

Governor Cuomo Announces Special License Plates For State and Local Government Emergency Response Vehicles

Special Plates will assist law enforcement in identifying vehicles during major storms or emergencies

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced today that the Department of Motor Vehicles has begun the process of issuing a limited number of emergency management license plates for vehicles registered to New York State agencies and political subdivisions such as counties, cities, towns, and villages. Based on criteria developed by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), these entities will be able to identify vehicles to receive a license plate with a special Emergency Management (EM) indicator. The EM indicator will assist State officials in identifying vehicles that serve a critical role in emergency response and management and will help assure that these vehicles have access to incident locations as well as reserved assets such as emergency fuel supplies.

“In my State of the State address in January, I outlined a plan to ensure that New York State communities are well prepared for future storms such as Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee as well as other emergencies,” said Governor Cuomo. “Establishing these Emergency Management plates, and assisting law enforcement in identifying the registrants of these vehicles, will help to accomplish that goal.”

The New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services will determine how many EM license plates will be available to the various agencies and localities. Initially most localities will be entitled to register for a minimum number of EM plates. The vehicle must be owned or controlled and registered in the name of the State agency or locality in order to be eligible for the new EM license plate and the highest ranking government official in each locality will certify that the identified vehicles are eligible for this program. The new plates will have a white background and a maroon banner with the “EM” designation appearing in the upper left hand corner. At the bottom of the plate the name of the State Agency or the political subdivision’s county of primary use will also be displayed.

Letters were sent recently to the heads of eligible State Agencies and political subdivisions to advise them of the availability of these plates and to provide them information on how to apply for the EM plates for their entity. There is no charge for the new plates. The new plates will begin to be distributed to the agencies and political subdivisions as applications are received and processed.

A political subdivision is defined as a subdivision of New York State that has been delegated certain official functions of state or local government including a government entity created by, or under the authority of, State law. Volunteer organizations are not political subdivisions.

Barbara J, Fiala, Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles said, “We are sure that providing these emergency plates to the various state and local entities will benefit all New Yorkers in time of emergency or significant storms. We will be working with DHSES and the various localities to make sure that these plates are distributed in a timely manner.”

Quote from Homeland Security Commissioner

For additional information, on plate availability and use, contact the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services at 518. 242-5202.

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