The following is an advisory bulletin email to all OVS funded victim assistance programs

Dear Colleague:

The State of New York must be prepared to respond to emergencies. Large-scale emergencies exhaust resources at the municipal and county levels of government and require leadership from the State to effectively respond to, and recover from, events. The Executive Chamber, in consultation with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services’ Office of Emergency Management, is the primary entity responsible for managing and responding to emergencies across the State. The functions of essential roles and responsibilities within the Executive Chamber and across State agencies are outlined in each agency’s Emergency Management Operations Procedure (EMOP).

As OVS’ “boots on the ground,” all our VAPs are expected to play a role should a crime-related, mass fatality incident occur in their area. That is why our VAPs play a significant part in OVS’ EMOP. Agency response is scaled to the size of the event. If the event results in a small number of victims, OVS may simply rely on the capacity of the local VAPs to provide response, with OVS acting in a support/advisory/assistance capacity. In the case of mid-sized events with more victims, OVS would deploy staff to support/advise/assist the local VAPs on-site. Larger scale events would result in the deployment of even more staff, utilizing the local VAPs to support OVS’ efforts.

The attached EMOP which is relevant to your agencies went into effect on 10-15-18. A training for our VAPs on the EMOP is being developed and you will be notified when that training is scheduled. In the meantime, please familiarize yourselves with this document and particularly the expected roles your organization would play in the event of a mass incident. Please direct any questions to your contract management specialist.

On behalf of the New York State Office of Victim Services, thank you for your commitment to providing the highest quality services to innocent victims of crime in New York State.

Sincerely,

Chet Fiske
Contract Management Specialist 3

New York State Office of Victim Services