

Border Community SERVICE

Special Emergency Response Volunteer Initiative for Community Empowerment

www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

AUGUST 2009

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The Hot Days of Summer*

August can be stifling hot in many parts of the United States. Organize activities to distribute information to ensure that citizens stay healthy during high temperatures, especially targeting low income areas where residents may not have air conditioning or adequate fans. Consider visiting area retirement homes and educate residents on the importance of hydration and keeping cool. Organize fan donations from local business and have volunteers distribute fans to needy residents. Provide local newspapers, television stations and radio stations with relevant information.

Drought often accompanies the summer's high temperatures in many regions of the country. Contact local television and radio meteorologists and encourage them to discuss the importance of water conservation. Consider coordinating with one or more media outlets to organize a local contest to promote water conservation habits – for example, a "dirtiest car" contest would encourage citizens to refrain from washing their car during periods of drought.

*Please visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/themes.shtm> for additional themes and information each month!

Register Today for the “Empowering Volunteers” Conference!

You may register at the “Conference” Page of
www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice

or call 716 286-8388 and leave a message
with your name and telephone number.

BCS to Participate in *Serve New York* Program

Border Community SERVICE and the communities we serve are certain to benefit from the “Year of Service” by Christian Soto, a recent graduate of the University of Buffalo. Christian will work with Border Community SERVICE and its partners to accomplish three important goals that include assessing the needs of the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara region as they relate to having a prepared citizenry; compiling and analyzing data from the needs assessment to use the results to form a comprehensive action plan to meet those needs; and identifying and training a cadre of volunteer community educators who will implement an emergency readiness public information campaign. We're happy that Christian will join BCS in late August and look forward to working with him.

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Border Community SERVICE

Conference for Community Volunteers & Leaders

On Saturday, **August 8th** Border Community SERVICE will host a **FREE** conference for CERT volunteers and community leaders on the Niagara University campus.

We are honored that David Campbell, CEO of Hands on Disaster Response, has agreed to be our keynote speaker. Mr. Campbell, a distinguished graduate of Niagara University, is deeply committed to providing hands-on assistance to survivors of natural disasters around the world and fully understands the power and necessity of volunteer service.

Participants will choose from hands-on skill review sessions and workshops about current community preparedness programs. The afternoon session will include an overview of funded community preparedness initiatives and engage participants in small group discussions about the development of local and regional community preparedness efforts.

Additional conference information as well as online registration are available on the "Conference" page of the Border Community SERVICE website (www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice).

Schedule of Events

- 8:30-9:00 AM Registration
- 9-10:15 AM Keynote Address
- 10:15-10:30 AM Break
- 10:30-11:45 AM Session One - Choice of:
- Preparing to Care for Persons with Special Needs during Emergencies
 - CERT Review: Fire Safety and Light Search & Rescue
 - CERT Review: Emergency Medical Operations
 - REACT: Responding Effectively and Aggressively to Counter Terrorism
- 11:45AM -12:45PM Lunch
- 12:45-2:00 PM Session Two - Choice of:
- Caring for Our Pets in an Emergency
 - CERT Review: Fire Safety and Light Search & Rescue
 - CERT Review: Emergency Medical Operations
 - REACT: Responding Effectively and Aggressively to Counter Terrorism
- 2:00-2:15 PM Break
- 2:15-2:30 PM An Update on CERT and Regional Citizen Corps
- 2:30-3:15 PM Community Feedback Breakout Discussion Session
- 3:15 PM Group Reports and Closing Remarks

Presenters

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

David Campbell
CEO, Hands on Disaster Response
Managing Director, Innovation Advisors

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS:

Dennis Carson
Coordinator, Emergency Services & Homeland Security
Town of Tonawanda Police Department

Nicole Gerber
Grand Island CERT
Grand Island Volunteer Fire Department

Pamela Hylinger
Humane Educator,
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Robert Lutz
Paramedic, Town of Tonawanda Emergency Services

John Moffat
Training Coordinator, WNY Independent Living Project

Stephen M. Stouter, RN, EMT-P
Coordinator, Grand Island CERT

Who Should Attend?

Community members who volunteer with Citizen Corps programs, including CERT, Medical Reserve Corps, and USAonWatch/Neighborhood Watch; and **community leaders** who work closely with volunteers to create better prepared and resilient neighborhoods.

Program Updates!

