

NEWS:



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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Orange County Updates Residents on Storm Response

Emergency Operations Center in 24-hour operational period since noon Saturday

(Goshen, NY) – Deputy County Executive of Orange County James D. O'Donnell, in consultation with Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana, reports to County residents the following information regarding the County's emergency response to Hurricane Irene as of today:

- The Orange County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been open on a 24-hour operation status since noon Saturday, August 27 and staffed during this time with over 100 emergency response partners representing local, state and non-governmental agencies;
- Three days prior to the storm, Orange County began - and still continues - daily conference calls with our 42 local elected officials and West Point, apprising them of the County's storm response;
- On Sunday, August 28, the County's 9-1-1 Call Center handled 6,500 calls from County residents in one day more than double the amount of calls it received over a 3-day period during the February 2010 snow storm;
- At the height of the storm, there were approximately 36,000 Orange County residents without power, the current figure is 12,000 - utility representatives have been present in the EOC since activation;
- All major roads in and out of Orange County, Interstate 87, Interstate 84 and NY Route 17 are open, all lanes were cleared and opened within 24 hours of the storm's aftermath;
- Orange County Department of Public Works (DPW) has exhausted their supply of road barricades and signage for blocking off impassible roads and bridges – aiding municipalities;
- In the County's EOC, we have a Type III, Incident Management Team (IMT) from Western NY assisting incident management in planning and continuity of operations;
- Orange County has enacted an Interstate Mutual Compact with Wayne County, NY whereby a Storm Emergency Fire Unit (SEFU), comprised of 8 teams – 17 people, are enacting a state fire mobilization plan and are currently assisting local fire departments in dewatering;
- Orange County worked with the Civil Air Patrol, a federal resource, and coordinated aerial reconnaissance over the County compiling preliminary damage assessment;
- The County's Emergency Manager conducted an assessment of many of the hardest hit areas to assess the needs of local governments and to ensure the effectiveness of the County's emergency response; and,
- The County has been utilizing social media to distribute critical information to residents, while receiving critical feedback from citizens impacted by the storm, evidence of this tool's success is the number of friends on the Emergency Management's Facebook page - prior to Irene we had 1,500 friends, and currently we have over 5,000.

The above is just a snapshot of what the County has been doing to help safeguard the life and safety of Orange County residents. For more details on specific activities, as well as information relating to current road and bridge closures, as well as numerous Fact Sheets containing useful information and tips for residents to stay healthy and safe during and after a flood, please continue to visit the County's website at www.orangecountygov.com.

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