

**Executive Members**

**Senior Advisors:**

Selina Chan, Susan Wong, Kenneth Lam, Edward Ma

**President:**

Teresa Lin

**Vice President:**

David Chau

**Treasurer:**

Serene Nie

**Secretaries:**

Kieu Loan Mia  
Eva Wong

**Committee Chairs**

**Event Committee:**

Frank Liang  
Dan Liu

**Media Committee:**

Ed Ma

**Membership Committee:**

Isabel Chau

**Research Committee:**

Kieu Loan Mai

**Advocacy Committee:**

Edward Ma

**Website**

**Committee:**

Serene Nie  
Dan Liu

**Address:**

39 Bowery, PMB 135  
New York NY 10002

**E-mail:**

[info@ahssc.org](mailto:info@ahssc.org)

**Website: [AHSSC.org](http://AHSSC.org)**



On October 17, 2014, “NYC Emergency Operations Center” was hosted at **New York City of Emergency Management (OEM)** in Brooklyn. The NYC OEM team members, Eli Fresquez, Special Needs Outreach Coordinator, Christian Laurence, Health and Medical Specialist and Iskra Gencheva, Ready NY Outreach Coordinator, presented on the mission, goals, recent local activities and borough planning procedures for emergency events. Cultural specific concerns as regards to cultural communities were discussed and a guided tour was facilitated at the end of the presentation.

The NYC emergency response team consists of more than “200 diverse professionals with expertise in planning, emergency response, public health, human services, transportation, law, policy, technology, communications, Geographic Information Systems, external affair, continuity of operations, logistics, and many other areas as needed” to secure the safety and guide the local activities needed during a significant emergency or anticipated disaster event. OEM’s mission includes goals to: plan and prepare, coordinate response and recovery, educate and inform the public, and, collect and disseminate information. Systems in place for disaster planning encompass layers of care planning for human services, health and medical, transportation and infrastructure, plan management, external affairs, logistics and data mapping. Emergency coordination and support at the OEM Watch Command functions 7 days a week, 24 hours a day to track conditions that could potentially affect NYC

functioning and its residents. This includes the monitoring of emergency responders' radio frequencies, local and national news, weather, and 911 calls. OEM Watch Command staff maintain communication with City, State and federal agencies while also responsible for notifying key officials and decision makers of concerning issues or events.

In preparation for the NYC Coastal Storm Season 2014, an overview of OEM's past activities during Sandy was presented. There were 73 emergency shelters, 65 evacuation centers, and 8 special medical needs shelters. Coordination was managed to evacuate 36 health care facilities and 12 adult care facilities.

Demand was also recognized for pet shelters. Watch was maintained to organize evacuation zone planning for needed areas identified by category levels for surge heights and storm bearing. Of special focus is the recognition of Special Needs Shelter which includes planning for people with disabilities, medication protocol, stockpiles of medical and assistive supplies, signage and posters, protocols for working with special/functional needs, site specific checklist, and shelter demand analysis.

OEM is also in charge of NYC Advance Warning System (AWS). AWS organizes conference calls and email alerts for targeted hazard information to agencies with special needs clients as well as information for high risk weather forecasts, local life safety hazards and evacuation orders. Agencies interested in signing up for the alert system can visit <https://advancewarningssystemnyc.org> . To learn about your neighborhood specific needs and procedures, materials can be requested in different languages from

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/contact/knownyourzonematerialsrequest.shtml> . Neighborhood volunteers and local support from agency representatives are welcomed to better communication and planning, particularly for bilingual or special needs populations. Those interested in being a volunteer can contact: Iskra Gencheva at [igencheva@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:igencheva@oem.nyc.gov)