Patrick Beckley: The Calm Before The Storm
See story page 16

Inside:

Resilience & Recovery: A Light in the Darkness

Patrick Beckley
Regional Director
NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services
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Long Island ROAD WARRIORS is the official magazine of the Long Island Contractors' Association, Inc. (LICA). LICA represents the interests of the region's premier heavy construction general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and industry supporters. Focused primarily in the transportation infrastructure construction industry such as highways, bridges, rail, sewers and other public works, LICA's member companies play a significant role within Long Island’s Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The economic impact of the industry contributes $4 billion to the area’s local gross regional product.

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Disaster. Relief.

Long Islanders are comforted knowing we have outstanding, dedicated emergency first-responders in our midst. We have seen the valiant responses in the past when unfortunate incidents required action. Our firefighters, police, emergency medical technicians and other health care professionals are certainly heroes worthy of our praise. We are truly indebted to them for their efforts.

Among the first-responders are those who are often overlooked for their contribution in restoring normalcy following a crisis. These are the men and women of the heavy construction industry. Often our workers and equipment are instantly marshaled into service to aid in emergency rescue and restoration efforts. We salute you for your service.

Seventeen years ago LICA members were deployed to assist and assess recovery efforts in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Six years ago our industry was again tested after the devastation from Superstorm Sandy on October 29, 2012 and we responded accordingly. In spite of severe damage to many of our own member firms’ plants and equipment, the industry persevered, and essential infrastructure and public services were restored.

These two catastrophic events certainly were not the only disasters that required our help. Other significant events where our industry provided assistance have included:

- TWA Flight 800 explosion off East Moriches on July 17, 1996.
- 9,000 Gallon gasoline tanker explosion on LIE, beneath Sagtikos Parkway bridge melting its girders.

These are just a few examples of how our workforce stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the other exemplary emergency responders. See pages 20-22 for stories of how one LICA member firm has been providing help and hope to Islanders here and abroad.

This edition of Long Island Road Warriors focuses on emergency services, management and response, while stressing the need to be resilient and better prepared to face future crises. Our public policymakers have prioritized resiliency in public works projects to ensure both safety and sustainability for our region.

Governor Andrew Cuomo, in response to Superstorm Sandy and other severe weather-related disasters, created the “New York Rising” program. On Long Island, study groups (comprised of local civic and professional leaders) were formed to look at 22 of the most severely Sandy-impacted communities. These groups, guided by our industry’s engineering experts, formulated recommendations that include hardening the local electric, gas, sewer, water and transportation systems. The program also prioritized projects for local municipalities to seek available federal funding through the state program.

As an industry, we are among the first-responders to protect our community. We must also be among those who continue to advocate for sustainability. One way to do this is to ensure that the 22 community revitalization plans do not have their infrastructure improvement plans shelved. Please take time to review these reports at https://stormrecovery.ny.gov/community-regions/long-island and contact your local officials to voice your support for these projects that not only strengthen our infrastructure but support the sustainability of Long Island’s heavy construction industry.

Our cover subject, Massapequa resident Patrick Beckley, serves as the Long Island Regional Director for the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES). He has the daunting responsibility of coordinating our region’s (LI/NYC) emergency response AND preparing for future catastrophic events. We thank him for his dedicated service and are honored to share his story, insights and information with our readers (beginning on page 16). We hope you enjoy!

Sincerely,

Marc Herbst
Executive Director
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Additional Helpful Tips and Emergency Resource Links:
• Sign up for “Code Red” via your local OEM Fire Rescue website
• Download the See Something, Send Something App from the DHSES OCT link
• Call 2-1-1 on your phone to search through services available on the web
• Make a list of local emergency phone numbers including the local Red Cross
• Check out the DHSES Emergency Handbook link below for information on how to build an emergency plan for your family.

Information courtesy of Patrick Beckley, Regional Director (Region 1) DHSES

EMERGENCY INFORMATION RESOURCE LINKS:
https://211nys.org/
https://www.fema.gov/
http://www.dhsses.ny.gov/oct/
https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/OEM

Disaster Preparedness Month

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Our service makes the case.
Looking back to the rebuilding efforts that took place after Superstorm Sandy, there’s a lot to be proud of and grateful for, but nothing that can be taken for granted. As a region, we have largely moved past the first phase of the rebuild process. Our eyes must now turn toward making our capital infrastructure projects as sustainable as possible.

