



NEWS RELEASE



U.S. Dept. of Commerce
NOAA, National Weather Service
Offices Serving New York State

New York State
Disaster Preparedness
Commission

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NEW YORK STATE WEATHER WARNING TESTS SCHEDULED

The 19th annual statewide hazardous weather communications drill is scheduled for April 24 and 26. On those days, the five National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving New York State will issue test-warning messages for hazardous weather threats that develop rapidly.

The drills will be run statewide – at approximately 11:15 a.m. on April 24 and at approximately 1:15 p.m. on April 26 – to test communication networks that are in place. This exercise is being conducted in cooperation with the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC), comprised of state agencies such as the Division of State Police, the State Department of Education, and the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO). The drills are being conducted during Severe Weather Awareness Week, being observed in New York State April 22-28.

“Emergency and response organizations work closely with the National Weather Service to ensure that we can deliver advance notice to localities and the public when hazardous weather is forecasted,” said John R. Gibb, Director of the State Emergency Management Office and chairman of the DPC. “While we have a robust and reliable system in place, we must do everything we can to ensure that we remain prepared. The annual communication drill is an excellent opportunity to test our systems to make sure they work as intended in addition to raising New Yorkers’ level of awareness and preparedness.”

Communication capabilities for warning dissemination will be tested across the Empire State in the April 24 and 26 drills. These capabilities include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Weather Radio and Weather Wire Service, the emergency management community’s National Warning System (NAWAS) and the New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN). NAWAS and NYSPIN are New York’s official emergency management information communication systems for State agencies and local officials.

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Internally, the communication drills will give National Weather Service staff the opportunity to practice skills usually applied under stress. Externally, the statewide drill gives public safety and preparedness officials, the broadcast media and all New Yorkers the opportunity to test their planned methods of receiving emergency weather messages. It also affords the opportunity to test plans for responding to a weather emergency.

In the event hazardous weather actually threatens on any scheduled drill day, the drill for that day will be postponed until the same day the following week. For more information, contact the Warning Coordination Meteorologist listed below at the nearest National Weather Service office.

Albany:	Raymond O'Keefe	518-435-9587
Buffalo:	Judy Levan	716-565-0015
Long Island:	Gary Conte	631-924-0593 x223
Binghamton:	Dave Nicosia	607-770-9531 x223
Burlington:	Steve Hogan	802-862-8711 x223

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