



# TOWN OF OWEGO SUPERVISOR

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-Apalachin, NY

## TOWN OF OWEGO PRESS RELEASE

**RE: Emergency Management EOC, Webpage, Storm Ready Community**

After the 2011 flood, it was evident that the Town of Owego needed to re-examine the procedures on how the town would prepare for emergencies of not just flood related emergencies but preparedness for all types of incidents in general. In 2018 and 2019 the Town again was hit with significant municipal damage because of flooding. Currently, the Town is just finishing up with the last paperwork from 2011 damage to the Apalachin sewage treatment plant. The Town is also closing out the FEMA claims for 2018 and 2019 as well.

In late 2022, I asked our code enforcement officer Bill Carrigg, who has an emergency management background, to begin thinking about how we can improve public safety and our response to emergency incidents. After we had several meetings with several emergency management leaders in the community, the Town is now on the way to upgrading and improving the way the town prepares and responds to emergency incidents.

The Town recently created and adopted its updated Emergency Plan. Also, the Town of Owego website ([townofowego.com](http://townofowego.com)) has been updated with a new Emergency Management page. The link allows anyone to check for up to date information that includes the local weather forecast, local radar, air quality, river levels, local road closures and restrictions, NYSEG power outage map and other weather and emergency related links.

We have an Emergency Operation Command Center almost completed in the new Shared Services facility. When designs were being considered, employee locker rooms, showers and other necessities to help to confront emergencies were included in the final plans. If necessary, part of the building could become a temporary shelter for residents affected by an emergency.

The town is also hoping to qualify as a Storm Ready Community. This award is given to communities who have shown the willingness to continually improve their response to emergencies by using the tools available to respond quickly and efficiently to incidents. Another aspect of the requirements is community education and available information. Last year the town held an emergency preparedness class for residents. In addition to the new Emergency Plan and website updates, there is a link to sign up for NY Alerts to receive customized updates. While you are there, please don't forget to sign up! Lastly, I would personally like to thank Bill Carrigg for his leadership on this project.

  
Donald Castellucci, Jr.  
Town of Owego Supervisor.

**It's surprising what you can accomplish when no  
one is concerned about who gets the credit**  
*-Ronald Reagan*