While I was City Manager of Long Beach, the City completed more than 200 infrastructure projects, including the boardwalk—finished on time and under budget often using our terrific local contractors—key infrastructure improvements, and renovations of all City parks in the wake of the most severe natural disaster to hit the region in a generation.

When the City launched these wide-reaching efforts, there was a decision to prioritize rebuilding stronger, smarter, and safer.

Long Beach, like much of Long Island, faces challenges from weather much less severe than Sandy. The City was unprotected in many ways, and rain—even simple showers on some days—often resulted in flooding with significant impacts to roads and even homes.

But Sandy prompted a second look at the City’s infrastructure, and local government made the marching orders clear: no longer could this barrier island home to thousands of residents and businesses go unprotected.

The City launched large-scale resiliency and sustainability projects, including the $177M fully-funded Army Corps of Engineers Beach Protection Project, with the overarching goal of reducing the City’s vulnerability to storms and flooding.

On the bayside, the City secured more than $32 million in state and federal funds for bulkhead improvements to protect critical infrastructure, as well as $8 million for stormwater improvements in addition to the installation of 33 tide-flex valves to minimize flooding.

More than $4M was invested in improving the City’s water system, $5.5M in upgrading and repairing the sewer system, and nearly $1.4M in upgrading storm drainage infrastructure.

Residently, Long Beach’s building department made focused efforts to expedite a 1,900 percent increase in building permits, allowing residents to rebuild and raise their homes. As of mid-2017, 860 homes were built or elevated; permits were issued to more than 100 additional homes in the process of rebuilding; and nearly 300 homes had pending permits. Thousands of other homes underwent repairs and renovations as well.

The City seized this opportunity for rebuilding to triple its road repaving and reconstruction projects, with six per year compared to two per year. When a choice was made to reconstruct a street, it was not a superficial decision of just paving some blacktop; the City also rebuilt sewers and drainage, coordinating all work to be rooted in resiliency.

Now as Nassau County Comptroller, I am taking a much wider view of the issue. For Long Island as a whole, it’s imperative we push to reform FEMA, ease the escalation of flood insurance rates, and take a regional approach to rebuilding the right way.

In the Comptroller’s office, we are pushing for the county to modernize its financial and procurement systems, so projects can be reviewed, moved and approved in a more efficient manner. Having updated systems in place is especially important when rebuilding from a disaster when speed and accountability are key. It’s a major undertaking and we are working with contractors here on Long Island to continue making improvements to the process.

What is clear is that Nassau County is long overdue for a full-scale resiliency audit. There is a tremendous amount of data and information that should be informing our decisions of how to rebuild and what to put in place to keep our residents safe. By making smart investments, Nassau County can avert future costs related to disaster rebuilding efforts.

All coastal communities, which includes Long Island as a whole, need to work together to protect for the future—both the next storm season and the next century.
FOLLOWING NOTICE PROVISIONS IN A PUBLIC CONTRACT
by Joshua G. Oberman, Partner, Goetz Fitzpatrick LLP

All too often, contractors will sign a public contract without even taking a moment to review the document. Many contractors feel that if they want the project they will sign the contract no matter what it says. Furthermore, the DOT or MTA won’t change the contract in response to a contractor’s complaints, so why waste time reviewing the document?

Contractors are certainly correct in that public agencies will not change their contract. Nevertheless, it is important to review the contract you enter into with the agency, so you can be aware of the “land-mines” the document may contain. For example, almost all public contracts have strict “notice” provisions. These provisions require that the contractor notify the agency, in writing, regarding any potential claims or delays within a certain period of time or before a certain point in the project. Notice provisions can vary by agency and by contract.

However, the contracts always state that if a contractor fails to adhere to the notice provisions, they waive their claim. Contractors are often reluctant to file a notice of claim. Sometimes, they fear that it will damage their relationship with the agency. Other times, they’ve been verbally assured by the agency’s project personnel that the claim will be “taken care of” at the end of the project.

However, public contractors must be aware that if their claims are not amicably resolved, they are taking a very serious risk of waiving their claims entirely by not complying with the notice provisions in a contract. If a contractor is forced to resort to litigation, their claim will be dismissed if they fail to comply with the notice provisions listed in the contract.

