

## **HURRICANE EVACUATION STUDY: BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS**

### **Description of project:**

In partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US Army Corp. of Engineers (USACE) has conducted Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) for the States of New York and New Jersey since the late 1980s. These studies include a number of different analyses: hazards, vulnerability, behavioral, shelter and transportation.

Data in the Hurricane Evacuation Study is used to support Federal, State, and Local hurricane response planning. The most recent study was performed for Westchester County in 2005 and the current study is intended to update that information.

### **Behavioral Analysis:**

*Behavioral Survey Questionnaire:* an interview questionnaire has been designed to acquire needed information on how the public has responded to past threats (Tropical Storm Irene and Hurricane Sandy) and how they expect to respond to future threats.

The survey is being conducted by a contractor to the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The contractor is located in Tallahassee, Florida and has conducted dozens of surveys similar to this over the past 30 years.

The USACE contractor will execute the survey by contacting the public via telephone. Residents of Westchester County will be contacted by landline telephone and interviewed about a number of issues related to hurricane evacuation. The survey includes questions about what residents intend to do in certain hypothetical hurricane threat scenarios and what they did when Hurricane Sandy threatened. Other questions deal with information sources used during hurricane threats, perceived vulnerability, and constraints that may prevent evacuation.

A total of 500 interviews will be completed and the interview takes approximately 15 minutes to finish. Surveys have been or are being done in New York City, Nassau County, and Suffolk County using localized versions of the same questionnaire. Survey phone calls in Westchester County are expected to begin on Monday 8/21 and last approximately four weeks.

### **Questions:**

The above notice is intended to provide sufficient information to answer general questions from the public about a phone call that they may have received in connection with this project. If you have a need for any additional information please contact the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management at 864-5450.