



Albany County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management

Volume 1 | March 2021

Office of Critical Incident/Emergency Management

This is the first of what will be a monthly newsletter for the Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management unit. This month's newsletter will provide a summary of the functions of the Critical Incident/Emergency Management Unit.

The Critical Incident/Emergency Management Unit consists of the following:

- Office of Emergency Management
- Capital Region Forensic Hazardous Materials Unit
- Community and Emergency Services
- Office of the Fire Coordinator
- Search and Rescue Team.

The unit also acts as the administrator of the Four County Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Group covering Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties.



Office of Emergency
Management

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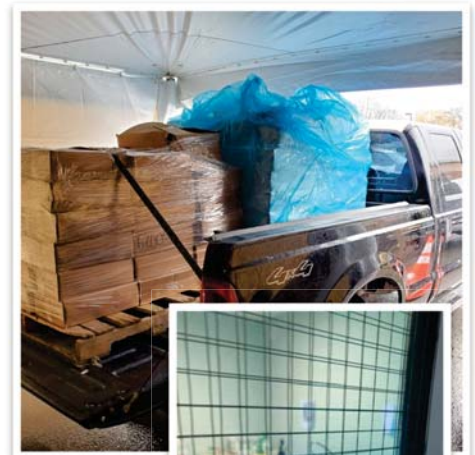
COVID-19 Response

The EOC was opened on March 13, 2020 in response to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 14, 2020 Albany County declared a State of Emergency due to the pandemic public health emergency of COVID-19.

Emergency Management Unit and COVID 19

Beginning on March 13, 2020, the Emergency Management Unit was fully operational for the COVID19 Pandemic. By March 16, it was evident that more man power would be needed to assist with operations. At that time, the EMO Commander began recruiting Sheriff's Office members into Emergency Management.

- Operations
 - Logistics
 - Supply Inventory and Requests
 - COVID19 Test Site Security
 - Executive Order Compliance
 - Decontamination Teams
 - Sheriff's Patrol Station Security and Control Points
 - Community Relations
 - Distribution and Delivery
 - Total Distribution for 2020 was 1,081,201 pieces of PPE.
- The delivered PPE was categorized in the following fashion:
- ACCF - 74,451
 - Skilled Nursing - 269,957
 - 1st Responders - 227,742
 - Hospitals - 93,205
 - Other - 415,846



Throughout the next four months, officers were utilized in the following areas:

Working with our current inventory and in conjunction with our local firm Momentive we were able to provide at no cost over 100,000 N95,KN95 and surgical masks as well as Tyvek suits to EMS providers throughout the county in the early months of the Pandemic to keep EMS and emergency services running smoothly.



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Office of Fire Coordinator

Training Opportunities



Mobile Tactical Training Trailer

This trailer will be available to be used on your site to help you meet your training needs. It contains numerous rooms, a Bullex Fire training simulator with a smoke generator, maze, wall breach, roof simulator, forcible entry door and bail out window. Contact the Fire Coordinator's Office to reserve this trailer.



ATF Explosive Training

This training can be scheduled by contacting Chief Bruno at firetraining@albanycounty.com

NYS Fire Training Classes

Current schedule can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=13120>

Hill Town Fire Training Center

The Fire Coordinator completed the grounds work and tower assembly work for the Hill Towns Fire Training Tower. All grounds work was completed as of the October 1st planned deadline. This includes clearing the area, providing access from tower area to class room, completion of concrete pads for; extrication, car fire, and propane simulator.

The Conex boxes for tower construction were purchased by Sheriff Craig D. Apple Sr. using seizure funds and placed into position with doors and windows cut out.



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Retention and Recruitment

We initiated a new member Arson Background tracking system that will allow us to track active members vs Social members starting January 1, 2021. During 2020 we did 123 Background checks.

Reserve Engine

The Fire Coordinator's office has a reserve Engine available as needed for emergency backup. Should the need arise contact the Fire Coordinator.



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County Mutual Aid Plan

We updated our County Mutual aid plan and submitted it for NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control approval.

Arson Control Plan

We updated our County Arson Control plan and submitted it for NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control approval.

Haz-Mat

In 2020 the Capital District Forensics Hazardous Materials Team were able to make some key upgrades and improvements to the county's response capabilities despite the COVID 19 pandemic which severely limited our training efforts.

Our accomplishments include:

Replacement of our response trailer with Unit 702. This unit was completely stocked and set up by team members to make for a more efficient response vehicle. This unit is checked out weekly and maintained with proper inventories available to all four counties for use upon request. It contains a supply of both hazmat and forensic hazmat tools including a Mass spectrometer for field use. The trailer and pickup truck were returned to the county to be reassigned for future response capability. The truck is centrally located on the Watervliet Arsenal.



Training did not go as well as planned in 2020 we were able to do a few virtual events, as well as get in hands explosive training with the NYS bomb Squad in the early and late year. The pandemic really hampered efforts for a new basic class for new members which we hope to have up and running in September 2021. Smaller classes will be held in 2021 for our team once vaccinated. We were also able to get a few hazmat prop trailers donated.

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Evacuation Functional Needs Registry 911

The Albany County Sheriff's Office has a Countywide Registry for Persons In Need living in Albany County. The program is designed to assist residents with special needs who would need help to evacuate their homes during an emergency situation such as a natural or manmade disaster.

In addition, information from the application will be entered into the County's E-911 system, allowing emergency responders to instantly identify any special needs of callers from their residences. Prior knowledge of the needs of a caller could make a difference during a crucial time.

This completely voluntary Registry is the most extensive of its kind in the Capital District.

All information will be used for emergency purposes only and will be kept strictly confidential.

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=258>

Search and Rescue Team

Currently the Search and Rescue Team (SRT) stands at 25 members. This includes Commander Brian Wood and 4 Team Leaders. The SRT is staffed with deputies and paramedics who are highly trained in technical rescue including high and low angle rope rescue, cave rescue, ice rescue, swift water rescue, and wilderness search and rescue. We also have members trained in both trench rescue and confined space rescue. These members supplement the other county team already in existence.

In early 2020 we placed our new SRT rig into service. The 2020 Chevy/Navistar 5500 have a commercial enclosed utility body built by T&T Truck Sales.



This truck holds all of our rescue gear and also has been designed with several anchor points to facilitate rappelling from the cliff edge. The search and Rescue team also does rope rescue, cold water and swift water rescue.



Chief Paris and Baxter provide live victim search and rescue Countywide and outside the County as requested.

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