



NEWS from

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 7A, Suite 710 Albany, New York 12242

David A. Paterson, Governor

Thomas G. Donlon, Director

Media Contact:
Amy Bonanno
(518) 408-1684

FOR RELEASE:
IMMEDIATE, Monday
October 26, 2009

OHS ANNOUNCES STATE INITIATIVE TO FUND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAMS ACROSS NEW YORK STATE

New York State initiative to fill gaps and build on capabilities

Director Thomas G. Donlon, of the New York State Office of Homeland Security (OHS) today announced the availability of \$1 million for Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Teams across New York State. Funding for this initiative is made available through the 2009 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP).

“We continually strive to provide the best training and equipment to our first responders across New York State. I am pleased that this grant opportunity will further our efforts to meet the needs of our State Homeland Security Strategy by helping HazMat teams succeed in filling their mission,” said Director Donlon.

In 2008, OHS launched the HazMat Grant Program in conjunction with the Office of Fire and Prevention Control (OFPC) for the first time. The program focuses on the development of regional HazMat partnerships across the State. Last year, OHS earmarked \$500,000 for this program which funded nine regional partnerships.

The objectives for 2009 HazMat Grant Program include:

- Development of regional HazMat partnerships
- Advancement of WMD/HazMat Response and Decontamination capabilities
- Increasing the National Incident management System (NIMS) Typing Standing of New York State HazMat Teams

Individual HazMat Teams are not eligible to apply; rather, two or more HazMat Teams from New York State must pair together to apply under this regionally-focused program. The “submitting partner” must be a publicly funded HazMat Team, while “participating partners” can include both public and/or private HazMat Teams. Those Teams requesting funding are only eligible for a maximum of \$100,000. The grant funds will provide money for equipment, planning, training, and exercises.

-more-

OFPC and OHS recently hosted the 3rd Annual HazMat Leadership Forum on October 10-11 in Vernon, New York. This event brought HazMat Team Leaders together to share best practices and lessons learned and to develop plans for future regional initiatives.

Office of Fire and Prevention Control Chief Floyd Madison said, "I am pleased that the Office of Homeland Security has made this grant available. These new resources will allow HazMat Teams to work together on a regional basis to better protect the citizens of New York."

Hazardous Materials Response Teams respond to a myriad of incidents that include poisons, flammable liquids, and gases. The specter of terrorism has placed even higher expectations on our state's HazMat Teams. Those teams are continually training to be prepared for terrorism incidents involving Chemical, Biological, Radioactivity, Nuclear, and Explosives.

Applications became available on October 9. Applications are due to OHS by December 9.

For more information you can visit us on the web:

The New York State Office of Homeland Security: www.security.state.ny.us

###