Litigation of construction claims can be hard. However, if a contractor fails to comply with notice provisions, it is likely that the merits of their claim will never even be heard. Even where a contractor has an extremely strong claim, if they fail to comply with a contract’s notice requirements, the first thing an agency’s legal counsel will do is move to dismiss the complaint based on said failure. Courts will routinely grant such motions and deprive the contractor of the opportunity to even attempt to prove his claim.

My advice to any client is to read your contract, become intimately familiar with the notice provisions and to follow them. The best way for contractors to protect themselves is to file the notices of claim as directed in the contract. Filing a notice of claim does not necessarily lead to a long drawn out litigation. In fact, it will often lead to a formal settlement meeting with the agency, and a resolution of the claim before a lawsuit has to be commenced.

Josh Oberman is a Partner at Goetz Fitzpatrick. He focuses his entire practice on the construction industry. He has deep expertise in all facets of public and private contracting including claims and labor issues. Joshua G. Oberman 212.695.8100 x317
Recently, most of the carpenters’ local unions in the state of New York affiliated with the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. As a seven-state organization, we now represent more than 28,000 skilled crafts workers employed by more than 1,000 general contractors and carpentry subcontractors.

We do more than just work on construction sites. The Carpenters union works at every level and stage of the construction industry to ensure that efficient, quality building is the standard. We don’t believe the greatest value is always the lowest bid price. We think that competitive bidding among honest, experienced contractors will result in the lowest final cost possible and a superior end product.

Because of our unique position within the industry, we know what’s what and who’s who. We know the good guys, the bad guys and everyone in between. We know about the latest building materials and techniques and also how corners get cut. We have relationships throughout the industry that make us reliable experts and valued consultants.

As an organization we do several things that are known throughout the industry:

• We offer industry-leading craft training for apprentices and journey level carpenters throughout their careers.
• Programs are jointly administered by the union and contractors, ensuring a workforce with skills the industry demands now and into the future.
• The union and contractors negotiate openly and directly to set standards that provide fair wages, benefits and working conditions for carpenters while maintaining the ability of contractors to bid competitively.

But the New England Carpenters union also fights for fairness industry-wide:

• On a daily basis, union organizers visit construction sites to make sure nonunion carpenters are not being exploited.
• Victims of wage theft or working in unsafe conditions are educated and given help contacting the proper enforcement authorities.
• We work with developers and owners throughout the project approval process to limit their risk.
• We help them identify qualified, available, reliable contractors and subcontractors suitable for their specific project.
• We follow up by supplying qualified, reliable crafts workers that ensure quality, safe and efficient building.
• Through political and legislative action, advocate for increased investment in necessary infrastructure.

While it’s true that the welfare of union carpenters is at the heart of our efforts, it is not a goal we chase blindly. For union carpenters to succeed, union contractors must do well. They must be able to compete or they will not hire union carpenters. Our skills, efficiency and expertise make us a value proposition for contractors. Our experience and knowledge in the industry make us a partner you may want to know more about.
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GOSR Funding Instrumental in Improving Infrastructure Sustainability

Long Island, due to its coastal proximity and numerous waterways, has always been prone to flooding and inundation of its drainage infrastructure. This issue was highlighted throughout the region during Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy. In response, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG-DR) have been allocated by the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GoSR) to multiple projects across the Island to improve infrastructure resiliency. The LiRo Group is currently providing services for two such projects.

The Town of Babylon has a cumulative grant of $25 million to raise roads and improve drainage under 10 separate assignments. Projects include: replacement of American Venice Bridges to accommodate emergency vehicle access to the area; shore stabilization, including bulkheads and revetment, at Dalton Point, Little East Neck Road, Oak Beach, and Amityville; road raising at Captree Island; floodgates and drainage improvements in the Carlls River watershed; generator installation at critical community facilities; installation of in-line backflow valves at existing coastal outfall pipes at prioritized locations throughout the Town; and raising potable water infrastructure in Gilgo Beach.

LiRo is providing project oversight for the program, beginning each task with the preparation of a design RFP and the subsequent review and selection of a design engineer. Oversight of the designer’s work, including permitting and value engineering, is then conducted, followed by construction bid package preparation, bid evaluation, and oversight of the construction manager. The two-year project began in mid-2017.

