



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

2014 Annual Report



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On our cover: Division members attend the funeral of Region 2 Lt. John Fitzpatrick in New York City.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE or Division) prospered in 2014 under the all too short tenure of Director Timothy Duffy, who retired in early 2015. The Division made substantial advances for a very positive year. Productivity was up in all measurable areas. Members responded to a myriad of emergencies, events, natural disasters and details and performed with professionalism and pride.

To facilitate the implementation of 2015's In-service program, Division members were trained and certified in woodland tactics, man tracking, and navigation. The week-long Woodland Tactics Program will be provided to all Division members by fall 2015. Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI) and uniformed members were trained in contaminated-crime-scene sampling. The Division's Crime Scene Sampling Team was created, along with a new lieutenant position to oversee it. Materials were received to provide all Division members with First Aid and CPR certification. Additional training group planning and preparation led to the authorization of this year's Basic School for Uniformed Officers.

In the area of equipment, the Division received 101 new patrol vehicles. Due to the extraordinary efforts of DLE's Quartermaster Unit, the vehicles were marked, outfitted and issued in record time, even if it seemed otherwise to the members awaiting them! We issued new practical field jackets, winter hats and rechargeable flashlights to all Division members. We obtained a new 27-foot Safeboat, purchased largely with Port Security Grant funding. We also secured a \$1 million, 100% grant to completely refurbish four of our oldest Safeboats.

Finally, in response to several retirements, we filled major, captain and lieutenant vacancies, and we have been seeking approval to fill additional supervisory vacancies throughout the state.

While the Division continues to face the familiar challenges of funding and officer vacancies, it is our expertise, can-do attitude, and service to the people of the State of New York that makes me confident our progress will continue in 2015 and beyond.

Joseph H. Schneider
Director
Division of Law Enforcement

MISSION STATEMENT

“To protect the environment, natural resources and people of the State of New York through law enforcement, education and public outreach.”

“...I want as Game Protectors men of courage, who can handle the rifle, axe and paddle; who can camp out in summer or winter; who can go on snowshoes, if necessary; who can go through the woods by day or by night without regard to trail.”

New York State Governor Theodore Roosevelt, 1899



DIVISION COMMAND

Director

Joseph Schneider

Assistant Director

Vacant

Training, Administration and Communications

Major - Vacant

Major Matthew Revenaugh

Captain – Vacant

Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation

Major Scott Florence

External Affairs and Special Operations

Major Michael St. Jeanos

Office of Professional Standards

Captain Bernard Rivers

Southern District

Major Timothy Huss

Captain Dallas Bengel

Region 1, Stony Brook, Long Island

Captain Francisco Lopez

Region 2, New York City

Lt. Martin Townley, Acting Captain

Region 3, New Paltz

Northern District

Major Walter Heinrich

Captain Thomas Caifa

Region 4, Schenectady

Captain Daniel Darrah

Region 5, Ray Brook

Captain Todd Richards

Region 6, Watertown

Western District

Major Matthew Revenaugh

Captain George Steele

Region 7, Syracuse

Captain John Burke

Region 8, Avon

Captain Francis Lauricella

Region 9, Buffalo

HISTORY OF THE NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OFFICER



The end of the 19th century was not a good time for fish and wildlife in America. Unregulated hunting and habitat destruction had nearly exterminated many wildlife species. Moose were gone from the New York landscape. White-tailed deer were at their lowest historical numbers, and turkeys were a rarity. Unfortunate species such as the eastern elk, heath hen and Labrador duck were completely wiped out of existence.

Many hills and mountains were barren of standing timber, which had been cut for lumber and paper. Resulting runoff choked once pristine trout waters. Acids from tanning factories and pollutants from paper mills only exacerbated the problem. In short, the country's natural resources were in serious trouble, and New York was in the lead.

People familiar with the outdoors (primarily hunters, anglers, trappers, and foresters) became alarmed over these conditions, giving rise to the conservation movement. Influential men like Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot gave this cause national momentum, resulting in legislation to criminalize and regulate past practices. These laws were useless without enforcement; hence the Game Protector profession was born.

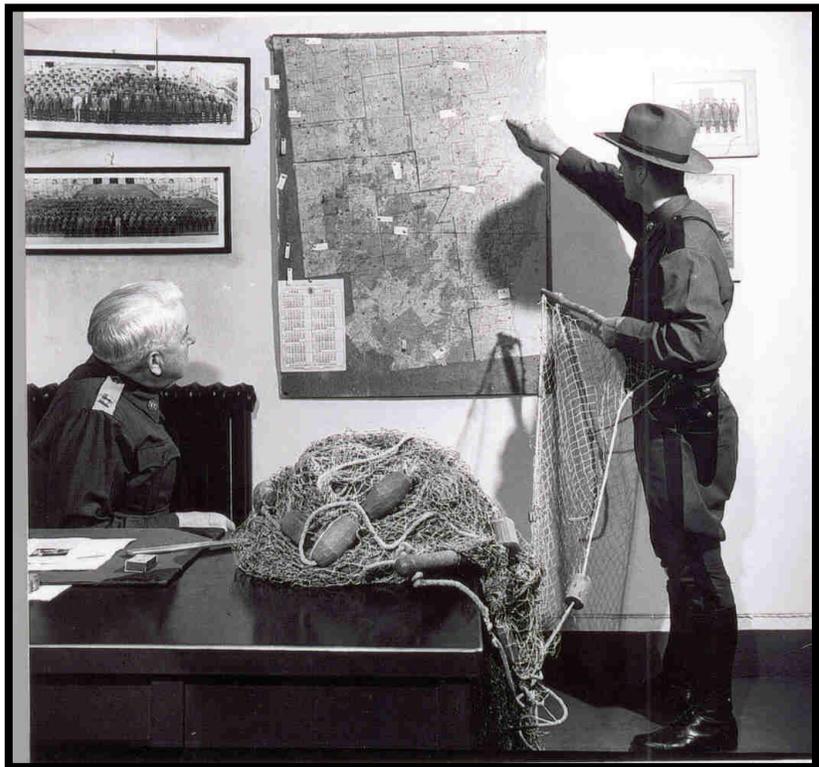
In 1880, the first eight Game Protectors were appointed and charged with covering the entire state. They were granted authority to enforce laws to protect deer, birds, and fish, and to bring legal action against those who chose to violate those laws. Game Protectors could arrest without warrants and seize evidence. A total annual budget of \$6,000 supported the \$500 annual salaries and expense accounts for these men.

The Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) title, in the various forms of its evolution over the decades, is the oldest statewide enforcement job in New York State. For 37 years, until the formation of the New York State Police, these officers and those that followed them were the only lawmen employed by the state. In New York's most rural communities, they were very often the only officers with which people had regular contact.

In the 1960s, the public became concerned with widespread pollution of our land, air and water, and the environmental movement took hold. In 1964, the title of Game Protector was changed to Conservation Officer. The first Earth Day was held in 1970 and called national attention to environmental issues. This increased environmental awareness affected state policies and organizations, including the Conservation Department, which became the Department of Environmental Conservation that same year. DEC's Bureau of Law Enforcement now had the additional responsibility of enforcing many existing public health and agricultural laws, including those relating to solid waste, petroleum products, air emissions, industrial chemical disposal, pesticides, and wetlands protection. In 1971, the Bureau became the Division of Law Enforcement, and legislation upgraded the newly named ECO from peace officer to police officer status with authority to enforce all New York State laws. This was the beginning of many dramatic changes.

Today's ECOs still maintain the values and work ethic of their dedicated predecessors, the Game Protectors. By working day and night for a

mission in which they believed and to which they were committed, Game Protectors provided the standard for today's ECOs. Many of the old traditions from the last century are still with us: the uniforms are still green; the fervor to protect the environment is still



strong; and there are still places in New York State where ECOs are the only law enforcement officers that anyone is likely to encounter. Despite 135 years of evolution, the Division of Law Enforcement's mission statement could have been written by those first eight men: *"To protect the environment, natural resources and people of the State of New York through law enforcement, education and public outreach."*

**NYS Game Protectors/Environmental Conservation Officers
who have died in the line of duty**



**Samuel S. Taylor
John H. Woodruff
Harvey B. Cruikshank
William T. Cramer
Paul J. DuCuennois
Charles W. Gaffney
John M. Robbins
Lawrence Kessler
Earle Brown
Clarence J. Webster
Martin Salway
Benning W. DeLaMater
Marshall D. MacNaught
William Becker**



DIVISION STRUCTURE

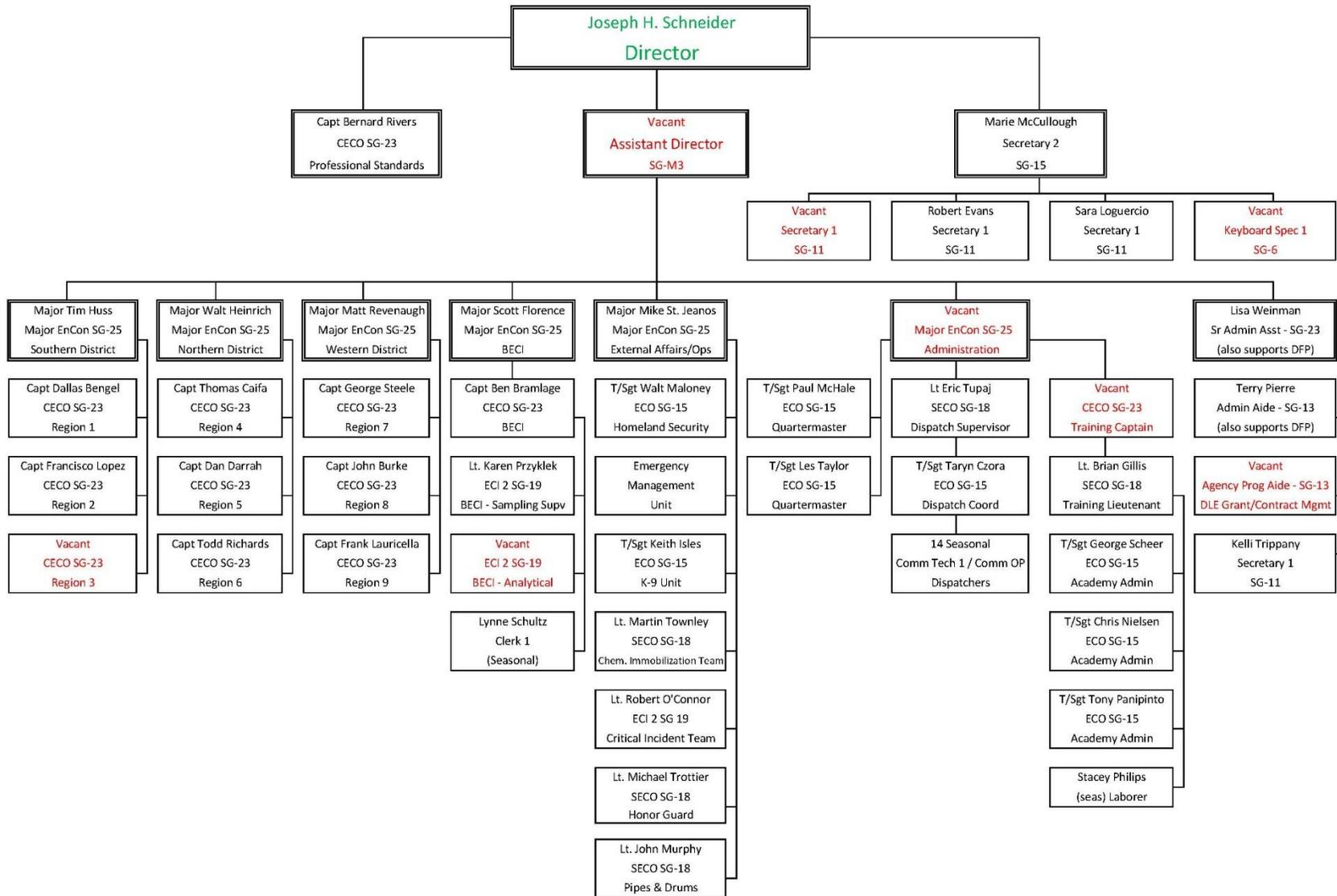


DLE's force of 333 ECOs, investigators, and supervisors is divided among the nine DEC regions throughout the state. Each law enforcement office is supervised by a uniformed captain with a field staff of 4 to 6 lieutenants, 18 to 34 ECOs, and 2 to 4 plain-clothes environmental crimes investigators (ECIs). These ECIs receive additional direction and tasking through a central Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigations.

