Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.



### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Sullivan County has had considerable experience with both natural and man-made disasters and other emergency situations, ranging from flooding (including two recent 100+ year frequency storms over a period of seven months) to spills of products transported over its rails and highways. It has also experienced tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, ice storms, blizzards, air disasters and occasional mild earthquakes and was indirectly impacted in numerous ways by the 9-11 attacks on New York City.

The Sullivan County Office of Emergency Management (also known as Emergency Services/ Homeland Security) is responsible for disaster preparedness, emergency services and homeland security for the County. It has assembled a Sullivan County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (EMP) that sets out the policies and procedures of the County for assessing, preparing for, dealing with and recovering from a wide range of disaster and emergency needs and situations. This EMP addresses the functions of a number of public and private entities during such situations, spelling out relationships with municipalities in the County as well as the New York State Emergency Management Office and details of how the Office of Emergency Management will respond to each of these responsibilities under the direction of the County Manager and The Sullivan County Legislature.

The County Emergency Planning Committee, during the preparation of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, made an assessment of hazard risks using a technique recommended by the State Emergency Management Office. This assessment indicated the following were, in order of risk, the highest risk hazards facing Sullivan County:

- Power Failures
- Structure Fires
- Tornadoes
- Ice Storms
- Dam Failures
- Winter Storms
- HAZMAT Incidents (Fixed Sites)
- Flooding
- Transportation Accidents

Other moderately high risks identified through this process included oil spills, HAZMAT incidents in transit, ice jams, landslides, water supply failures, explosions, epidemics, civil unrest, drought, terrorism, windstorms, wildfires and mass gatherings. Moderately low risks included earthquakes, radiological incidents in transit and mine collapses.

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is the foundation of all emergency planning in the County. There are roles for numerous agencies and organizations in this process, including, specifically, the Division of Planning and Community Development, which is the source of much of the data continually needed. Land use and community development planning can also help to reduce the risk of disasters in many instances through better storm water management, highway planning and application of safe building and site design criteria.

The County is a critical player in providing the infrastructure, ranging from roads to shelter, that is essential in dealing with emergencies in the short-term and recovering from them over the long-term. Public health and safety are, indeed, the very foundations of all land use planning. Sullivan 2020 must similarly be grounded in these basic health and safety principles, effectively extending the County's Emergency Management Plan into the future.



Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.8

Identify and analyze the risk of hazards throughout the County.

# **Timeframe**

SHORT TERM
INTERMEDIATE
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Identify specific hazards by working with municipalities and others, using the HAZNY program from the State Emergency Management Office to assess the level of risk associated with each.	C/P	
Delineate areas of risk for the County and municipalities using the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) and other data available from the Division of Planning and Community Development.	C/P	







### **Documents**

- County, Town & Village Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan; May 2004 Edition; Updated July 2005; Sullivan County DPW. Department of Engineering.
- ♦ National Response Plan. December 2004. Office of Homeland Security

### **Organizations and Programs**

State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) - www.nysemo.state.ny.us
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natural, technological and manmade disasters and other emergencies that threaten the State. NYSEMO coordinates Emergency Management Services for the State by providing leadership, planning, education and resources to protect lives, property and the environment.

## **♦ HAZNY (Hazards New York)**

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- New York Citizen Corps www.citizencorps.gov
  - This program encourages NYS citizens to actively participate in their community in areas such as crime prevention, emergency response, and emergency preparedness and mitigation for not only acts of terror, but for all hazards including those disasters caused naturally, by humans, or by technology.
- ♦ National Incident Management System (NIMS) www.fema.gov/nims/
  Provides oriented resource management and mutual aid to enhance incident readiness and response at all levels of government through a comprehensive and integrated system that allows jurisdictions to share resources among mutual aid partners. This webpage provides information and resources to enhance these processes.
- Ready.gov www.ready.gov

Ready.gov is a common sense framework designed to launch a process of learning about citizen preparedness. One of the primary mandates of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is to educate the public, on a continuing basis, about how to be prepared in case of a national emergency - including a possible terrorist attack.

# **Funding Sources**

### Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program Funds

FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Funds provide both planning and project funding to eligible communities. PDM project funding is nationally competitive; there is no "base" amount guaranteed to each state. A national priority is placed on projects that address National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) repetitive loss properties and a benefit cost analysis is required for each proposed project.

### Other

## **♦ EM Plan - NYS Automated Guide to Emergency Planning**

A step-be-step interactive program that guides the plan writer in developing their own emergency plan. www.nysemo.state.ny.us/planning/planning.html

♦ FEMA Preparation & Prevention Virtual Library & Electronic Reading Room www.fema.gov/library/prepandprev.shtm

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.9

Implement risk reduction programs at the municipal level.

