions regarding our local emergency plans.

1. Communications:

- a. When confronted with "Warning Level" winter storms, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will continue hosting timely Webex, and teleconference meetings with county, school district, city, town, and village leaders to discuss the latest forecasts and the potential implementation and coordination of precautionary and protective measures with a focus on life safety.
 - i. At the discretion of the County Executive these measures may include, State of Emergency, Travel Advisories, and Travel Bans.
- b. As it relates to travel bans for autos or pedestrians, these bans will be communicated well in advance of their implementation and in coordination with all county, city, state entities to insure broad and consistent distribution and effect.
- c. We plan to expand these meetings, to include identified employers in essential services (public safety, food, shelter, water, health/medical, energy, communications, transportation, hazardous materials), to share information that will allow them to keep their operations safely staffed to support public safety needs during the disaster.
- d. For all other non-essential services business, the messaging will be clear to keep workers home and safe.

2. Emergency Alerting:

- a. OEM will continue to use a variety of public emergency altering/information systems including Hyper Reach, EAS, Ipaws, WEA, Social Media (Facebook, X), TV, Radio, Webex/Zoom, 211, and electronic signage as means of keeping the public informed
- b. Language translation, ASL, and closed captioning will be provided as systems capabilities allow.

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3. Storm Boxes with emergency supplies:
- a. Our emergency plans currently identify local government facilities that can function as generator enabled warming centers, or temporary shelters. When a location is activated, OEM may be asked to provide quantities of cots, blankets, and bottled water from our Fleet Center emergency stockpile.
 - b. During the Blizzard of 22', we provided these supplies to both a City of Rochester Recreation Center warming location, and a temporary shelter stood up by Brockport Central School District to service residents in those areas affected by extended power outages from the storm.
 - c. As part of our OEM plans, American Red Cross (ARC) has the ability to staff one warming center/shelter but foodstuffs is not part of their provided emergency supplies inventory.
 - d. Based on the lessons learned in Buffalo, we will expand our outreach to CBO's and FBO's who may have generator enabled facilities that can act as warming centers or temporary shelters in communities / neighborhoods where transport difficulties may be especially acute during a disaster.
 - e. When local inventories of emergency supplies are exhausted, OEM can request from New York State, through the New York Responds System (NYR) additional quantities of these supplies, including meals ready to eat (MRE).
 - i. MRE's are the best food option to distribute with other emergency supplies in response to any disaster and at locations identified as warming centers or temporary shelters.

Thank you for your interest in ensuring the safety of the residents of Monroe County.

Sincerely,



Jeffery L. McCann
Deputy County Executive