

NEWS:



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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ORANGE COUNTY ACTIVATES EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IN SUPPORT OF ORANGE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER (ORMC) MOVE

County, State Officials on Stand-By to Assist Hospital

Goshen – Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana activated the Orange County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the County’s Emergency Services Center in Goshen today at 4:45 a.m. as the County supports the movement of 232 patients from Horton Hospital in Middletown and Arden Hill Hospital in Goshen to the new Orange Regional Medical Center (ORMC) facility in the Town of Walkkill.

“As is evidenced by today’s hospital move, Orange County is in a unique position to assist the community by utilizing our new Emergency Services Center and its state-of-the art Emergency Operations Center (EOC),” said County Executive Diana.

Orange County Commissioner of Emergency Services Walter C. Koury said, “Our professionals in the Department of Emergency Services have been working for months with their counterparts in the County and the State, as well as with area hospitals and EMS to ensure that we are as prepared as possible for this day.”

The main objectives of this operation are to: maintain safety of patients, staff and first responders; minimize the impact to the community; establish and maintain effective traffic management; maintain effective communications; conduct an effective public information effort; move patients from Arden Hill and Horton hospitals to the Orange Regional Medical Center; and, maintain accountability of patients.

“The move is progressing as planned thanks to the significant amount of preparation leading into today,” said Deputy Commissioner Seamus K. Leary, Orange County Division of Emergency Management. “In the event anything significant happens, we have emergency service personnel on stand-by throughout the County.”

Emergency Operations Centers in operation during this event: Orange County Department of Emergency Services - Division of Emergency Management; Orange Regional Medical Center; Horton Hospital; and Arden Hill Hospital.

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Orange County's Mobile Communications Center will be operational during this event to facilitate EMS and Law Enforcement communications.

Additional agencies participating in today's operation: Federal - Civil Air Patrol; State - NYS Incident Management Team, NYS Police Troop F, NYS Department of Transportation, NYS Department of Health, NYS Office of Emergency Management; County - Office of the County Executive, Department of Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Department of Health, Department of Public Works; Emergency Medical Services - Mobile Life Support Services - Lead EMS Agency, Blooming Grove Volunteer Ambulance Corps (VAC), Chester VAC, Goshen VAC, Greenwood Lake VAC, Monroe VAC, Pine Bush VAC, Montgomery VAC, Newburgh VAC, Walkkill VAC, Warwick VAC, Woodbury Community Ambulance, St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital, West Point – Keller Army Community Hospital; Municipal Police Departments - Village of Goshen, Town of Goshen, City of Middletown, Town of Walkkill; and, Fire Departments - Goshen, Mechanicstown, Middletown.

An event of this nature is unique in that two hospitals are transferring patients simultaneously and consolidating them into a new hospital. This event requires extensive coordination on the part of the County Emergency Management and other emergency response agencies. The Orange County EOC will be an integral part in coordinating this important effort.

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Orange County Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Management serves as Incident Commander as County's Emergency Operations Center is activated to support Orange Regional Medical Center's (ORMC) move to new hospital facility, August 5, 2011.