# **Timeframe**

SHORT TERM INTERMEDIATE LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Promote municipal land use planning and zoning as tools for steering new development away from hazardous areas, floodplains and unstable slopes.	C/P	
Develop model storm water management provisions for municipalities to include in their zoning and subdivision regulations, incorporating natural techniques whenever possible.	C/P	
Enforce municipal and citizen compliance with building, fire and floodplain regulations.	C/M/P	
Assist lenders in complying with floodplain and regulated regulations.	C/P	
Encourage the use of chlorine alternates as disinfectants in sewer systems and for other uses.	C/M/P	
Support stream channel improvement programs, particularly those that employ natural techniques.	C/P	



### **Documents**

- **♦ Fact Sheet 2 Emergency Preparedness Checklist**
- ♦ Fact Sheet 3 Emergency Preparedness Plan
- County, Town & Village Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan; May 2004 Edition; Updated July 2005; Sullivan County DPW. Department of Engineering.
- ♦ National Response Plan. December 2004. Office of Homeland Security

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### **Funding Sources**

### **♦ Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)**

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) provides funding to assist States and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FMA was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 with the goal of reducing or eliminating claims under the NFIP. FMA is a pre-disaster grant program.

### Other

### **♦ EM Plan - NYS Automated Guide to Emergency Planning**

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# STRATEGY 3.10

Provide County leadership and coordinate emergency risk reduction planning and programs with the municipalities and neighboring counties.

# **Timeframe**

SHORT TERM

INTERMEDIATE

LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Employ the State Environmental Quality Review Act as a tool to evaluate hazard risks associated with new development proposals.	C/M	
Use methods of hazard risk reduction from the County's General Municipal Law Section 239 review process to review projects and ensure compliance.	М	
Coordinate land use planning and health/safety initiatives with surrounding counties (including Pennsylvania counties), the Hudson Valley region and New York State.	C/P	



### **Documents**

- County, Town & Village Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan; May 2004 Edition; Updated July 2005; Sullivan County DPW. Department of Engineering.
- **SEQR Cookbook**. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
- National Response Plan. December 2004. Office of Homeland Security

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- ♦ **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation -** www.dec.state.ny.us An explanation of the SEQR process can be found on their website. SEQR Regulations, Part 617.

### **Funding Sources**

**♦** Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) was created by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Act to assist States and communities in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. The objective of the HMGP is to prevent future losses of lives and property due to disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a federally declared disaster.

### Other

- **♦ EM Plan NYS Automated Guide to Emergency Planning** 
  - A step-be-step interactive program that guides the plan writer in developing their own emergency plan. www.nysemo.state.ny.us/planning/planning.html
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Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.11

Continually assess the capabilities of the emergency management system to respond to events and improve response capabilities as a method of risk reduction.

# Timeframe SHORT TERM INTERMEDIATE LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Employ County Emergency Management staff to assist municipalities in assessing risks, training personnel and monitoring potential emergency situations.	C/P	
Promote public awareness of potential hazards and the various ways to reduce risks or mitigate damages, using public relations campaigns.	C/P	





SULLIVAN COUNTY
BUREAU OF FIRE

### **Documents**

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  communities, businesses and individuals...training emergency managers...supporting the
  nation's fire service...administering the national flood and crime insurance programs...the
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### Other

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.12

Designate emergency response leadership and decision-making methods.

# **Timeframe**

SHORT TERM
INTERMEDIATE
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Establish the County Manager as the primary lead in managing all emergencies.	С	
Designate successive individuals of authority in all situations.	С	
Develop an emergency response team of individuals in both the public and private sectors to support the County Manager/County Emergency Manager in dealing with responsibilities under the County Emergency Management Plan.	C/P	



Brian Soller, Past Chief Monticello Fire Department



Leadership Role: C – County M – Municipality P – Partner Status: A – Active P – Pending C – Complete

Emergency Management: Sullivan 2020 Toolbox

### **Documents**

- ♦ Family Communications Plan. US Department of Homeland Security
- National Response Plan. December 2004. Office of Homeland Security
- ♦ Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning. September 1996. FEMA

### **Organizations and Programs**

♦ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

Educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

# **Funding Sources**

♦ Office of Domestic Preparedness - www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\_goals.htm
The goal of ODP grant program is to provide funding to enhance the capacity of state and local jurisdictions to prevent, respond to, and recover from incidents of terrorism involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) weapons and cyber attacks. ODP's grant programs were initiated in 1998, and currently provide funds to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### Other

♦ FEMA Disaster & Emergencies Virtual Library & Electronic Reading Room www.fema.gov/library/dizandemer.shtm

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.13

Develop a plan for managing the emergency response system.

# Timeframe

SHORT TERM INTERMEDIATE LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Create an Incident Command Post and Emergency Management Center for response to various emergencies.	O	
Establish a notification and alert system for the public and others to implement an emergency response.	O	





Rock Hill Fire Department

Rock Hill Fire Department

### **Documents**

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  communities, businesses and individuals...training emergency managers...supporting the
  nation's fire service...administering the national flood and crime insurance programs...the
  range of FEMA's activities is broad indeed.