In a second project, the Town of Hempstead received $2.8 million funding for road raising in the Carrel Boulevard area of Oceanside to address ongoing flooding issues that were impacting the roads and damaging residential property. LiRo is providing engineering design services for the effort. Several design alternates are under consideration in the preliminary phase.

Detailed design will proceed once the final option is chosen based on cost and technical evaluation. The design is challenging, as roads will be raised above their existing elevation, impacting the surrounding private properties. The overall strategy under study will grade transitions from private properties to meet the newly elevated roads. If roads are higher than the adjacent residential elevation, runoff will be collected in yard drains and diverted to new drainage infrastructure to remove it from the property. Restoration of existing hardscape components, such as front walks and entrance piers, will be incorporated into the project through releases negotiated between the Town and property owners. Work is scheduled for completion in 2019.

The GOSR allocation of CDBG-DR funds, as demonstrated by these projects, is instrumental in improving the sustainability of Long Island’s infrastructure, maintaining property values, and ensuring emergency preparedness for future storm events.

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Everyone knows the Red Cross helps people during emergencies. But you may not know that it’s also part of the Red Cross mission to help you prepare! Emergencies come in many shapes and sizes - some man-made, others act of nature.

While it is impossible to control every outcome, education and planning can help you feel more confident that you and your loved ones will have the skills needed to cope.

Becoming “Red Cross Ready” for an emergency means following simple steps in advance to ensure you and your family can manage a crisis safely. Being prepared may not prevent a disaster but it will give you confidence to meet the challenge.

The Be Red Cross Ready program is easy to complete in three simple steps:

**Get a Kit:**
Learn the essential supplies to put in your family’s first aid and survival kits. Keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

**Make A Plan:**
With your family or household members, discuss how to prepare and respond to the types of emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play. Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and how you will work together as a team.

**Be Informed:**
Understand which disasters are likely in your area and what you must know to stay safe. Make sure that at least one member of your household is trained in first aid and CPR and knows how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). The American Red Cross delivers CPR training designed for the way you live, and learn. With options available on weekdays and weekends, plus online, in-person and blended Simulation Learning courses, you can get the CPR training you need on your schedule. And finally, download the Red Cross Emergency App to have information on your phone when you need it.

American Red Cross empowers people with critical lifesaving tools while building more resilient communities. Visit www.redcross.org/LI to sign up for a class and learn more about Be Red Cross Ready.
Just as September 11th changed the way the nation views threats of terrorism and the importance of Homeland Security, Superstorm Sandy (followed closely by Winter Storm Nemo) changed the way New Yorkers (and Long Islanders, in particular) view the threat of natural disasters and the importance of Emergency Services. And despite the cause of the catastrophe - be it an act of man or mother nature - all disasters (or potential disasters) require a rapid, comprehensive response of resources amassed by a multitude of public agencies, private contractors and volunteer networks. The responsibility to ensure that local leaders who “own” the emergency are connected, coordinated and communicating requires a uniquely qualified individual - someone experienced in putting out fires, while remaining even-keeled and focused in the face of a crisis. Meet Patrick Beckley—fireman, “whetherman” and the calm before (during and after) the storm.

The Fireman

Most of Long Island is protected by local volunteer firefighters like Patrick Beckley, who served in his hometown fire department of Massapequa from 2010-2016. But since 2012, as the Regional Director for Region 1 of the New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services (DHSES), Beckley now carries the responsibility of helping protect the lives and property of nearly all 2.7 million Long Island residents—and not only from threat of fire, but acts of nature, acts of terror and a host of other potential crises.

Before his discharge in 2000, Beckley earned a number of impressive awards, medals and commendations while serving as a Chief Petty Officer in the United States Naval Reserves where his key responsibility was teaching Sailors how to fight shipboard fires. I found it ironic that the deadliest threat to sailors at sea is fire, despite being on a vessel completely surrounded by water. But this lesson in irony, which Beckley learned early on, is often apparent in many disasters.

In the wake of September 11th, Beckley was recalled to active duty and served as the Chief of Military Personnel for the Security Department at Naval Weapons Station Charleston, where he began putting out fires of a less physical, though no less dangerous, nature.