Officers work from their residences, located in the sectors they serve. Division hiring practices have always sought resourceful, self-motivated individuals who excel in this remote operating structure. ECOs are expected to become intimately familiar with the communities and resources in their sectors, anticipate enforcement problems, respond to requests for services from the public, and be able to handle most routine matters without close supervision. ECOs maintain high levels of professional conduct, integrity and appearance. They are DEC's most visible representatives to the public.

Sector ECOs use a variety of equipment to maintain contact with other DEC personnel and the public, including two-way radios, cell phones and laptops. DLE also staffs two 24/7/365 dispatch centers that continuously relay calls to ECOs for assistance. ECIs focus on larger, more complicated and time-consuming investigations of environmental crimes. The targets of their investigations are often major polluters, organized crime or large-scale operations that specialize in unlawful commercialization of wildlife.

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT



PIPES AND DRUMS

The DEC Police Pipes and Drums is an important part of the Division's ceremonial guard unit. It operates at the discretion of the Director and performs at typical police functions, such as funerals, graduations, award ceremonies, and memorials. The commitment to the band is significant; members must practice on their own and are encouraged to join a "home band." The band currently consists of 23 members—14 pipers, 8 drummers and a drum major—and practices together six times a year.

The year 2014 was a milestone for the NYS Pipes and Drums, performing at a total of 15 details, highlighted by leading the Police Memorial in Albany. Events the band participated in during 2014 included the following:

- Samuel S. Taylor Memorial
- Director Duffy's PBA Invocation
- NYS Park Police Graduation
- Funeral services for Lt. John Fitzpatrick, Lt. Christopher Handley, Ms. Betty Martin, and Gary Barreira (NYS Park Police)
- SUNY Police Awards Ceremony - Albany
- Retirement Events for Timothy Duffy and ECI Kevin Gilmartin
- NYCOA Banquet - Hunter Mountain
- Suzanne Ports Memorial
- Glens Falls Country Club Memorial
- DEC Lt. Fitzpatrick Vessel Dedication
- NYS Police Memorial



BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES INVESTIGATION



The Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI) is a special investigative unit within DLE. These plain-clothes officers investigate complex criminal offenses under the Environmental Conservation Law; conduct undercover probes; respond across the state to multi-agency and multi-regional criminal investigations; and investigate long-term environmental quality and wildlife crimes. They work on a regular basis with all levels of law enforcement, including the State Police, the State Attorney General's Office, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and Environment Canada.

Originally established in 1982, BECI focuses on the most complex environmental crimes and long-term investigative efforts, including: large-scale hazardous waste dumping; endangered species trafficking; commercialization of poached fish and game; filing forgeries and fraudulent reports; and personal injury or fatal hunting-related shooting incidents.

BECI conducted a significant number of successful investigations in 2014, ranging from dumping of hazardous substances, fraudulent vehicle air emission tests, and improper industrial waste disposal, to unlawful sales of endangered species. A few highlights of our investigations include the following:

- ECIs worked side by side with the EPA for three years on the Tonawanda Coke Corporation investigation and the resulting prosecution and convictions. The defendants pled guilty to violating both the Clean Air Act and the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act. In March 2014, the Tonawanda Coke Corporation was sentenced on 14 environmental felonies. The court imposed a fine of \$12.5 million, a term of five years' probation, and a requirement to fund two environmental impact studies totaling another \$12.1 million. The company's environmental manager was also sentenced to one year and one day of incarceration and a \$20,000 fine.
- Bureau investigators used DNA testing to solve a burglary at a DEC-owned cabin. Someone had broken into the ranger cabin at a DEC campground by smashing a window and had filled bags with a camera and other personal items but fled without taking the bags. The subject was injured while gaining entry, and an investigator recovered blood for DNA analysis and a partial fingerprint from one of the items. The DNA analysis revealed the name of the suspect. A follow-up interview led to an arrest and successful prosecution.

- BECI investigators are expanding their investigations into the illegal activity known as “transshipping” of regulated beverage containers under the Returnable Container Law (RCL). Transshipping is the illegal sale of beverage containers in New York State without collecting the 5¢ deposit. As a result of our efforts, legislation was passed that upgraded this violation to misdemeanor and felony-level offenses. In Manhattan, the District Attorney’s Office and BECI investigated and charged a company under these new provisions. The company was the first to plead guilty to the new misdemeanor charge and paid a fine equal to the amount of deposit money they owed to New York State. This case led to many more successful prosecutions.
- Several undercover operations were launched during 2014, including Internet and auction house probes resulting in charges for Illegal Commercialization of Wildlife. BECI’s investigations into the extent of the illicit elephant ivory trade have been cited by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support more restrictive ivory regulations nationwide.
- ECIs coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents and surrounding states’ conservation officers in a concerted effort to discover the extent of illegal trade in glass eels. Glass eels are the juvenile stage of the American eel and are vulnerable to poaching during their migration from saltwater to the freshwater rivers of North America. Poaching has extirpated eels from many Pacific and European waterways, and poachers have turned their focus to the Northeast. Glass eels sell for about \$2,500 per pound. For the eels, the stakes are even higher. Due to population loss from illegal harvesting, these eels may soon be listed as an endangered species. Investigations to date have resulted in search warrants at two NYC dealers and the arrest of local and out-of-state poachers.

BECI’s Crime Scene Sampling Team continued to excel, outperforming expectations from when it was formed in 2013. The procedure primarily involves environmental samples taken at crime scenes during search warrants. There are 15 members who participate on the sampling team in addition to their regular duties, enabling three squads of samplers to be simultaneously deployed. Team members also serve as site safety officers and help prepare site safety plans used during search warrants. The team was deployed to 22 events in 2014.

BECI continues to expand its expertise and capabilities. In 2014, we added training in computer seizures and forensic evidence collection. In the past, our reliance on other agencies to secure and process electronic/computer evidence resulted in long delays and, at times, unsatisfactory results. BECI has been receiving the training needed to perform in-house computer analysis and has already been used to secure computer evidence. The sampling team has broadened its training to include forensic evidence collection. This will facilitate the collection of forensic evidence, including: fingerprints, tire or shoe tracks and DNA.

BECI has a budget for 45 positions but currently operates in several regions with reduced staff. Despite this, BECI has been very productive and successful. It executed 38 criminal search warrants and 18 consent searches. Cases resulted in nearly \$12.4 million in remediation penalties, \$56,000 in forfeiture penalties, almost \$1 million in civil fines, and \$309,000 in environmental benefit payments and 1,548 days of incarceration. ECOs and ECIs coordinated and conducted eight undercover operations. ECIs opened 275 new investigations and closed 331 cases and are working on 200 ongoing investigations.

