



WASHINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

383 BROADWAY – BUILDING B, FORT EDWARD, NY 12828

PHONE (518)747-7520 – FAX (518)746-2157 – TDD (518)746-2146

WWW.WASHINGTONCOUNTYNY.GOV / PUBLICSAFETY@CO.WASHINGTON.NY.US

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NEW MOBILE APP WILL HELP WASHINGTON COUNTY ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITIES AND PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

August 19, 2016 - The Washington County Department of Public Safety is announcing the release of our new iPhone and Android mobile app to engage our residents, visitors and communities to aid in public notifications and emergency preparedness!

The **Washington County NY DPS mobile app** is designed to keep Washington County citizens, businesses, and visitors prepared for and alerted to emergencies. The new mobile app is available for download free of charge from the iPhone and Google Play (Android) app stores. Users can receive county emergency alerts (push notifications) in the notifications on their smartphone. App users can also help friends, family, and neighbors in their preparedness efforts via the "Share our App" feature.

The app displays the local weather forecast, radar, and alerts. The public can keep informed via news on Facebook and Twitter, power outages, traffic, and scanner features. Emergency preparedness resources include how to prepare for ten different kinds of emergencies. "Where am I" is a personal locator, giving exact address/longitude/latitude, which the app user can share with others. Setting up the "I'm OK" feature will allow the user to quickly communicate with family or friends when in an emergency situation. The public can also use the app to submit storm/damage reports to the Department of Public Safety.

"We are proud to be able to provide our residents, visitors and communities with access to our mobile application, engaging them interactively in emergency preparedness information and initiatives and providing them with instant access to emergency notifications and information relating to our communities", said Glen Gosnell, Director of Public Safety.

The Washington County NY Department of Public Safety app was created by MyEMAapp.com, a division of OCV, LLC, which specializes in mobile app development for public safety and emergency preparedness. "Mobile apps offer organizations a better way to connect with the public – wherever they are and whether or not they have power," said Suzy Keenan, communications strategist with OCV, which has nearly 200 apps in the app stores. "Mobile apps are the trend for sharing of important information in the U.S., where nearly 80% of adults own smartphones."

The program was funded through the use of Homeland Security funds allocated for citizen emergency preparedness initiatives. For more information, contact the Washington County Department of Public Safety at (518)747-7520 or via email at publicsafety@co.washington.ny.us.



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