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SITUATION REPORT

To: **Governor David A. Paterson**

Cc/Through: **Mary Kavaney**
Deputy Secretary for Public Safety

John R. Gibb,
Acting Commissioner, DHSES
Chairman, NYS Disaster Preparedness Commission

From: **Andrew X. Feeney**
Director, NYSOEM

Subject: Hurricane Earl

Reporting Period: 9/2/2010 08:00 - 9/2/2010 20:00

SitRep Intro

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is continuing operations to monitor and respond to Hurricane Earl as the storm approaches the New York coastline. The New York State Office of Emergency Management (NYSOEM) has begun 24 staffing at the SEOC. Several state agencies were represented until 1800 hrs today and will begin 24 hr operations starting 0800 hrs Friday. The agencies include the Dept. of Health, Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Division of State Police, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Dept. of Transportation, Thruway Authority, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and FEMA. Public Service Commission, Port Authority of NY/NJ, and the American Red Cross have also been requested to deploy to the EOC effective 0800 hrs Friday, Sep 3rd.

Nassau County will fully activate its emergency operations center on Friday, Sep 3 at 0600 hrs. Suffolk County will be fully activating its EOC at 1800 hrs today. New York City has activated their situation room through Saturday, Sep 4.

In support of the County EOC activations, several NYSOEM staff deployed early Thursday morning to Nassau and Suffolk Counties. In addition, the New York State IMT Command and General Staff has deployed as well to assist and coordinate resources in eastern Long Island, if needed.

Weather

Current Weather

Thursday 9/2/10

Hazy, hot & humid conditions will continue statewide. Temperatures will be near or slightly above record high levels. The high pressure ridge that has been responsible for the heat & humidity will weaken and drift eastward into the western Atlantic. Air Quality Alerts from the National Weather Service for ground level ozone, have been issued for the Upper and Lower Hudson Valley, the NYC Metro, and Long Island Regions of the state for today.

Tropical Update

Hurricane Earl is now a powerful category 3 storm with maximum sustained winds at 115 mph, continues to move to the north at 18 mph. Current forecast guidance has the storm passing near the North Carolina Outer Banks tonight and be to near southeastern New England Friday night, passing just southeast of Cape Cod. At this point, maximum impacts for New York State from the storm are still expected to occur on Long Island. NOAA National Weather Service reports Hurricane Earl could

be a category 2 hurricane as it passes Southeast of Long Island Friday evening. Long Island sound shores could experience minor tidal flooding caused by a 2-3 ft. storm surge Friday and 1-2 ft. surge on Saturday. The most vulnerable area for highest winds and heaviest rain is Eastern Long Island.

Precipitation is expected to impact the state Friday mid-morning with totals of approximately 1/4 inch rain in the Westchester County area, and up to approximately 4 inches in eastern Suffolk county. There is a 30-50% chance of tropical storm force winds (39-57mph) from NYC to western Long Island and a 50-70% chance of tropical storm force winds (39-57mph) on eastern Long Island. There is a 5-10% chance of hurricane force winds (74mph or greater).

Friday 9/3/10

Tropical Storm Warnings are in effect for eastern Long Island. Hurricane Earl will be moving northeastward up the Atlantic coast during the day, passing east of Long Island and just southeast of Cape Cod. Tropical storm force winds are expected for the eastern half of Long Island along with significant beach erosion and overwash problems. Heaviest rains should occur over eastern Long Island where 2" – 4" may fall.

Saturday 9/4/10

A weakening Hurricane Earl will be moving into the Canadian Maritimes but the strong winds on its backside will be affecting sections of New York State, mainly eastern and northern counties.

Strong low pressure over James Bay will be circulating much cooler air into the state as Earl continues to pull away to the northeast. Showers are likely, especially over northern counties.

SOEM Region I

Agency Summary

State Office of Emergency Management Region I staff are in place at the Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management.

Fire Island ferries are scheduling specific closures based on the Fire Island National Seashore and wind conditions, starting Friday, September 3 at 1200 hrs.

The Long Island Railroad will be closing eastern branches to the mid island service areas starting tomorrow morning.

Suffolk County OEM, along with the Town of Riverhead OEM, is examining relocating residents of a trailer park in Riverhead.

SOEM Region II

Agency Summary

NYSOEM-Region II staff reports county level preparations and planning for possible impacts on the Hudson Valley Region by Hurricane Earl. All counties within this region report they are monitoring the storm. Orange County has a limited EOC activation.

Westchester County is conducting 2 daily conference calls with its jurisdictions and hospitals, and is on standby for EOC activation.

Department of Health

Agency Summary

The NYS Department of Health (DOH) continues planning on potential response activities to include medical surge. Additionally, DOH is supporting the State response by staffing the State Emergency Operations Center, Human Services Functional Branch and the Multi Agency Situation Unit. Outreach materials on food safety and use of portable generators has been provided to the Health Desk at State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

DOH Regional offices report the following:

Western Regional Area staff to include the Environmental Assessment Group (EAG) are on call to provide assistance if required.

Metropolitan Area Regional Office staff continues to coordinate with local health and emergency management officials. Long Term Care has expanded their hours of operation with staff on call throughout Friday evening and all day Saturday. All program managers and key staff are on standby if required. At this time, there are no reports of any issues with healthcare facilities.

Division of Epidemiology Public Health Emergency Epidemiology Program staff are participating in conference calls with preparedness partners.

