



# Essex County Office of the Manager

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *Essex County Hosts Active Assailant Drill to Enhance Emergency Preparedness*

**Elizabethtown, NY** – Essex County, in collaboration with state and local partners, will conduct a comprehensive active assailant drill on Friday, April 11, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the County Courthouse and Main County Complex in Elizabethtown. This exercise, organized by Essex County, is designed to strengthen the county's response capabilities and ensure the safety of employees and the public during potential emergencies.

The drill will simulate realistic scenarios, providing essential training for court and county personnel, including judges, on effective response and mitigation strategies. Participants will practice emergency protocols, communication systems, and coordinated efforts with law enforcement and emergency services. This training will give our employees the tools they need to react quickly and keep everyone safe during a crisis.

"The safety of our employees and the public is our top priority," stated Michael Mascarenas, Essex County Manager. "This drill is a vital step in ensuring our judicial community and county staff are well-prepared to respond effectively in the event of a crisis. We are committed to maintaining a secure environment for all."

This essential training reflects a strong team effort, mobilizing the New York State Division of Homeland Security, the New York State Police, the Essex County Sheriff's Department, New York State Courts, UVM Health Network at Elizabethtown Community Hospital, Emergency Services, and other local agencies. Participants will practice critical skills, including:

- Reacting immediately during an active threat.
- Ensuring fast and accurate communication.
- Working closely with law enforcement and emergency responders.

### Public Information and Access:

Friday, April 11, from 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM, the Essex County Courthouse and the Main County Complex, including all buildings contained within it, will be closed to the public. To facilitate emergency petition filings during this closure, the Lewis Town Justice Court, located at 8566 Route 9N, will be available until 1:00 PM. The Ticonderoga Motor Vehicles office, located at 132 Montcalm Street, will be open from 9:15 AM to 12:30 PM. The public should expect increased activity and the presence of emergency vehicles around the main entrances and parking areas of both the Courthouse

and the Main County Complex. Please be assured that this is a planned training exercise, and there is no immediate danger to the public.

"While active assailant drills can be concerning, they are essential for ensuring our community's safety," added Mascarenas. "We appreciate the public's understanding and cooperation as we conduct this important training exercise. This drill allows us to prepare for worst-case scenarios, to better protect the public."

For further information regarding the drill, please contact, Essex County Office of Emergency Services at their main line at 518-873-3900.

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