This combined experience and pressure to perform has prepared Beckley well for his current role as Regional Director for Long Island, where he no longer needs lines of firehose, but rather lines of communication, to keep situations under control. His most important firefighting tool may be his own version of the “jaws of life”—a reference to his ability to calmly and effectively communicate (‘jaw’) with numerous other agencies, organizations and officials in the heat of battle during a crisis.

The “Whetherman”

Unlike meteorologists on TV, Beckley doesn’t predict the weather, however much of his job revolves around it. The threat of severe weather puts Patrick on high alert and preparations begin in earnest. But WHETHER or not the radar indicates a storm may have changed track or frankly, whether there’s a storm at all—it’s Beckley’s job to be ready. You could call him a different kind of “weatherman” who can effectively handle any high-pressure headed his way.

For most, enjoying a popular Long Island event is an opportunity to relax and let loose: Spend a day at the races (think Belmont Stakes) or running a race (perhaps the Suffolk County Marathon). Maybe ride the rails to “get your golf on” at Shinnecock or get your dancing shoes on for the Great South Bay Music Fest. Whatever the event, fun is in the forecast. Unless you’re Beckley. And in that case, safety is his version of sunshine.
The post-9/11 world has taught us that wherever large crowds gather, there is increased potential for harm. So regardless of any specific threat, Beckley and his counterparts stand ready while the rest of us celebrate. The Belmont Stakes is actually the second largest event supported by NYS DHSES, just behind the New York State Fair in Syracuse. The large number of people (even larger when the triple-crown is at stake) and special LIRR stop (similar to Shinnecock for the US Open) make it especially challenging.

As a highly populated coastal region, Long Island poses another unique set of challenges, forcing Beckley to be ready for anything. His Coastal Awareness Group monitors everything from erosion to rip tides and more. And when a day at the beach ends in shark sightings and a possible attack, Beckley must jump into action to support those who manage the crisis and media frenzy.

Blue Sky Days

The next question naturally becomes “So what do you do when there is no imminent threat?” This is what those in the business call a “Blue Sky” day. These are the times when Beckley and his counterparts review their responses to prior crisis’ and refine plans for the future, so they can be better prepared for the next event. It’s time to re-stock supplies, re-tool processes and re-connect with people and personnel. The last one being a crucial component to successful disaster response.

Beckley spends some Blue Sky Days speaking with citizens during the Governor’s Citizen Preparedness Corps (CPC) training. Many citizens go on to become CERT members—a Community Emergency Response Team. The Citizen Preparedness Corps essentially trains people to serve as first responders within their own homes and neighborhoods. Since Superstorm Sandy (the catalyst for the development of this program) more than 250,000 New York State residents have successfully completed the training with two thirds of them residing in Region 1 (NYC/Long Island). Beckley cites the CPC training as one of the most important things a person can do to proactively protect their family and friends. In January, LICA plans to offer CPC training as part of its 2019 Safety Seminar curriculum.

Another Blue Sky day may find Beckley at a poverty workshop run by Island Harvest, a group that feeds many of the vulnerable on our Island. Beckley explains that “the key is to connect people’s needs”. During a disaster when food supplies may be scarce or inaccessible, there’s no one better to turn to than those organizations who routinely supply food to hundreds of people each week. So, supporting groups like Island Harvest to help keep their mission going is not only good citizenship, it’s good emergency management as well.
**Smooth Operator**

Reading Beckley’s job description, his role appears to be part match-maker and part communicator. I instantly picture an old telephone operator standing before a sea of wires, making dozens of connections simultaneously, being careful not to cross any signals or drop any calls. All the while, politely promising to assist callers in need.

Beckley’s phones may no longer have wires but the analogy is otherwise quite accurate. One could even make a case to replace his Regional Director title with something more descriptive, perhaps “Smooth Operator”?

Joking aside, neither Beckley’s job title nor description conveys the true importance of his ability to coordinate, connect and manage a multitude of personnel and resources across various agencies, organizations and municipalities. Knowing “who has what” (be it in physical form or some form of information) and getting it quickly to the people who need it, is the key to success in crisis management.

Understanding who can get it there and distribute it is no less important. That’s where many of the not-for-profit and volunteer organizations such as Island Harvest and the American Red Cross are of greatest assistance. By understanding the capabilities (and limitations) of these partners, Beckley is able to make the most efficient use of resources at a moments notice.

