



From: Commander, NYS Military Emergency Boat Service

Subj: OPSUM 1 MAR 2024 MEBS PROGRAM

The link to the MEBS LOG APP is <https://www.jotform.com/app/build/222037196822152>

The following is the status of the New York State Military Emergency Boat Service

1) ADMINISTRATION:

- a. The MEBS WESTCOM Kickoff will be a one-day event, taking place on Friday, 5APR24. The location of the training will be the same as the berthing location for PB280/281; Outer Harbor State Park, Buffalo.
- b. Upcoming events:
 - i. 8MAR23/1330: NYS UAV Working Group; MS TEAMS
 - ii. 26MAR24/1000: LChamplain AMSC; Lake Placid
 - iii. 27MAR24/1000: Exercise Empire Challenge IPR; Latham and TEAMS
 - iv. 5 APR24: WESTCOM regional kick off weekend; Buffalo
 - v. 22APR24: USCG Sector New York Change of Command: NYC
 - vi. 28-30 JUN 2024 NorthCom MEBS - ADVON RECON ISO Empire Challenge 2024
 - vii. 1 JUN 24: Hudson-Athens Lighthouse 150-year anniversary celebration; Hudson
 - viii. 23-24 JUL 24: USCG PREP Exercise; Port of Albany
 - ix. 6-8SEP24: Exercise Empire Challenge '24; Lake Champlain

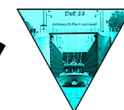
2) INFORMATION: *Buffalo News (Samantha Christmann, 29FEB24). Jammed cellphone signals. Traffic at a halt. Roadways too congested for ambulances to get through.* Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to travel to the Buffalo Niagara region next month for a once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse – and first responders are hard at work getting ready for them.

“We’re getting into crunch time,” Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz said at an emergency preparedness seminar at the Convention Center Thursday. “This is sort of the two-minute warning period.” Poloncarz said the county is treating the eclipse like a blizzard – asking businesses to close for the day or have staff work from home, urging people to have all the supplies they need and to stay off the roads. He warned that first responders will be stretched thin.

“If you have not scheduled an event yet, my statement to you is: don’t. Do not schedule an event at this point,” Poloncarz said.

Thomas Luby, Buffalo’s new emergency services manager, isn’t just focused on snowstorms. He’s looking ahead to the April 8 total solar eclipse. Responders said the eclipse, and the influx of people it will bring, is such a significant event that they have been preparing for it for two years and will continue preparing over the next month as it approaches.

“We’ll potentially be doubling the population of Erie County,” said Greg Butcher, Erie County Deputy Commissioner of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. “We are planning for the worst and hoping for the best.” The state Department of Transportation, local law enforcement, state agencies and border crossing agents have met regularly to come up with plans for keeping the throngs of traffic moving smoothly on the major and secondary roads. Extra booths will be open at the border to handle traffic traveling over the bridges. Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority buses will temporarily pull over





in transient stations and bus turnarounds during the eclipse for safety. The Metro Rail is expected to be in heavy use, and additional rail workers will be deployed along the route to keep things safe.

“We’re concerned about egress, leaving the area after the eclipse,” Butcher said. “We really hope everyone doesn’t say, ‘OK. It’s over. Goodbye,’ because that’s going to pose a huge problem for everyone.”

Astronomer Tim Collins wants folks in the Buffalo Niagara region on the centerline of totality to stay where they are for the best view of the eclipse, and for everyone to prepare for traffic jams. Tourism professionals have been doing their best to route visitors outside the city centers and off the major roadways during the time of the eclipse, arranging viewings at places such as Old Fort Niagara, Graycliff and the Made in America Store. Message boards on the roadways will have eclipse-specific messaging. A towing task force will be out removing cars that are illegally parked.

“We look at the Bills game as an example that shows there is still going to be backups and incredible congestion,” Butcher said. “That also indicates things will be occurring outside of the norm because of the sheer number of people.” Most of those people will be using their phones – and that is likely to tax cellphone networks. “We’ve had a lot of discussion with our largest cellphone providers, Verizon and AT&T,” Butcher said. “Will there be an impact? We do believe there will be.” Those providers plan to bring cellular-on-wheels trailers and other kinds of portable cell towers to boost service.

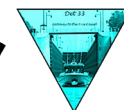
We’re in the path of totality for the solar eclipse. What does that mean and what will we see? How does a total solar eclipse happen and what will the experience be like? Here’s what you need to know. Adding to the crowds, the influx of people coming to the region in advance of the eclipse coincides with the end of spring break, when students and other travelers will be returning en-masse via local airports. The NFTA plans to delay travel from the Greater Buffalo International Airport for a short period during totality. A slew of additional workers will be added to emergency dispatch roles, 911 operations and radio controls, and extra people will be in place to monitor hospital statuses. Backup lines and communication operations have been tested and more communications volunteers are being sought.