City of Buffalo

Dana Estrada

716.851.4299

August is shaping up to be conference month. As you are aware, Border Community SERVICE is hosting a conference on Saturday, August 8th entitled, "Empowering Volunteers." The diverse topics will help to better prepare our neighborhoods in the event of disasters by offering proactive measures we can take as community leaders and volunteers. If you've ever had the opportunity to hear our keynote speaker, David Campbell, you know how lucky we are to have him volunteer his time to speak about disaster response. I really hope to have strong representation from our Buffalo contingent.

On August 1st, the City of Buffalo will host the 1st annual, "Citizens Empowerment Conference" at the Buffalo Convention Center. The conference is meant to motivate, inform, and empower residents by offering information on municipal services and community initiatives available in our area. I have been invited to participate in the conference by hosting a workshop on emergency preparedness. The conference is open to all residents of Western New York and individuals can register by visiting www.city-buffalo.com/conference.

On August 25th, the Homeland Security Management Institute & Monroe County Office of Emergency Management will be holding their National Conference which will feature national and local experts presenting on emergency and disaster preparedness for special needs populations. This conference takes place on the campus of Monroe Community College. Please consider joining me in attending all three of these wonderful opportunities.

I had the opportunity to take the three day Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) training program in early July. The course was wonderful and included information on exercise program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation and improvement planning. This training will provide guidance in the development in CERT tabletops, drills, functional and full scale exercises and give us a better way to approach any exercise that we may be asked to be involved with. If you're interested in training courses offered by SEMO check out www.semo.state.ny.us/programs/training/courses and remember to also look at the FEMA website for courses offered online. There are numerous resources for those looking to increase their knowledge base on Homeland Security issues.

I also want to thank The Neighbors Block Club Coalition for hosting a preparedness presentation on July 8th. Also a special thanks to Kelly Krug of the Cazenovia Resource Center Summer Camp and Cornelius Johnson, Jr. of Citizens Alliance for allowing me to bring presentations to younger Buffalonians. I appreciate your willingness to share this important message with the youth of our city. If you would like to host a presentation for your group or organization, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you!

Niagara County

716.286.8010

We are halfway through summer and it's been very exciting for BCS. In a week we will host our "Empowering Volunteers" Conference; a dynamic event that will allow people to enhance their skills, network with other volunteers, and learn more about BCS's future plans. We hope that after the conference our volunteers will be re-energized and ready for new challenges in the fall.

In July some volunteers met to discuss starting a new CERT group in Lockport. The residents who came together were enthusiastic about the potential that CERT has to offer and, in the fall, will hold a second gathering to discuss future meeting and training possibilities.

BCS also formed a new partnership with the YMCA and preparedness presentations were made at several day camps. We are also in the process of finalizing a similar partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara Falls for presentations in August.

BCS Executive Director, Nancy Brennan Blundell, will attend the National Citizen Corps Conference in Arlington, VA during the second week of August. This three and a half day training will give BCS an opportunity to share our program's story, learn more about how other programs are overcoming similar challenges and network with people across the nation. Nancy hopes to return with a lot of new information to share with all of you.

Finally, we want all of you to know that we are in the process of planning some exciting things for National Preparedness Month this September. First, our new web-site will be officially launched and will give our volunteers the opportunity to learn more about upcoming events at Border Community SERVICE and in communities throughout the Buffalo-Erie- Niagara region. We look forward to working with the Cristoforo Columbo Society to host a Block Club Conference in September focused on community and individual emergency preparedness.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference on August 8th! Please register today.

Niagara County Auxiliary Police



Now accepting applications for membership!

Requirements:

- Must be at least 21 years old
- Must be resident of Niagara County
- Must be a citizen of the United States
- Must possess a valid NYS driver's license
- Must possess a high school diploma or G.E.D.
- Must be of good moral character without a felony conviction. (A misdemeanor conviction may also prevent acceptance.)
- Must be able to pass a physical examination
- Must be willing to submit to fingerprinting
- Must consent to a background investigation
- Must be willing to submit to a drug test and be willing to submit to a psychological exam.

Benefits:

- Self-satisfaction in knowing that you are serving your community.
- Excellent experience for those considering a career in law enforcement.
- Many local colleges give credits to criminal justice majors who successfully complete the Auxiliary Police basic training course.
- Part – time New York State peace officer status after completing peace officer academy.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BE A VOLUNTEER.

For more information about the requirements to join, call 716 -438-3176