### **Funding Sources**

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program - www.firegrantsupport.com The program is designed to assist local fire departments in protecting citizens and firefighters against the effects of fire and fire-related incidents. Applicants are encouraged to visit this Web site throughout the application period to obtain up to date information as the program progresses.

### Other

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.14

Assess and evaluate the response to emergencies that have occurred in the past.

Timeframe
SHORT TERM
INTERMEDIATE
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Gather information and hard data on all emergencies, employing GIS and similar techniques to document conditions going forward and for use in subsequent planning and recurring situations.	C/M/P	
Develop alternatives for dealing with situations at hand and plan the responses.	C/M/P	





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### Other

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.15

Respond to all emergencies in a timely and effective manner.

# **Timeframe**

SHORT TERM
INTERMEDIATE
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Declare a state of emergency as may be appropriate in given situations.	С	
Implement public warning systems and disseminate emergency information.	C/M/P	
Provide for emergency medical and public health needs as needed.	C/M	
Provide for human needs, such as emergency housing, as needed, identifying resources in advance wherever possible.	C/M	
Restore public services by working cooperatively with utility companies and others.	C/M	
Manage the resources of government, directing them to areas of highest priority.	С	





Narrowsburg Fire Department

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### Other

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.16

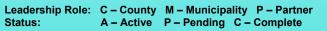
Assess the impacts and damages of all previous disasters at the local level.

# Timeframe SHORT TERM INTERMEDIATE

LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Use GIS data as a base and identify, prior to an emergency, those data sources that can supply meaningful information in the event of one.	C/M/P	
Assess the emergency conditions through surveys and inspections.	C/M/P	
Assess conditions following an emergency by using survey and inspection teams trained to evaluate and prioritize situations.	C/M/P	









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### Other

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.17

Coordinate and assemble disaster damage assessment data for use by others.

Timeframe
SHORT TERM
INTERMEDIATE
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Develop guidelines and forms for emergency assessment purposes.	C/P	
Create assessment reports that pull together all information needed at County, SEMO and FEMA levels to effectively aid in recovery operations.	C/P	







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### Other

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.18

Develop plans for emergency recovery operations.

# **Timeframe**

SHORT TERM INTERMEDIATE LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Support municipal emergency recovery activities with labor, equipment and financial or technical assistance as may be available.	C/P	
Coordinate activities with multi-municipal impacts.	C/M/P	





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♦ New York Citizen Corps - www.citizencorps.gov

This program encourages NYS citizens to actively participate in their community in areas such as crime prevention, emergency response, and emergency preparedness and mitigation for not only acts of terror, but for all hazards – including those disasters caused naturally, by humans, or by technology.

♦ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - www.fema.gov

Advising on building codes and flood plain management...teaching people how to get through a disaster...helping equip local and state emergency preparedness...coordinating the federal response to a disaster...making disaster assistance available to states, communities, businesses and individuals...training emergency managers...supporting the nation's fire service...administering the national flood and crime insurance programs...the range of FEMA's activities is broad indeed.

### **Funding Sources**

### **The Program Funds The Program Funds**

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assists states and local communities in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. As of November 1, 2004, all communities must have an approved hazard mitigation plan in place to remain eligible for HMGP funding. HMGP grants can be used to fund projects that provide protection to both public as well as private properties. Projects that are eligible under the HMGP grant include (but are not limited to) acquiring and demolishing or relocating structures from hazard-prone areas; retrofitting structures to protect them from floods, high winds, earthquakes, or other natural hazards; and constructing residential and community shelters in tornado-prone areas.

### Other

Effectively manage responses to emergencies and reduce the risk of future hazards and recurring emergencies.

# STRATEGY 3.19

Effectively implement emergency recovery operations by reconstructing essential facilities and services.

### **Timeframe**

SHORT TERM

INTERMEDIATE

LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Provide technical assistance to municipalities in planning long-term reconstruction projects.	C/P	
Disseminate public information on recovery operations in support of municipal and County initiatives.	C/M/P	
Provide physical and other support to municipalities in reestablishing essential life-support systems.	C/P	





### **Documents**

- County, Town & Village Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan; May 2004 Edition; Updated July 2005; Sullivan County DPW. Department of Engineering.
- ♦ Are Your Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness. FEMA
- National Response Plan. December 2004. Office of Homeland Security
- ♦ Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning. FEMA. 1996

### **Organizations and Programs**

♦ State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) - www.nysemo.state.ny.us
Responsible for coordinating all activities necessary to protect New York's communities from
natural, technological and manmade disasters and other emergencies that threaten the
State. NYSEMO coordinates Emergency Management Services for the State by providing
leadership, planning, education and resources to protect lives, property and the
environment.

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### Other