



# State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

---

Office of Emergency Services

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Michael A. Ponticiello, Director

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2:30 p.m. April 27, 2018

**County Executive Garnar Signs Executive Order for Volunteer Emergency Responders**  
*Opportunity for County Employees who are Active EMS Volunteers to Respond to Emergencies*

(TOWN OF UNION, NY) Today, Broome County Executive Jason Garnar signed an Executive Order, the first of his term, that allows Broome County employees who are active emergency responders to leave their employment during their workday to respond to emergency events.

Garnar signed the Executive Order at West Corners Fire Station where Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Services Neal Haight is chief of the department. Katie Keefe of the Executive's Office is also a member of the West Corners Fire Department.

“Broome County recognizes the importance of our emergency responders and the great need for more volunteer firefighters and I wanted to take a proactive role in helping our departments to serve and protect the residents of our county,” said Garnar. “Thank you to our department heads for your cooperation to help serve and protect the residents of Broome County.”

This Executive Order allows Broome County employees who are active emergency responders to leave their employment during emergency events where there is potential of immediate danger to life and/or property.

The objective of this Executive Order is to increase the number of responders to serious emergency incidents throughout Broome County at a critical time when volunteer emergency personnel numbers are extremely low. It is also intended to allow volunteer emergency responders to request leave during serious emergency incidents without fear of repercussions at work.

“As challenging as it is for volunteers to maintain a full-time job and support their community, we are happy that we will be able to assist volunteer fire and EMS agencies with daytime response,” said Michael Ponticiello, Director of Emergency Services.

Only those Broome County employees who have been certified as active members by their volunteer fire department or ambulance service chief and pre-approved by their Department Head would be permitted to participate in this program.

Employees eligible for such leave must provide their Department Head written documentation regarding their volunteer status to participate in this program. Employees would be required to use paid vacation, holiday or compensatory leave time if available, to account for absences related to this emergency response absence. If no paid leave time is available, the employee may use unpaid leave.