

# **DISASTER MITIGATION LESSONS LEARNED FROM HERKIMER COUNTY**

Meadowbrook Conference Center  
Blue Mountain Lake, NY  
April 24-24, 2014

**George Cryer, Deputy Mayor  
Village of Mohawk**



**William A. Rabbia, Executive Director  
Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority**

# **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE**

**George Cryer, Deputy Mayor  
Village of Mohawk**

**On June 28, 2013  
Herkimer and  
Oneida Counties  
Received 6" of  
Rain in 2 hours**



Ilion, NY English & River Drive







**FLOOD DAMAGE**  
**Herkimer, NY**





Ilion, NY-River Drive & English



Herkimer, NY South Bellinger Street

## CELLAR & 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR FLOODING





# PROPERTY DAMAGE



Herkimer, NY

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM FLOODS OF 2013

## TOPICS

1. Mohawk Flood/Ice Problem History
2. Contingency Planning History
3. Evacuation
4. Communication Critical
5. Recovery
6. Prevention
7. Future



# MOHAWK FLOOD/ICE PROBLEM (HISTORY)

- Have Had a History of Ice Jams & Floods
- 2013 Floods More Severe than in the Past
- No Power - Sub-Station Flooded 3-Days  
(Still Patched)
- 5-6 Weeks No Drinking Water
  - Aqueduct Compromised
- Sewage Backed-Up

# CONTINGENCY PLANNING (HISTORY)

- Original Contingency Plan
- Churches Were Used for Shelters
- County 911 Recommended Changes
- 911 Will Direct

# **EVACUATION**

- **Police/Fire Used for Evacuation**
- **Communication/Needs**
  - **Boats/Trucks**



# COMMUNICATION CRITICAL

- Department Responsibilities
  - State
  - County
  - Local

# RECOVERY

- Red Cross/Salvation Army
  - Food
  - Blankets
  - Bottled Water

# AGENCIES

- FEMA
- NYSDEC
- State Fire Department
- County 911



## OTHER ISSUES

- Residents Changing to Electric Heat without Permits
- Cut-Off From County 911 Facility
- Vandalism
- Outside Volunteers - No Direction

# **FUTURE/PREVENTION**

- **Rising Communities (NYS Program)**
- **Water Level Sensors on Bridges**

# **CLEAN-UP STAGING/MOVING MATERIALS**

**William A. Rabbia, Executive Director  
Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority**



# OVERVIEW

- Collection Strategies/Transfer Disposal
- Communication/Recordkeeping
- Permit Issues
- Unanticipated Issues

# COLLECTION STRATEGIES

- Municipal
- Private
- Combination – Municipal/Private

# COLLECTION STRATEGIES

- Curbside
- Collection/Staging Locations
- Roll-Offs/Compaction/Loaders
- Combination

# ISSUES

- Continued Flooding/Rain
- Scavenging
- HHW/Recycling

# TRANSFER STRATEGIES

- Plan on Extra Trucks
- Extra Transfer Station Hours
- Extra Landfill Hours
- Double Check Permits

# COMMUNICATE

- All Stakeholders
  - Residents
  - Municipalities
  - County
  - State (NYSDEC)
  - Feds

# RECORDKEEPING

- Very Important for FEMA
- All Expenses Detailed
- Established New Accounts Specific to Flood/Clean-Up



# **GREEN WASTE/ LAND CLEARING DEBRIS**

**Most Staged and  
Processed at  
Later Date**

# STOCKPILING STORM BRUSH DEBRIS







# STORM DEBRIS COLLECTION







# STORM DEBRIS COLLECTION







**SCAVENGING  
PROBLEM**





West Albany Street  
Herkimer, NY



Herkimer, NY State Street

**OTHER ISSUES:  
RECYCLING & TRASH  
CONTAINERS FLOATING**



# UNWANTED TRAFFIC IN DISASTER AREA











# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AT THE CURB



# STOCKPILING STORM C & D MATERIAL









# STAGING C&D PILES FOR COLLECTION





**QUESTIONS?**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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