**Storm Trooper**

Questions regarding the chain-of-command during a disaster inevitably lead to a discussion about the chain of command within his own agency. And for DHSES, it begins and ends with the Governor. Beckley credits the leadership of Governor Andrew Cuomo with making NYS DHSES a premier agency and model for others to follow, citing the development of programs like his Citizen Preparedness Corps.

By definition, DHSES is a support agency. It was created in 2010 when the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) was brought together under one roof with these other offices: Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Counter Terrorism (OCT), Cyber Security (OCS) and the Interoperable and Emergency Communications (OIEC). But even those who help others require some support and by all accounts it appears Governor Cuomo has been our very own “Storm Trooper”. Since taking office, Cuomo has fought to provide emergency responders with the training and resources they need to ensure peak readiness in times of trouble.

The flurry of major storms that hit our region during the Governor’s first term only seemed to strengthen his resolve and commitment to lead the way in emergency preparedness. Under his direction, the New York State Preparedness Training Center has been updated and expanded, now including a special search and rescue section. And Beckley proudly describes the capabilities, versatility and importance (not to mention the super cool “bells & whistles”) of the new state-of-the-art swift water rescue facility, which is the only one of its kind in the country.

Beckley also credits County Executive Steve Bellone for his leadership in Suffolk County during so many winter and coastal storm events. “Every disaster starts and ends locally,” Beckley says. “It’s imperative that those we elect understand and embrace that. County Executive Bellone is someone I have always enjoyed being on a team with during a crisis. He gets it.”
A.C.R.O.Y.N.M.  
(Another Crazy Rendition Of a Name You’ll (never) Memorize)

If you’re hosting a scrabble tournament which allows the use of acronyms, just ask Beckley to recite a few of the program names and agency terms he uses in a single day. I guarantee there will be no loss for "words". From the CPC to CERT and CEPA to DAT, these abbreviations all carry great weight and importance for those who know their meaning. For the rest of us, it's a lesson in futility to remember and differentiate them. But when Beckley mentioned DOT, I was relieved. Finally, here was an acronym I understood!

Although DOT does not fall under the DHSES (there we go again), they often work hand-in-hand. Beckley had nothing but high praise and respect for his colleagues claiming that “DOT saves the day – all the time” when it comes to emergency response. He also recognizes the importance of the DOT’s strong relationship with many private sector contractors (including many LICA members) with whom they can call on at a moment’s notice for additional machines, manpower and know-how, just as they did for Irene, Sandy, Nemo and others.

Beckley remarked how the DOT doesn’t often come to mind when thinking of first responders, but reminds us that the Department of Transportation lost three people in the tragic events of September 11th.

Hoping Isn’t Helping: BE PREPARED

From school children to sports stars, everyone knows preparation is key. But when it comes to an emergency, preparation can save your life. We on Long Island have CLEARLY had enough warning - just ask Nemo, Irene or Sandy. We know that “100 year storms” now hit all too often. Heavy flooding in Islip, Brookhaven and the Town of Babylon’s Lindenhurst came from storms too weak to warrant being named. And we all lost too many friends on 9/11. Today is our collective “Blue Sky” day and we need to take advantage of the calm BEFORE the storm.

It just so happens that September (the month this issue is published) is also Disaster Preparedness Month. Beckley urges people to take note and make it count. You’ve prepared your children for school, but are you prepared if disaster strikes? There are so many simple things you can do NOW.

As you gather school supplies, grab yourself a wind-up or transistor radio. When mapping out your children’s class schedule, make your own map of emergency routes. Meeting for coffee? Sip as you set up alternative meeting locations for family in case your home is damaged or inaccessible. Put a list of emergency contact numbers (for family, friends and first responders) into that fancy new phone you just bought your teenager. Feeling really inspired? Spend some quality family time taking one of Beckley’s trainings to become an official member of CERT. A few hours and a little forethought may help you survive when the unthinkable happens.

Lastly, next time you surf the web, take a few minutes to review some important information provided on the DHSES website at: www.dhses.ny.gov/aware-prepare. Then be sure to thank the first responders, volunteers and all those behind the scenes who answer the call in times of trouble. But the greatest gift you can give both Beckley and yourself is to simply BE PREPARED.
Living on an island presents certain challenges. As Long Islanders, we know first-hand the devastation that can be caused by a major hurricane like Sandy. Our connections to Manhattan and the rest of the country were temporarily cut off. Tunnels were flooded, bridges were closed and trains were suspended. For several days, most of us were left feeling powerless (literally and figuratively) and isolated.

