

categories including public engagement, green infrastructure and protecting vulnerable populations. The Governor will announce Phase I of these awards in the Spring.

### **Continue to Lead in Emergency Preparedness**

In addition to improving the resilience of structures and systems throughout the state, Governor Cuomo has used the lessons from Sandy, Irene and Lee to strengthen New York's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

In October, Governor Cuomo created the first-ever statewide program designed to establish uniform emergency preparedness training for county chief executives, county emergency managers and local emergency first responders (e.g., fire chiefs, police chiefs, EMS directors and other county officials). The NYS Emergency Management Certification and Training Program (NYS-EMC) will certify participants for disaster response capabilities.

To ensure statewide preparedness for future emergencies, the Governor established emergency stockpiles of essential supplies and equipment. Today

the State has nine regional stockpiles with critical equipment and life-saving supplies for rapid deployment.

Governor Cuomo also launched the New York State Resiliency Institute for Storms & Emergencies (NYS RISE), a new applied think tank led by NYU Poly and Stony Brook University that will serve as a hub of research and education on emergency preparedness, as well as a clearinghouse of information regarding extreme weather and natural disasters. The Resiliency Institute will bring together academic thought leaders as well as government officials, national experts and emergency response leaders to inform critical decisions before, during and after extreme weather events.

### ***Create an Upstate Resilient Fuel Infrastructure***

Superstorm Sandy exposed vulnerabilities in our fuel supply and distribution system. Power outages and physical damage to petroleum pipelines and terminals and disruption to barge deliveries of fuel caused a near-complete halt to supply flows into the New York City metropolitan region for approximately 24 hours after Sandy, and caused disruption to normal petroleum fuel

distribution for several additional days. In addition, AAA estimated that after Sandy, only 35 percent of gas stations on Long Island were operational due largely to loss of power. These factors contributed to a fuel distribution disruption and the first gas rationing in New York and New Jersey since the 1970s.

In his 2013 State of the State address, the Governor announced the Fuel NY initiative as a direct response to the gas disruptions during Sandy. Under Fuel NY, the State now has in place the strongest back-up power requirements for gas stations in the nation. Under the State's new law, more than half of all gas stations in New York City, Long Island and Westchester and Rockland counties are now required to have back-up power in the event of an emergency, including:

- Stations within a half-mile of a highway exit or hurricane evacuation route in these downstate areas will need to be wired with a transfer switch—which makes it possible to hook up to a generator—by April 1, 2014. They must deploy and install a generator within 24 hours of losing power in an emergency.
- In addition, 30 percent of all retail outlets that are part of a chain further than half-mile from highway exits and evacuation routes in these downstate areas will be required to install a transfer switch by August 1, 2015. They must

deploy and install a generator within 48 hours of losing power.

- All newly constructed gas stations for which a building permit is issued on or after April 1, 2014 will be required to have wiring to deploy a generator or have a back-up generator installed.

The State is currently investing up to \$17 million in federal funding to help gas stations install transfer switches and/or purchase generators. Since the launch of the program, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has issued hundreds of grant contracts.

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***The State will establish approximately eight additional Strategic Fuel Reserves capable of serving emergency responders in the entire Upstate NY region.***

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Under Fuel NY, the Governor also created the nation's first state-based Strategic Fuel Reserve. The first reserve is a pilot program based in Long Island to hold 3 million gallons of fuel for motorists and first responders, roughly equivalent to the one-day demand for Long Island. In the event of an energy emergency,

gasoline from the reserve will be released to meet fuel needs while the industry recovers from any disruption in routine operations.

In 2014, the Fuel NY Initiative will be expanded to create an Upstate Resilient Fuel Infrastructure.

The State will establish approximately eight additional Strategic Fuel Reserves capable of serving emergency responders in the entire Upstate NY region. The Upstate Reserves will include both gasoline and diesel fuels, and to ensure the fuel can be delivered to emergency responders, counties' fuel suppliers will be solicited to pre-qualify and pre-contract to tap the Strategic Fuel Reserve in their region in the event that their own supplies have been disrupted. The State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services will prioritize requests during emergencies.

As noted above, one of the lessons from Superstorm Sandy is that even if retail stations have gas on hand, they can only distribute it if the station has power. Building on passage of the downstate gas station back-up power law, the State will extend the program statewide to cover all gas stations within a half-mile of critical highways Upstate.

**Figure 4.2**  
**Gas Station Back-Up Power Capacity on Critical Routes and Planned Strategic Fuel Reserve Sites**



### ***Ensure Emergency Responders Can Access Critical Sites***

One of the most important factors in effectively responding to an emergency and preserving public safety is being able to simultaneously ensure that emergency responders and other critical personnel can access roads and other sites, while keeping the public away from dangerous areas.

In general, in a storm or other disaster, the State has the authority to close roads under its jurisdiction

and local governments have the authority to close roads under their jurisdiction. In a State-declared emergency, the State can also suspend conflicting laws and, if necessary, assume full control of emergency access.

As part of a program to support the State in managing access to disaster areas, the Department of Motor Vehicles will create a new Emergency



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***The Department of  
Motor Vehicles will  
create a new  
Emergency  
Management License  
Plate.***

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Management License Plate. These so-called “red plates” will help make it possible for vehicles carrying essential emergency management staff, public health

personnel and other critical responders to access roads and restricted sites in an emergency.

By making it clear who needs access to restricted areas in order to facilitate emergency response and recovery, these changes will reduce confusion and enhance public safety.

***Create the SUNY College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity***

To maintain our position as a leader when it comes to our state's and nation's security, Governor Cuomo will establish a new SUNY College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity—the first of its kind in the country.

Responding to the complexities of modern threats—both natural and human-made—requires an understanding of the complicated intersections of law enforcement, emergency management, military challenges, intelligence, industry approaches, and the legal foundation for our actions. The SUNY College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity will be the first civilian degree-granting college to integrate emergency preparedness, security and cybersecurity studies through interdisciplinary programs that involve law, public and international affairs, information technology, cyber engineering, critical infrastructure protection and science. The College will create the world's most comprehensive academic programs, research, and training



opportunities for aspiring professionals, policy leaders, emergency managers and first responders.

The College will appoint a strong faculty across multiple disciplines with both academic and professional backgrounds. Bachelor's degrees and certificate programs will be offered in fields such as emergency preparedness, homeland security, intelligence, cybersecurity, and forensics and the College will develop brand new, cutting edge masters and advanced degrees in emerging fields. Finally, through its affiliation with SUNY, the College can serve as an economic driver for the State through the development of new companies and industries through our START-UP NY program.

### ***Launch the Citizen First Responder Corps***

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters and know what to do in an emergency. Governor Cuomo will launch the Citizen First Responder Corps so residents have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of

disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

Citizen First Responder Corps training will begin in mid-January and will be held at armories and other locations, such as the State Fair. Trainings will be led by the New York National Guard, working with experts from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Emergency Management and Office of Fire Prevention and Control. All training sessions will be coordinated with local county emergency management personnel.

The training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies.

A key component of this training is distribution of free NYS Disaster Preparedness Kits to all participants containing key items to assist individuals in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. The state training and kits will help New Yorkers be the most-trained and best-prepared citizens in the country.