

REGION 1 – WESTERN & CENTRAL NY

CENTRAL NY REGION agencies in Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego & Tompkins Counties that do not already have capability to transmit 12 lead EKGs will be receiving modems thanks to a Excellus BlueCross BlueShield grant. The \$30,000 grant allows for the purchase of 37 modems for 23 EMS agencies. The services will need to provide information about which wireless contractor they would like to use, Sprint, AT&T or Verizon, and pay a monthly service fee of about \$12.99. Cayuga Medical Center, Crouse, St. Joe's and Upstate hospitals already have the capability to receive 12 leads and Community General is working on getting a receiving system.

CHENANGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICES AND THE CITY OF NORWICH announced in mid April the release of a new smartphone app designed as a one-stop resource for emergency preparedness and response. The app, available for iPhone and Android phones, is free and available now to the public in the respective App Stores by simply searching "Norwich" or "Chenango". "We live in an increasingly mobile society, and reaching people when they are not home or in front of their computers becomes a growing challenge," said City of Norwich Emergency Management Director A. Wesley Jones. "We designed this app to be a one-stop resource for the public to get information." Jones notes they are the first emergency management agency in the state, and one of only a few nationwide, with an emergency preparedness application. "I believe this app will truly help our offices reach out to many more people during times of disaster," said County Fire Coordinator and Emergency Management Director Matthew L. Beckwith. "We have put a lot of thought into this app, hoping when people look at this during major events it will help with their planning and preparation."

The application allows for push notifications, so emergency managers can reach people quickly during an emergency situation. Other features include:

- NY-Alert notifications of road closures, emergency evacuations, shelter information and more.
- Live weather conditions direct from the weather station at the joint City/County Emergency Operations Center.
- Local National Weather Service forecasts, including hour-by-hour information.
- Weather camera of downtown Norwich, updated every several minutes.
- River and stream gauge information for all local rivers running through Chenango County, plus the Canasawacta Creek in Norwich and South Plymouth.
- Countywide school closings, as reported to *The Evening Sun*.
- A link to NYSEG power outages for Chenango County, broken down by town and road.
- Road work updates from the NY-511 system.
- Live NOAA Weather Radio feed from the Norwich transmitter.
- Emergency preparedness information.

"We had a public beta test of the application for several weeks and have been very pleased with the response," said Jones. "Smartphones are an intricate part of everyone's daily lives," said Beckwith. "We hope this app will be a big part of their daily usage." The City of Norwich and Chenango County operate a joint Emergency Operations Center in Norwich. The application was designed by OCV, LLC of Auburn, Alabama.

SUNY COBLESKILL, Schoharie County, reportedly disbanded its BLS First Responder agency effective 5/1/13.