Now imagine not one, but two Category 5 hurricanes striking back-to-back within the same month...

Restoring power is the first and most important step to recovery. USVI needed an experienced powerhouse to help them get it done. That’s why shortly after the storms, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) quickly contracted Haugland Energy to provide both the manpower and machines to help them restore electrical transmission and distribution systems.

The size and scope of this restoration would be difficult enough locally. But to coordinate this massive effort on oversea islands would require innovation, precision planning, exacting strategy and the ability to make real-time adjustments on-the-fly. Speaking of flying, it took multiple airlines and private jet charters just to fly in the 700+ emergency union line crew members from across the country. Next they needed to load more than 600 pieces of equipment (mobilized from several parts of the country) onto multiple barges and ships. And prior to their arrival, housing accommodations for on-island crews had to be prepared while administration and communication systems were established.

During their time on the island, Haugland Energy crews performed initial damage assessment of more than 38,000 poles, related wires and transformers. They also checked the energization status of more than 68,000 customer meters. Damage assessments and meter status were tracked on digital tablets equipped with GIS software which Haugland customized and developed. Progress was monitored and documented using before and after photos, and daily reports were also filed in real time on the tablets.

The Power of Positivity

Haugland Energy linemen helped restore more than power in St. Croix. While working in USVI, Haugland Energy crews witnessed devastating destruction. But among the usual piles of debris, they took note of the many lost toys scattered in the mud.

During their weeks in St. Croix, Daniel Philips and William Strickland befriended several children in Frederiksted, who were always in high-spirits, inquisitive and eager to learn about the work that the linemen were doing. Hoping to spread holiday joy to the children, two linemen partnered with a local school teacher to fund “Board Games 4 Bored Kids”. Contributing $500 each, Daniel and William then collected an additional $3,000 from fellow Haugland Energy team members to purchase and distribute board games (instead of electronic devices) to help foster and strengthen relationships within families and the community. As of January 2018, the linemen have helped fund 218 games.

Haugland Energy is proud of the accomplishments of its team, helping to restore both power and positive energy to storm-damaged areas.
Storm Stories: Restoration and Dedication

The subsidiaries and affiliates of Haugland Group, LLC (HG) which include LICA member Grace Industries, led by LICA board member Billy Haugland, Jr., provide a wide range of services from storm restoration to civil infrastructure. Together (or separately) Haugland companies have helped rebuild, restore and reconstruct critical infrastructure here at home and abroad. Below are just a few of their most notable sustainability and resiliency-related projects.

But the most noble work of “Team Haugland” is not written on any contract, but only on their conscience, as evidenced by two more reported acts of kindness. While working to restore power in Miami Dade County, the daughter of an 88 year old man ran into two Haugland Energy (HE) linemen. She explained that her elderly father was without power and suffering badly due to excessive heat. In the letter she later wrote, the HE workers were “dedicated and efficient” and responded “with genuine concern”. They followed her around the block, surveyed the situation and within minutes, had made the necessary repairs. The “tears in her fathers eyes” displayed their deep gratitude.

Haugland employees also go the extra mile (hundreds of miles, actually) for one of their own. A lineman working for Haugland Energy, who had been stationed on St. Thomas USVI for over a month, learned that his wife back home had suffered a medical emergency and he needed to return quickly to care for his family. Long story short, Haugland’s on-site staff immediately jumped into action and arranged to get him home to his family that same evening. As his note stated “The people running your organization... are really quality people, and care for those working for them. My family and I can’t thank them enough.”

The Long Island Contractors’ Association is extremely proud to represent members and contractors like Haugland Group whose skill and expertise is surpassed only by their genuine concern for others.
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What Would Jimmy Hoffa Do?
by Desmond M. Ryan, Government Relations Consultant

“Public sector employees are the eyes and ears on the ground for the communities they serve.

James P. Hoffa

Following the recent Supreme Court Ruling of the case of Janus v. AFSCME, the Labor movement in New York faces its biggest challenge yet: public-sector workers who decline to join a union may not be forced to pay union fees. This will have far-reaching consequences on not just the unions financial stability, but that of the state legislature as well.