STATEWIDE BECI TOTALS

EACH CATEGORY BELOW INDICATES THE STATEWIDE END-OF-YEAR TOTAL NUMBER OF:

CASES OPENED	CASES CLOSED	CURRENT OPEN CASES	SEARCH WARRANTS	CONSENT SEARCHES	ARRESTS	FELONY CHARGES	MISD. CHARGES	VIOLATIONS	FEDERAL CHARGES	CIVIL CHARGES
275	331	200	38	18	52	62	205	118	14	60

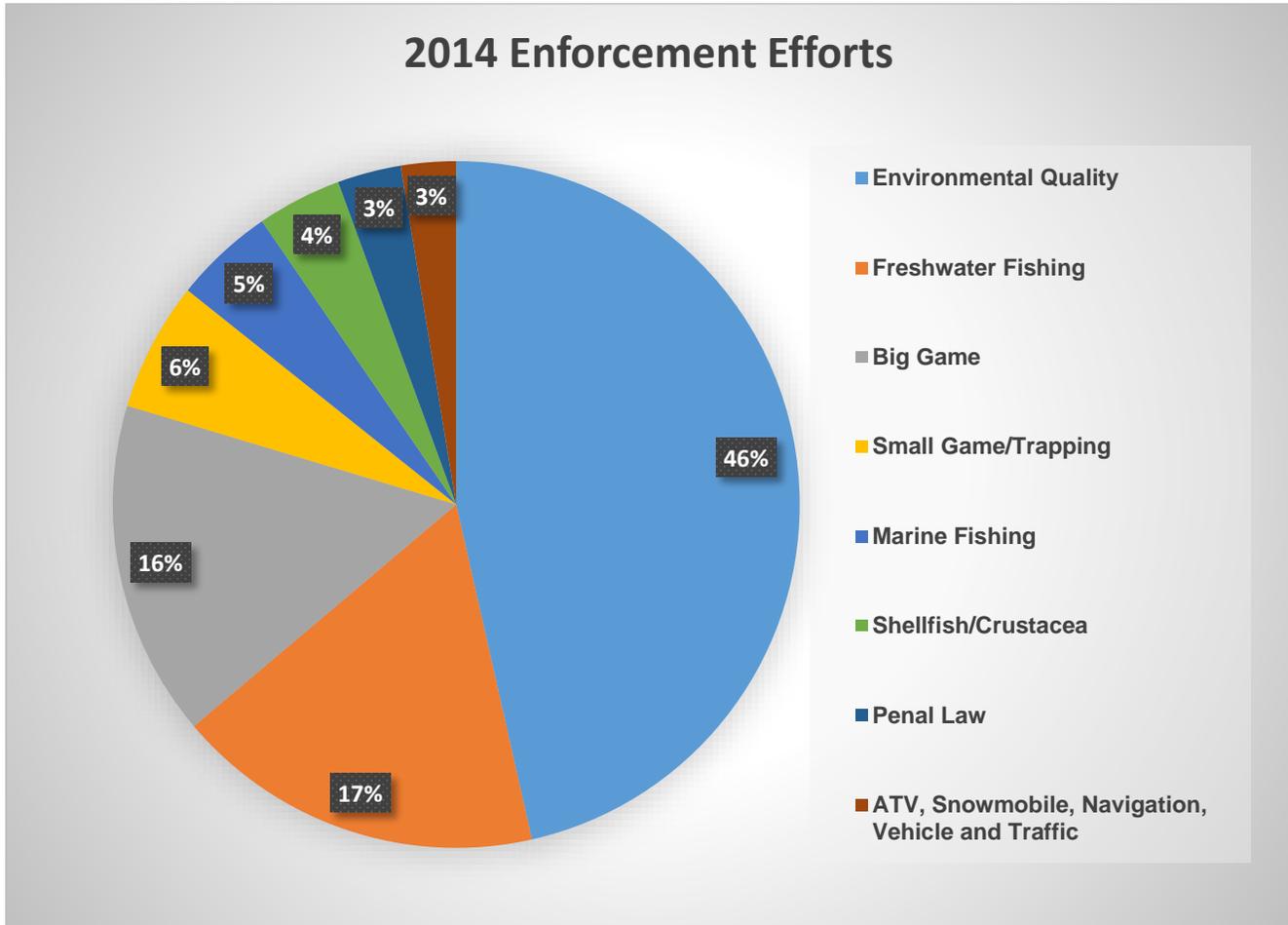
TOTAL CRIMINAL FINES = \$12,537,830.42

END-OF-YEAR STATEWIDE TOTALS FOR ALL ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENTS, PRISON & COMMUNITY SERVICE TIME SERVED:

REMEDICATION PENALTIES	ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT AMOUNT	FORFEITURE PENALTIES	CIVIL FINES	PRISON SENTENCE (NUMBER OF DAYS)	COMMUNITY SERVICE TIME (NUMBER OF DAYS)
\$12,389,721	\$309,000	\$56,000	\$957,427	1,548	135

TOTAL CIVIL/ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENTS = \$13,796,718.69

