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Emergency Preparedness Q & A with Chief Richard Wilson

Police Chief Richard T. Wilson
City of Poughkeepsie Police Department
Poughkeepsie, New York

The City of Poughkeepsie is situated midway between New York City to the south and the state capital in Albany to the north. Located along the Hudson River, it has about 32,000 residents. Policing the region is the **City of Poughkeepsie Police Department**, which has 81 officers. We asked **Chief Richard Wilson** to share how he and his department prepare for emergencies.

Here is his response:

General Preparedness

How does your department prepare for natural disasters and large-scale emergencies?

When it comes to preparing for natural disasters and large-scale emergencies, the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department meets regularly and frequently, bringing key personnel to the table to join the discussion. Communication is a key aspect of any emergency preparation.

How often are emergency response plans reviewed and updated?

We review our emergency response plan annually to ensure that it is up to date.

Technology & Resources

How is Patrolfinder critical to your disaster response capabilities? What technologies does Patrolfinder communicate with or integrate with that helps your overall mission?

Patrolfinder will assist in tracking and identifying responding staff as well as positional locations contained on live maps. Patrolfinder will/is communicating with Tyler/New World.

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How does the police department coordinate with other agencies like fire, EMS, and emergency management during a disaster?

We follow a Unified Command approach. Unified Command is a structured approach used when multiple agencies or jurisdictions are involved in emergency response. The goal is to coordinate efforts, establish common objectives and ensure efficient resource allocation. We do this by bringing incident commanders together to work collaboratively. While each agency maintains its own authority and responsibilities, Unified Command establishes a single command structure for the incident, preventing confusion and duplication of effort. While each entity is accountable for its own actions and decisions, the Unified Command ensures that all efforts are coordinated and aligned.

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