“If we get a million people to come here, they’re all bringing their medical issues with them,” said Greg Gill, deputy commissioner of health and emergency medical services for the Erie County Department of Health. First responders will have fully loaded ambulances and response vehicles already deployed throughout the path of totality. There are plans in place in case field hospitals need to be set up. Erie County’s ambulance program will be in touch with the Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition to help route ambulances in the most efficient way. “Hospitals will be overloaded, I’m telling you right now,” Gill said. “They’re already overloaded on a daily basis.”

3) OPERATIONS:

a. Readiness Rating:

MEBS Readiness Rating		Minimum Standard	Actual	Rating	Goal
Personnel Census	P-Rating	60	65	1	120 MEBS Members
Personnel Staff	S-Rating	7	12	1	13 Key Staff
Training Qualifications	Q-Rating	27	31	1	45 Qualified Coxswains
Training Proficiency	T1-Rating	110	91	2	240 Proficiency Mandays (2/member/year)
Additional Training	T2-Rating	90%	84.12%	2	Basic Course, Towing Cert., UECO, and +
Communications Reliability	K-Rating	90%	99.64%	1	100% Functionality
Equipment Maintenance	E-Rating	90%	98.70%	1	100% Operational





Equipment Vehicle Quantity	V-Rating	11	9	2	11 Trucks
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Overall Readiness R-RATING

1.38	2
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Date: 1-Mar-24

- b. **1** Squadron ONE/JTFES Naval activity for the past week:
 - i. DET 1 Indian Point Activity: Federal Safety and Security Zone Patrol/Lower Hudson River Patrol.
 - ii. DET 2 Staten Island Activity: Support to USCG Sector NY.
 - iii. DET 3 Jones Beach Activity: Support to JTFES and USCG Sector NY.

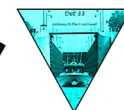
4) LOGISTICS:

- a. The state fiscal year (for credit card purchases) effectively ends on 5MAR24. We are currently 98.61% expended for our SFY23-24 budget.
- b. SFY 2023-24 Expenditures to date:

General	\$5,836.92
Boat Maintenance	\$154,561.22
Truck Maintenance	\$2,315.76
Trailer Maintenance	\$1,204.86
Travel/Per Diem	\$22,169.63
Boat Gasoline	\$13,118.83
Truck Diesel	\$6,543.76
Major Acquisition	\$297,973.68
Grants Reimbursement	-\$61,966.54
Total	\$441,758.12
Available:	\$3,336.76

c. Boat, Truck and Trailer Status / Locations:

Bow / Bumper #	Boat / Vehicle	Location	Status	Mission	Comments
PB 220	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC	Available	On trailer
PB 221	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC	Available	On trailer
PB 230	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC	Available	On trailer
PB 280	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC	Available	On trailer
PB 281	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC	Available	On trailer
PB 300	Patrol Boat	Leeds	FMC	Maintenance	On trailer
PB 301	Patrol Boat	Jones Beach	FMC	JTFES DET 3	Ready, in water.





LC 350	Landing Craft	Leeds	PMC	Maintenance	Ignition coil issue. Replacing motors. New motors expected to arrive mid-March.
LC 351	Landing Craft	Jones Beach	FMC	JTFES DET 3	Ready, in water.
PB 400	Patrol Boat	Verplanck	FMC	JTFES DET 1	Ready, in water.
PB 440	Patrol Boat	Staten Island	FMC	JTFES DET 2	Ready, in water.
F350-5274	Prime Mover	Camp Smith	FMC	N/A	Ready
F350-5275	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC	N/A	Ready
F350-5327	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC	N/A	Ready
F350-5329	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC	N/A	Ready
F350-5339	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC	N/A	Ready
F350-5340	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC	N/A	Ready
F350-5619	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC	N/A	Ready
F550-5008	Prime Mover	Leeds	FMC	Service Truck	Ready. No long-range tows.
F550-5009	Prime Mover	Camp Smith	FMC	N/A	Ready
CT 8901	Cargo Trailer	Staten Island	FMC	N/A	Ready
CP 8902	C2 Trailer	Leeds	FMC	N/A	Ready
MT 8903	Maint Trailer	Leeds	FMC	NA	Ready

5) PLANNING AND EXERCISES. N/A

6) COMMUNICATIONS. The Barrett 4050 HF transceiver will be delivered to SPTC Oriskany on 5MAR for ALE programming by NYS DHSES OIEC.

7) TRAINING.

a. FAA Part 107 certifications on file: 2

b. Authorized motor vehicle drivers: 42. With CDL: 5

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New home for old flag (Leeds Armory drill deck)