STATEWIDE ENFORCEMENT TOTALS



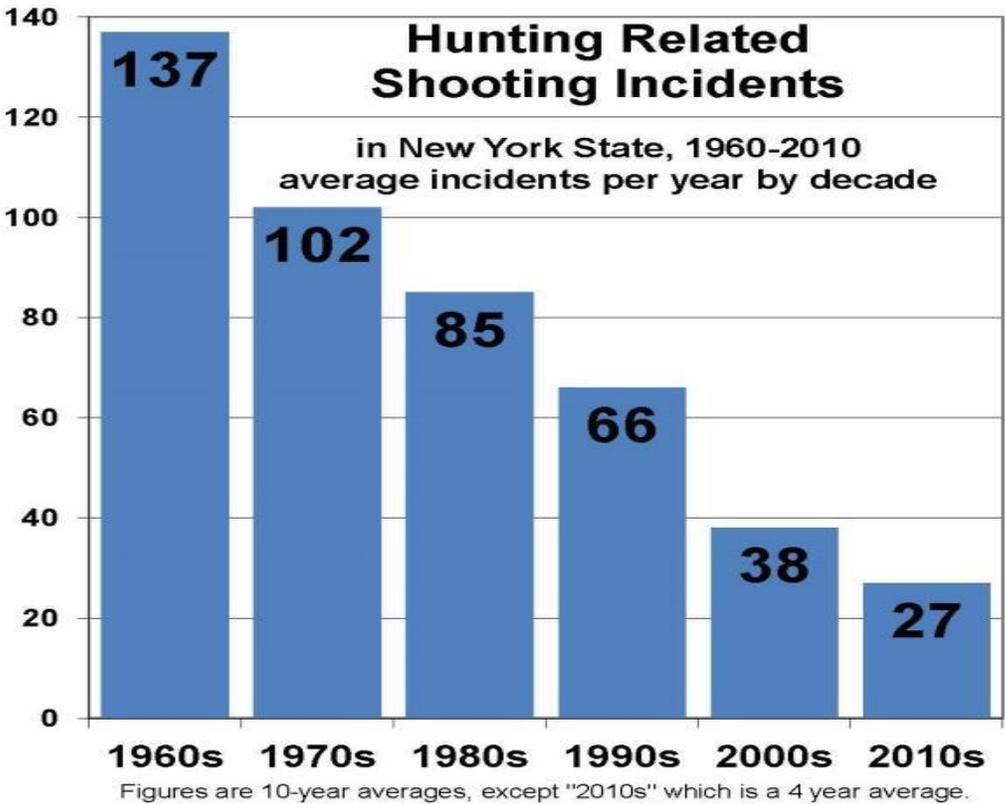
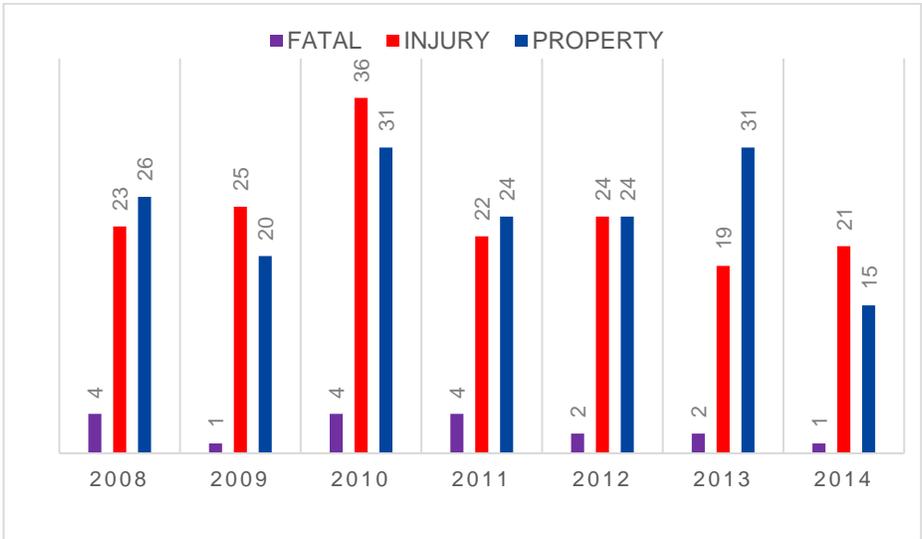
This chart compares the hours spent by DLE members on various types of enforcement.

HUNTING-RELATED SHOOTING INCIDENTS

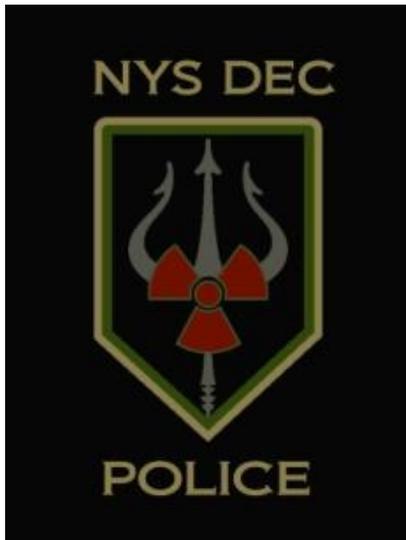
The Division documented another year of overall declining hunting-related incidents. In 2014, New York State recorded one hunting fatality and 21 personal injuries from the discharge of firearms or bows. Of the 22 incidents, eight involved self-inflicted wounds.

These statistics prove that New York has a safety-conscious generation of hunters thanks to the committed efforts of more than 2,500 volunteer Sportsman Education instructors. These DEC-certified trained instructors teach safe, responsible and ethical outdoor practices and the important role of hunters and trappers in conservation.

HUNTING-RELATED SHOOTING INCIDENTS TREND



HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT



DLE continues to play a vital role in New York State's homeland security strategy, especially as it relates to threats against New York's air, land, and water. ECOs are specially trained in the use of radiation detectors to monitor the state's lands and waters for the illicit use or transportation of radiological/nuclear material. Division vessels are fitted with advanced detection equipment to ensure maritime safety while performing routine environmental protection functions. The Division's Homeland Security Unit coordinates all anti-terrorism operations in conjunction with the regional commands.

New Equipment



NYS EnCon Police's specially equipped radiological interdiction patrol vehicle

The Division has acquired three specialty patrol vehicles purchased with state Homeland Security funding. These vehicles have been outfitted with a suite of radiological and nuclear detection equipment, enabling ECOs to conduct advanced screening operations and support maritime efforts. The vehicles are strategically deployed to Long Island and western New York.

In 2014, the Division acquired an Ortec Micro Detective hand-held, high-resolution radioisotope identifier through the New York City-based “Securing the Cities” program. This detector is used by elite units across the country, such as the FBI, Department of Energy RAPP teams, and other highly trained radiological interdiction forces. The cost of the unit exceeds \$115,000 and gives the Division capabilities that only a few law enforcement agencies in New York State can equal.



