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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

Governor Cuomo Issues Update on Tropical Storm Hermine & Directs Additional Pre-Deployment of Essential Assets to New York City and Long Island

MTA and Port Authority Surging Additional Personnel to Execute Pre-Storm Hardening Procedures

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today urged New Yorkers to prepare for potentially hazardous weather due to Tropical Storm Hermine that is moving up the East Coast, and will impact Southern Westchester, New York City and Long Island – areas which are now both under a Tropical Storm Warning – beginning Sunday through Tuesday. The storm is expected to last longer than initially anticipated across the downstate region. The Governor is activating the State Emergency Operations Center beginning Sunday at noon, and State Emergency Personnel are actively monitoring the storm as it approaches. Stockpile resources in the downstate region – including sandbags, high-axle vehicles, pumps and generators – are prepared for deployment, and the National Guard is on alert throughout the region.

"As Hermine approaches, we are taking every action necessary to protect New Yorkers and our most vulnerable infrastructure across downstate," Governor Cuomo said. "We are monitoring the storm's progression around the clock and, while the latest forecasts spare our state from the brunt of the storm, I have directed emergency response officials to pre-deploy high axle vehicles and swift water rescue teams in the event of localized flooding. I urge residents and visitors to check local weather reports before traveling tomorrow and Monday and to stay informed by using NY Alert."

Tropical Storm Hermine is moving east/northeast and is expected to slow down Sunday and into Monday and stall over Long Island through Wednesday. All coastal areas in New York are in a Storm Surge Watch and it is expected to escalate into a Storm Surge Warning as the storm nears New York State. The storm will bring heavy rains, dangerous rip currents, high waves, beach erosion and coastal flooding, especially in the back bays of Long Island. Wind gusts of 60 mph are predicted for the Long Island area beginning Sunday morning. While the center of the storm is expected to remain south and eventually east of Long Island, impacts will occur well away from its center.

Governor Directs Additional Pre-Deployment of Essential Assets to Region

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has deployed additional personnel to assist with storm preparations throughout the region. Most weekend work has been canceled and their Incident Command Center will be activated as of 8 p.m. this evening. Crews are out inspecting pumps and drains throughout the system and pump trains are also being staged and readied for deployment. Trains are also being moved out of the Coney Island and 207 St Yards to secure areas of the system ahead of rainfall. Additionally, the NYC Subway system, the Long Island Railroad, New York City Buses and Bridges and Tunnels are preparing for any storm surge and are closely monitoring wind conditions that could impact any part of the system.

Governor Activating State Emergency Operations Center

At the direction of Governor Cuomo, the New York State Emergency Operations Center will be activated on Sunday at noon. The following agencies will be represented:

- Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
- New York State Police
- Division of Military and Naval Affairs
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Port Authority of NY and NJ
- Office of Emergency Management
- Office of Fire Prevention and Control
- Office of Interoperable Emergency Communications
- Department of Health
- Department of Transportation
- New York State Thruway Authority
- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Public Service Commission
- Information Technology Services
- American Red Cross

Additionally, personnel from State Office of Emergency Management, State Police, Department of Transportation, Military and Naval Affairs, and MTA are staffing the Nassau and Suffolk County Emergency Operations Centers in advance of the storm.

