



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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June 18, 2026

Dear Municipal Leaders, Fire Chiefs, EMS Agency Administrators, and Fire District Commissioners,

As you may be aware, New York State recently enacted legislation requiring counties, in collaboration with municipalities and emergency medical services agencies, to develop a comprehensive Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Plan to evaluate and strengthen EMS delivery throughout each county.

The purpose of this legislation is to encourage counties and local municipalities to work cooperatively to identify current EMS system challenges, evaluate service needs, and develop sustainable solutions that ensure reliable emergency medical care for residents and visitors both now and into the future.

Across New York State, EMS agencies continue to face significant challenges, including increasing call volumes, staffing shortages, volunteer recruitment difficulties, rising operational costs, and longer response times in some areas. This planning process provides an important opportunity for all stakeholders to come together to openly discuss these issues and collaboratively develop practical strategies tailored to the unique needs of our communities.

The Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services will be coordinating this effort in partnership with municipal leaders, EMS agencies, and other healthcare and public safety partners throughout the county.

Our goal is to ensure this process is cooperative, transparent, and inclusive. Input from local municipalities and service providers will be critical in developing a meaningful and effective county EMS plan that reflects both local concerns and regional needs.

Over the coming months, the County plans to conduct a series of meetings and discussions with area stakeholders. These will include:

- An initial countywide kick-off meeting to review the requirements of the law, discuss the planning process, and identify key system strengths, challenges, and priorities.

[An invitation to the kick-off meeting is included in this mailing.](#)





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- Online questionnaires/surveys to help gather information and data to be used in developing the plan.
- Regional or district-based meetings to allow for more localized discussions regarding service delivery, operational concerns, mutual aid, staffing, and potential solutions specific to each area of the county.
- A final countywide meeting to review and discuss a draft EMS Plan prior to completion and submission.

We recognize the critical role municipalities and EMS providers play in protecting the health and safety of our communities, and we appreciate your continued commitment and partnership throughout this important process.

We have created a webpage where meeting information, links to RSVP to meetings, surveys & questionnaires, and other important documents will be made easily accessible. The website can be found at <https://cattco.gov/oes/emsplan>.

Action Item by July 10, 2026:

To ensure efficient communication, we ask each stakeholder organization to designate up to two representatives to serve as the contact(s) for meeting notifications, surveys, and other correspondence regarding the Comprehensive EMS plan. On the enclosed invitation, we listed some recommendations on who should be involved from your organization. Points of contact can be updated in the future by resubmitting the form, if needed.

To submit your organization's point(s) of contact, please visit the EMS plan website at <https://cattco.gov/oes/emsplan> and click on "Stakeholder Points of Contact Submission" under the Online Survey & Questionnaire section.

Or you can directly access the submission form by scanning this QR code with a smartphone camera



Submit Points of Contact here!



Should you have any questions prior to the start of these meetings, please feel free to contact the Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services at 716-938-2244 or RFKuhn@cattco.org





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We look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to help ensure a strong, sustainable EMS system for the future.

Sincerely,

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