Ortec High-Purity Germanium Micro Detective

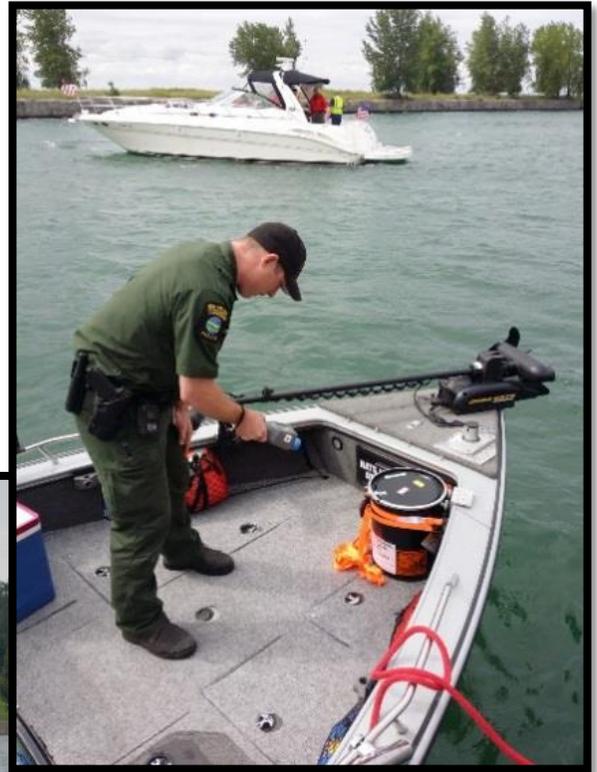
Training

During 2014, the Division participated in many Homeland Security-related training events. ECOs from across the state continue to participate in Active Shooter Response training at the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) in Oriskany. This “Force-on-Force” training provides a level of realism unavailable in typical firearms training scenarios. These classes include Initial Response to Active Shooter, Team Tactics for Patrol Officers, Close Quarters Tactics, and Woodland Tactics. Our continued partnership with the SPTC is vital for enhancing our members’ situational awareness, tactics, and techniques, which they apply to everyday patrol functions. This level of training will also play a key role when ECOs are called upon to provide law enforcement functions at significant events.



DLE members engaged in Woodland Tactics training at the SPTC

The Division's Homeland Security Unit continues to provide training in support of our Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection (PRND) mission. In 2014, Division members received advanced training from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). Members in western NY participated in the Small Vessel Maritime Radiological/ Nuclear Operations course (SV/RNO). Developed in coordination with the United States Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, the course is designed to elevate and enhance the radiological detection capabilities of officers operating on the waters of the United States.



Exercises-Operations-Details

In 2014, ECOs across the state participated in Homeland Security-related exercises, operations, and details. DLE continues to be recognized for the capabilities that ECOs can bring to the forefront in the war against terrorism. Below is a sample of the operations the Division participated in during 2014:

- 2014 New Year's Eve fireworks security detail in New York City
- Operation SHIELD - Suffolk County
- Operation Gateway - Nassau County
- Operation Stonegarden - New York northern border areas
- Full-scale maritime RAD/NUC interdiction exercise. This exercise simultaneously involved 3 regions and 40 members at the ports of Buffalo, Rochester, and Oswego.
- Securing the cities monthly chokepoint operations with NYPD

- 2014 July 4th fireworks security detail in New York City
- United Nations General Assembly security detail in New York City
- New York City Fleet Week security detail
- Hudson River Joint Enforcement operations
- Statewide SPIDER operations
- VIPR operations

K9 UNIT



DLE currently has eight specially trained K9 teams assigned to six DEC regions. Each K9 is trained to assist ECOs in apprehending wildlife poachers. These K9s can detect venison, black bear, wild turkey and fish hidden by violators attempting to avoid arrest. K9 teams also respond to tracking requests for both criminals and missing people and are used to investigate other suspicious activities. They have many successful finds to their credit and are highly regarded by other agencies. Additionally, K9s can easily locate valuable evidence at shooting scenes through their ability to detect spent shell casings and guns. Locating gunshot evidence provides accurate documentation and reconstruction of hunting-related shooting scenes. Because spent-shell recovery training is unique to the DLE's K9 Unit, they are frequently requested by fellow law enforcement agencies to locate

shell casings and guns at shooting scenes that are non-hunting in nature. Finally, the K9s are trained to protect ECOs during criminal apprehension.



In 2014, the K9 Unit deployed 135 times, resulting in 72 people charged with 146 violations and crimes.



Also in 2014, the K9 Unit participated in 48 outreach events for 4,105 people.

DLE DISPATCH

The Division of Law Enforcement dispatch centers have a primary duty to serve the public, to assist DEC staff and to answer the DEC Spills Hotline. “Central” dispatch operates 24/7 from the Central Office in Albany and is staffed by 13 dispatchers and an ECO supervisor. Dispatch at Region 5’s Ray Brook Office operates 12/7 and is staffed by three dispatchers.

The traditional duty of dispatch centers is to support the activities of ECOs and forest rangers statewide. Dispatchers monitor the locations and status’ of ECOs and rangers, take calls from the public reporting environmental crimes or fish and wildlife violations, and take reports of wildland fires, lost or missing hikers, and DEC state land violations. Dispatch centers support ECOs and forest rangers by coordinating responses with other DEC staff and arranging helicopter flights and response from outside EMS agencies. They also serve as key after-hours points of contact for all DEC program heads, especially for significant events such as dam breaches, major flooding or environmental emergencies.

Dispatchers maintain communications with field staff through the use of a statewide radio system and cell and office phones. To assist Division members, dispatchers maintain training and certification on systems, including the DEC Automated Licensing System (to look up hunting, trapping and fishing license data), the NY Integrated Justice Portal (drivers’ licenses, boat, snowmobile and vehicle registrations, and criminal histories) and the Solid Waste Information Management System (DEC waste transporter permit information).

The Report an Environmental Violation system enables the public to report suspected ECL violations online. Dispatchers monitor the system and immediately forward complaints to ECOs. Dispatchers received almost 200 online-reported violations in 2014.

DLE dispatchers also answer the DEC Spills Hotline, originally created to report spills of hazardous substances impacting the environment.

Dispatchers coordinate the response of DEC Spills engineers and ECOs to investigate site contamination and cleanup, to identify responsible parties, and to investigate potential violations of the ECL. Dispatchers annually take more

than 17,000 spills reports via this hotline.



Because all phone calls to dispatch centers are always answered by dispatchers, the public has come to rely on them for information on non-emergency DEC topics. This

has resulted in a significant increase in calls for topics not related to dispatch centers' primary duties. Dispatch centers take tens of thousands of calls a year from the public on topics ranging from injured and distressed wildlife and fishing and hunting seasons and dates, to where to camp, invasive species, how to clean up mercury spills, and many other topics. Dispatchers then use their resources and experience to connect these callers to the appropriate DEC staff or outside entities.