Environmental Health radiation staff are coordinating communication with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and certain licensees who possess very large quantities of radioactive material to ensure they are prepared for possible hurricane emergency.

Center for Environmental Health (CEH) food safety staff continue to standby with availability for activation of Human Services Task Force (Food Group). Outreach materials on food safety and the use of portable generators has been provided to

the Health Desk at SEOC and MARO Regional EH Director.

Health toxic substances staff are supporting outreach and education material development for mold, flooding, power outages and portable generators use.

American Red Cross

Agency Summary

Red Cross preparedness activities include:

- The State Coordinating Chapter has identified a location for the relief operation headquarters in Suffolk County and a leadership team, including Operations Management, Mass Care, Staffing and Disaster Assessment are being deployed today.
- Chapters are coordinating with local emergency management to identify potential shelter locations and staff Emergency Operation Centers. A Red Cross liaison will be assigned to the Suffolk County EOC upon activation at 1800.
- Red Cross has 8 shelters on alert (6 Suffolk/2 Nassau), which would be the first to open should shelters need to be activated immediately.
- Chapters are conducting call-downs of volunteers and identifying human resource needs and informing the National Headquarters' Disaster Operations Center (DOC) of shortfalls.
- Chapters are reaching out to community partners for assistance with food, clothing, spiritual care, etc.
- An Emergency Communications Response Vehicle has been deployed from Chicago to Long Island.

Division of Military & Naval Affairs

Agency Summary

The NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs is prepared to analyze and execute requests for support to civil authorities while monitoring the track of Hurricane Earl. The Joint Operations Center is prepared to elevate staffing in response to any deployment of NY military forces. DMNA has identified and deployed Liaison Officers to support elevated staffing at the NYSEOC. DMNA currently has no forces deployed to support Hurricane Earl response efforts.

DMNA has coordinated with NYPD Aviation Unit and is prepared to provide vehicle and equipment storage at the Bedford Avenue Armory.

DMNA Staff is analyzing a request for gasoline and diesel fuel to Suffolk County USAR team.

Division of State Police

Agency Summary

The Division of State Police (DSP) is continuing to monitor the Hurricane Earl situation. Troop L (Long Island) will be providing DSP staffing to EOC's in Nassau and Suffolk Counties beginning with the day shift on Friday, September 3rd, and continuing as necessary. DSP will also be providing EOC staffing at the State EOC in Albany for the duration of this event. Normal police operations are continuing at this time with no major incidents to report.

Office of Fire Prevention & Control

Agency Summary

OFPC is in contact with the Fire Coordinators from the possibly effected counties.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) is prepared to mobilize the following resources:

- 30 CEDAR members within 2 hours of notification to provide post incident damage assessment of structures
- Approximately 50 USAR members throughout the weekend, within 2 hours of notification. All equipment has been checked and is in a state of readiness. Response capabilities include:
 - o Type II Task Force team
 - o Type II Swift water/Flood Team
 - o Four Type I Canine Search and Rescue Teams (Disaster/Structure Collapse Live)
 - o USAR Operations level Incident Support Team (IST)
 - o Incident Site Communications Interoperability

Department of Transportation

Agency Summary

NYS Dept. of Transportation (DOT) reports significant event related actions:

STICC remains active and staff is scheduled for State EOC.

- STICC staffing schedule has been developed for possible operations through 0700 Wednesday, September 8.
- Regions 1 and 8 crews are on standby and ready to be sent to Region 10 if necessary. Region 8 crews are available on Sunday, September 5; Region 1 crews are available on Tuesday, September 7.
- A fuel truck from Region 2 is on its way to Region 8 Fleet Administration to provide fuel to an emergency generator if needed.
- Equipment is being sent from other Regions to Region 8 Fleet administration. Staff from Region 10 will come to Region 8 today to pick up this equipment.

Region 10 reports the following preparatory activities:

- All crews are on “standby” and are prepping needed equipment.
- Construction contractors have been advised to plan for the potential need to button down their jobs and/or equipment.
- Traffic signal equipment has been inventoried and found adequate except for a need for spare traffic controllers. Spares have been identified from R1 and are ready to be deployed to R10 as necessary.
- The Region is considering pre-staging crews at known flood prone sites to hasten response.
- The Region is continuing to prepare for Hurricane Earl and possible high winds and flooding.
- INFORM has lowered all portable variable message signs to decrease their wind profile.
- Portable Variable Message Signs (PVMS) have been deployed to the LIE to provide direction to arriving emergency utility crews.

DOT staff located at State EOC report the following:

- Staff are working a request from LIPA to use INFORM VMS to support getting out-of-state utility crews to staging areas. DOT is coordinating with R10 on a response. NYSDOT Region 10 has deployed a pair of portable VMS along I-495. The message will be modified to fit on the signs as appropriate.
- DOT staff at State EOC are working with State OEM (logistics) to identify a source and contracting procedure for a NIMS Type 3 Tub Grinder. Staff are looking for assistance in the rental process to expedite this rental for NYSDOT Region 8 should the storm track change and a larger impact to the downstate region becomes imminent.

Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency Summary

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 1 Incident Management Team (IMT) projects that some shellfish areas will be closed, exact locations to be determined. The IMT projects high hazard areas from Port Jefferson eastward on the North Shore, and Shinnecock Island area on South Shore.