Janus v. AFSCME, out of the state of Illinois, found it unconstitutional for a union to collect non-member fees, finding it in violation of the First Amendment principle that “forcing free and independent individuals to endorse ideas they find objectionable,” additionally forcing public-sector employees to contribute to unions involuntarily violates their freedoms of speech and association. The Court determined that “states and public-sector unions may no longer extract agency fees from nonconsenting employees.”

The most unionized state in America is New York, where organized labor is represented in the public and private sectors, with over 1.9 million workers belonging to a union, and nearly 70% of New York’s public workforce belongs to a union.

The Court’s decision overturned a long-standing precedent allowing compulsory agency fees. Critical to the public workforce is whether these unions will be able to maintain their membership at large, as the payment of dues had once been a requirement.

Janus only applies to the public sector and not to private sector employees, hence the future impact of the Janus decision on private employees is yet to be determined. Following the ruling, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli said the state will stop deducting agency fees from non-union paychecks this summer. It was unclear as to how many workers would be affected or what the monetary impact would be on the dues structure. In New York, this ruling could have a direct impact on all state workers, including the legislature.

In New York, this ruling could have a direct impact on all state workers, including the legislature.

Fees collected by the public-sector unions have historically been used to conduct grassroots campaigns to assist in the electoral process. Specifically, as is relates to union endorsements of those state legislators whose actions and committee votes affect the “collective bargaining” process.

As we all know, Governor Cuomo has actively, and publicly, courted statewide union support. this last legislative session, Governor Cuomo sponsored a bill that would make it harder for workers to leave a union. This was signed into law with the sole purpose of limiting the expected impact of Janus here in New York. Could we be seeing a legal challenge to this new law in the future?

It appears the unions could use Jimmy now more than ever.

The most unionized state in America is New York... and nearly 70% of New York’s public workforce belongs to a union.
**Q&A**

**FIRST RESPONSES with Patrick Beckley**

Q. Who do you call first when a disaster is declared?
A. My boss. I always send information up, sideways and down the chain of command.

Q. The average number of different organizations you deal with during a major disaster?
A. 30+

Q. How far in advance do you “activate” hurricane preparations?
A. 144 hours

Q. Which non-profit group has the strongest emergency response?
A. There are so many amazing groups, but Neela Lockel and her staff at the American Red Cross of Long Island are outstanding. They do so much for so many.

Q. What’s your go-to “pick me up” during long stressful days?
A. Starbucks Bold: blackeye or redeye. I know just about every Starbucks location on the Island!

Q. Best part of your job?
A. Making connections with people and doing good work with groups like Island Harvest.

Q. Toughest part of the job?
A. Feeling helpless when you still see such suffering after disasters like Sandy.

Q. How do you “decompress” after a major threat/crisis?
A. I don’t – but I’m working on it. It’s very hard since I’m most always “on alert”.

Q. As a Long Islander, are you more afraid of the next natural disaster or act of terrorism?
A. Natural disaster.

Q. What act of kindness during a hardship stands out in your mind?
A. The dedication of some really caring state personnel. In 2013, severe flooding washed away an old woman and her mobile home. Although she didn’t survive, the workers wouldn’t stop searching through tons of mud and debris until they located a box full of sentimental items for her family, which they found and returned.

Q. The single most important item every Long Islander should have?
A. A transistor or wind-up radio.

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**Did You Know? How Contractors Can Help...**

LICA is one of the first calls made by local, county and state DOT personnel when private sector assistance is required during a disaster. Many members already provide additional manpower and machinery when needed for emergency contracts such as excavation, debris removal, plowing, infrastructure repair and more. But the best opportunity to get yourself on the “shortlist” as one of the contractors to be called is to “type” and register your equipment in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) so the state knows which members have the resources they require. For details, visit: [https://rtlt.preptoolkit.fema.gov/Public/Home/LinksTools](https://rtlt.preptoolkit.fema.gov/Public/Home/LinksTools).

Beckley also suggests that key personnel consider enrolling in a NIMS Training Program to better understand emergency response, incident management and how to improve communication. For more information on training, visit: [http://www.dhsses.ny.gov/training/calendar/?agency=OEM](http://www.dhsses.ny.gov/training/calendar/?agency=OEM). See top of page 6 for other helpful websites.
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