TRAINING ACADEMY



The mission of the Training Unit is to train all Division members. It is dedicated to provide training that addresses the Division's needs within the ever-changing enforcement environment.

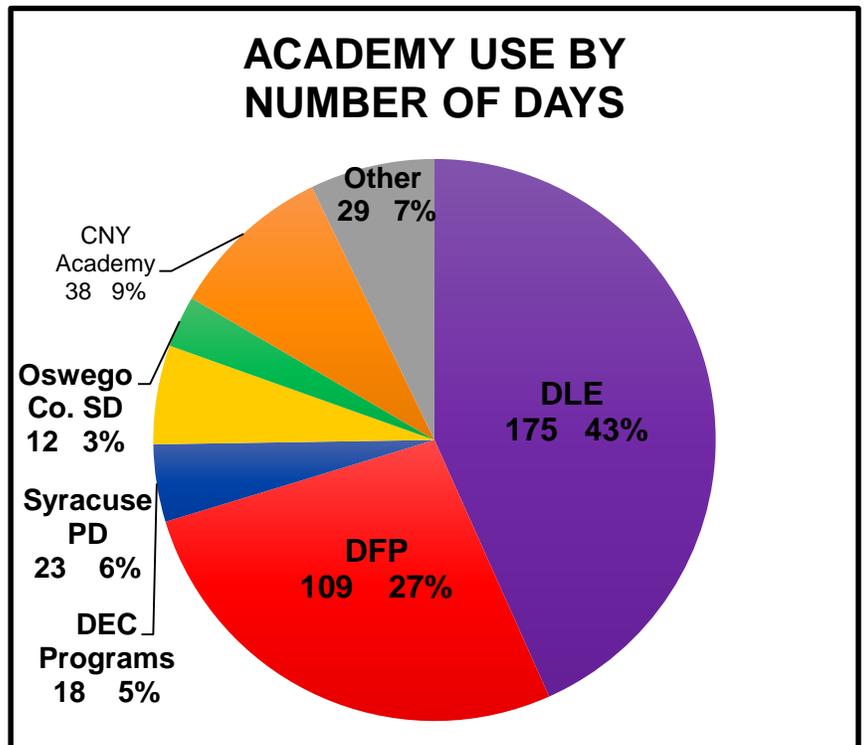
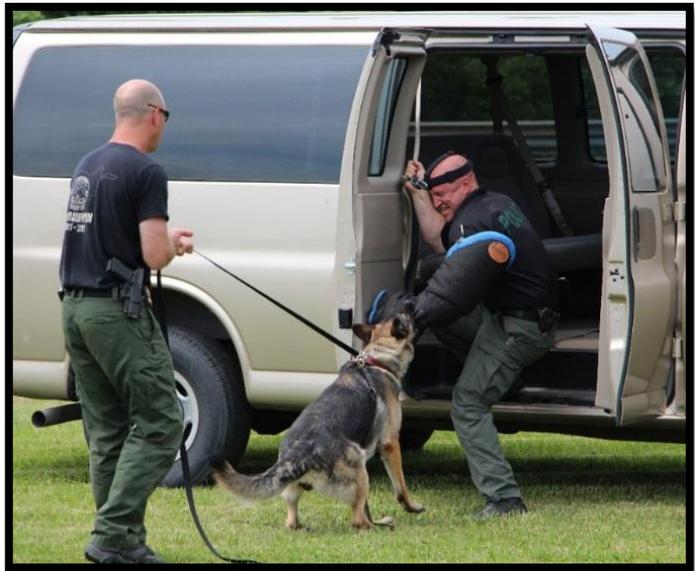
During the 2014 training year, 1,829 people attended classes. Most were held at DLE's Training Academy in Pulaski, and supplemental training locations included the US Coast Guard Station in Oswego, the EVOC track in Fulton, and the Brownville shooting range near Watertown. To reduce travel and optimize training time, some training was given in the regions.

Every DLE member received the following three mandatory trainings in 2014: 1) Annual In-service (Academy based); 2) Firearms/Defensive Tactics (regional); and 3) HAZWOPER (regional).

Below is a complete list of training courses, meetings, and special events held in 2014:

TRAINING AT THE DEC ACADEMY

- NEEP Interview Skills Course
- Verbal Judo
- DCJS Basic Photography Course
- Forest Ranger In-service
- DLE K9 Certifications
- Advanced DT Class
- Forest Ranger DT Refresher
- Wildlife Forensic Kit Refresher R6/7
- ICS 300
- Swift Water Rescue
- AHA CPR/First Aid
- WFR Bridge Course
- Oswego County PD DT Course
- DEC F&W Boat School
- BWI Seated Battery Course
- RADAR Course
- DLE K9 Training
- A Platform Vessel Operator Course
- DLE In-service
- DCJS Course in Police Supervision
- SNOWVOC Course (2 sessions)
- DCJS Instructor Development Course
- HR218 Qualifications
- DLE Firearms Instructor School
- Forest Ranger Long Gun Training
- EVOC for: Syracuse PD, Oswego County SD, CNY Police Academy, DEC Spills



TRAINING IN THE REGIONS

Wildlife Forensic Kit Refresher (R4)
Defensive Driver Training (R1, R8)
Active Shooter for Civilians (R3)
ATV Operation for Law Enforcement (R3, R4, R5)
DLE HAZWOPER (All Regions)
DLE Firearms and Defensive Tactics Refresher (All Regions)

ACADEMY USE FOR MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

DLE Five-Year Plan Committee Meetings
Oswego County Youth League Event
National Wild Turkey Federation Meeting
DEC Emergency Mgmt. Radiation Meeting
DLE Policy Committee Meeting
Project Healing Waters
DEC Mined Lands Meeting
DLE Pipe & Drum Band Practices
20th Basic School Planning Meeting
Salmon River Detail
PT Instructor Meeting
DEC Fish & Wildlife Meeting
NYS Fair Detail
Critical Incident Team Meeting
Firearms/DT Instructor Meetings
EVOC Instructors Meeting
Uniform Committee Meeting
DEC Bureau of Wildlife Meeting
State of Lake Ontario Meeting



In 2014, DLE gained 23 new instructors, including eight for First Aid/CPR, four for Firearms, four for Defensive Tactics, three for Defensive Driver, one for EVOC and one for Physical Fitness.

LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION

Enforcement programs of the Lake George Park Commission are coordinated by a DLE lieutenant who serves as the commission's Director of Law Enforcement and supervises 13 Park Commission officers. This DLE position exists through a unique agreement with DEC and provides consistent enforcement of the commission's regulations throughout the Lake George basin. The Lake George Marine Patrol logged 6,293 officer-hours aboard vessels in its 53rd year of service. The primary mission of Marine Patrol is to promote the safe and enjoyable use of Lake George.



Now-retired DLE Lt. Bill Crain on patrol near Rogers Rock on Lake George

In 2014, Lake George Park Commission Marine Patrol officers documented 3,200 contacts with the boating public, including:

- 389 assists to boaters (vessel tows, rescues, first aid, searches and fire suppression)
- 130 cruiser sanitary inspections
- 147 appearance tickets
- 362 complaint calls
- 66 regattas patrolled
- 26 accident investigations
- 25 unusual incident reports filed
- 1,306 warnings for minor violations

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DLE plays a key role in responding to disasters and critical law enforcement incidents throughout New York State. The off-road and maritime capabilities employed by ECOs during routine patrols make them a valuable resource during emergencies, and they frequently deploy in some of the most difficult and dangerous situations imaginable. Over the past two decades, they have been called upon to respond to incidents such as plane crashes, shipping disasters, hurricanes, catastrophic flooding, massive snowstorms, tornados, significant oil spills, and searches for fugitives.

DLE operates a fleet of vessels ranging from personal water craft and swift-water rescue boats to \$1.5 million 44-foot, jet-drive ocean-going craft with advanced electronic detection equipment such as Forward Looking Infrared and side-scan sonar; 4x4 patrol vehicles; ATVs; and snowmobiles. ECOs are trained in land navigation, woodland tactical operations, first aid, and advanced vessel navigation and operation.

There is not a square mile of New York State, from the Adirondack Mountains to the off-shore waters of the Atlantic Ocean, that DLE cannot rapidly respond to with a crew of highly trained ECOs to protect public safety and the environment, even in the most difficult situations.

THE BUFFALO SNOW STORM OF 2014

November 21, 2014 will be remembered for one of the worst snowstorms in New York State history, which dumped more than eight feet of snow just south of the City of Buffalo. Over the course of five days, all Region 9 ECOs, lieutenants, and a captain

and major, augmented by ECOs from across the state, responded with 4x4 patrol vehicles and snowmobiles to assist stranded motorists and those trapped at home. In addition, due to the threat of flooding in the aftermath of the storm, 34 small boats from across the state were



staged locally for immediate use. DLE personnel worked tirelessly throughout the event in highly challenging conditions.



ECOs responding to the massive Buffalo snow storm of 2014

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE USE TOTALS

Reporting Member	STATEWIDE	Year of Activity	Dec 2013- Nov 2014	Regions	1 – 9
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY			NAVIGATION	SNOWMOBILE	ATV
Monthly Hours of Field Patrol via Boat, ATV or Snowmobile, operating RV checkpoints, dockside or marina checks and other field enforcement			20,813.04	3,527.50	2,388.75
Total Monthly Hours of Enforcement Effort			30,273.42	4,642	3,569.25
Total Monthly Hours of Enforcement Effort noted above include field patrol time, plus all other hours associated with each category, e.g., court time, legal papers, travel time, and maintenance and repair of DLE recreational vehicle patrol equipment.					
Total Number of Vessel, ATV and Snowmobile Stops			21,015	8,414	2,602
Total Number of Boat Inspections/Boardings Performed on Water			16,336		
Total Number of Boat Inspections/Boardings Performed at Launch Sites, Marinas and Docks			4,647		
Total Number of Snowmobile Inspections Performed				7,390	
Total Number of ATV Inspections Performed					2,041
Number of Complaints Received and Recorded on ENCON Police Report			645	32	90
Number of Investigations (proactive or responsive to complaints)			452	33	95
Warnings for Various Minor Violations			1,886	550	821
Arrests/Tickets for all Navigation, Snowmobile and ATV operation, equipment, insurance & registration offenses, Penal Law & other			591	375	431
Arrests/Tickets for ECL & 6NYCRR offenses while on RV Patrol			1,580	72	192
Total Number of Tickets and Arrests (sum of above 2 lines)			2,441	447	623
Number of Boats, Motor or Other Recreational Vehicles Reported Lost /Stolen			3	1	1
Number of Boats, Motor or Other Recreational Vehicles Recovered			5	2	0
Number of Fatal Accidents Investigated			1	1	5
Total Number of Accidents Investigated			8	4	5
Searches Relative to Accidents			4	2	0
Searches Relative to Overdue/Lost Person Reports			14	1	12
Number of Stranded Operators			50	5	0
Special Events Patrolled by Supervisory Assignment			146	15	36

CHEMICAL IMMOBILIZATION TEAM

DLE's Chemical Immobilization Team (CIT) is staffed by members who have received



special training for the purpose of chemically immobilizing animals under specific circumstances. Those instances include situations where DEC Bureau of Wildlife personnel cannot address a complaint, and an animal must be moved to protect either itself or the persons and property in the vicinity. DLE's original cadre of CIT-trained officers was formed in 2005 with 51 officers. As of 2014, the number of certified officers stands at 94.

Equipment for these emergency responses has been strategically secured in locations throughout New York State to aid rapid deployment. It consists of prescription and Class III drugs, dart projectors, and post-capture equipment. This equipment includes nets, transport containers, and first aid

kits. In most cases, CIT responds to nuisance bear or deer, but CIT members respond to other emergencies as needed.

A common situation would be for a bear that wanders into an urban area and has no likely or safe way to get out on its own. Another common situation would involve a deer trapped in a pool, building or other location and unable to free itself. Besides possible injury to the animal or personal property, public safety is of paramount importance.

Throughout 2014, ECOs responded to more than 1,093 distressed wildlife calls and 185 nuisance animal complaints, including at least 71 nuisance bear calls. These responses occurred in all areas of New York State, from cities and suburban neighborhoods to rural farmlands. Nuisance bear complaints continue to trend upward from previous years.

Regions 1 and 2 have received New York State Department of Health licenses to possess the narcotics necessary to enable them to chemically immobilize wildlife. Training is being planned for those regions.



DLE members have been reviewing the CIT Program and have set future goals. Portions of the training program are being reviewed to better enhance and update the lesson plan. Additionally, the Division's Chemical Immobilization Team Policy is currently being reviewed and updated.

