



Border Community SERVICE
Special Emergency Response Volunteer Initiative
for Community Empowerment
Web: www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice

Niagara University

August 2008

**America's Waterway Watch:
Help the US Coast Guard
keep America safe and secure!**

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America's Waterway Watch

America's Waterway Watch (AWW) is a combined effort of the Coast Guard and its Reserve and Auxiliary components. AWW enlists the active participation of those who live, work or play around America's waterfront areas. Coast Guard Reserve personnel concentrate on connecting with businesses and government agencies, while Auxiliary forces focus on building AWW awareness among the recreational boating public.

America's coasts, rivers, bridges, tunnels, ports, ships, military bases, and waterside industries may be the terrorists' next targets. Though waterway security is better than ever, with more than 95000 miles of shoreline, over 290,000 square miles of water, and approximately 70 million recreational boaters in the United States, the Coast Guard and local first responders can not do the job alone.

America's Waterway Watch is similar to the Coast Watch program of World War II, which caused the early growth of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a group of citizen-volunteers who were mobilized as a uniformed, civilian component of the Coast Guard to scan the coast for U-boats and saboteurs attempting to infiltrate the shores of the United States.

Today, America's Waterway Watch goes one step further: It calls on ordinary citizens like you - who spend much of their on and around America's waterways - to assist in the War on Terrorism on the Domestic Front.

How Community Members Can Help

Watch for vessels and individuals operating in a suspicious manner:

- Under and around bridges, tunnels, or overpasses.
- Near commercial areas like ports, fuel docks, cruise ships, marinas.
- Near military bases and vessels, other government facilities, or security zones.
- Near industrial facilities.

Be aware of activity around sensitive locations, such as:

- People appearing to be engaged in surveillance.
- Unattended vessels or vehicles. Vessels anchored where they shouldn't be.
- Lights flashing between boats.
- Missing fencing or lighting.
- Transfer of people or things between ships.

To report suspicious activity, call the National Response Center at 800-424-8802 or 877-24WATCH. For immediate danger to life or property, call 911.

The Coast Guard has additional materials such as informational brochures, boat decals, and reporting forms in their training courses. For more information, visit AWW at www.AmericasWaterwayWatch.org.

To Contact Border Community SERVICE

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Thanks to CERT Volunteers!!

On August 5th, CERT volunteers traveled to the Pratt Elementary School in Barker, New York to participate in a multi-agency regional exercise sponsored by the New York State Office of Homeland Security to assess response capabilities in NYS. CERT participants included Dorothy Carter, Marianne Evans, Nick D'Agostino, Denise Fischer, Pamela Froese, Joe Highway, Dr. Rocco LaRocca, Michael Majors, David Printup, Lynnor Printup, and Dr. David Taylor.

Dana Estrada
Community Preparedness &
Participation Coordinator
City of Buffalo
716 851-4299



Michael Torrie
Community Preparedness
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Niagara County
716 286-8023

The first organizational meeting of the City of Buffalo CERT was held on July 30th. Over 35 CERT trained City of Buffalo residents came out to reaffirm their commitment to helping the City of Buffalo in the event of an emergency.

Thank you to Roger Lander, Director of Department of Homeland Security for the City of Buffalo; Commissioner Michael Lombardo, Buffalo Fire Department; Captain Pat Mann, Buffalo Police Department; and JT Glass, Erie County Emergency Services Coordinator for their participation and support. A special "thank you" to Ron Christopher, Director of Public Safety at Medaille College for hosting this important meeting.

Continuing with this tremendous momentum, we are planning a follow up meeting in late August and a "Disaster Management Seminar" in partnership with the American Red Cross on September 27th. More information will be forthcoming so please watch your email!

During the last month we've made exciting strides in community preparedness in the City of Buffalo! We've formed an important partnership with the Healthy Neighborhoods Program in the City of Buffalo and reached out to numerous agencies working in Buffalo. In addition, more than two hundred teenage participants in the Mayor's Summer Youth Program have attended preparedness training and nearly 100 younger children have had similar training at summer camps at Cazenovia Resource Center and the Schiller Park Community Center.

As a reminder, interested block clubs, religious organizations, community agencies/centers, schools, and businesses in the City of Buffalo, can contact me at my Buffalo Police Department office by email at destrada@bpd.ci.buffalo.ny.us or by phone at 716 851-4299 to schedule this free emergency preparedness training. Presentations are typically 30 to 40 minutes long and can be modified based on the needs of the host organization. I look forward to hearing from you!

As the end of summer approaches I hope all of you have had the opportunity to enjoy yourselves. July was a very busy and exciting month for the Border Community SERVICE Program in Niagara County.

The most exciting news came on July 22nd when the Niagara County Legislature voted to approve continued funding for our program in 2008-09. This vote will allow the program to continue our efforts in community preparedness and participation throughout Niagara County. I encourage any of you who know of a group who would benefit from hosting a Community Preparedness presentation to please contact me at the Border Community SERVICE office.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in our community events during the month. "Balloons over Niagara" a Bi-Centennial Celebration of Niagara County and the Town of Cambria (July 25-27) and Niagara Falls Crime Night Out (July 29) were both wonderful events. Niagara University was awarded the "Niagara Falls Block Club Council Outstanding Civic Partner Award" during the Niagara Falls Crime Night Out celebration in recognition of outstanding community involvement undertaken by the University.

I hope to see more of you join us as we continue to support events in our community. On August 5th, CERT volunteers will participate in a multi-agency regional exercise sponsored by the NYS Office of Homeland Security to assess response capabilities in NYS. Later that day, Greater NT CERT will participate in National Crime Night Out in North Tonawanda.

Two Skills Enhancement Trainings were offered to Border Community SERVICE Volunteers in July: Basic Traffic Control and American Heart Association CPR with AED. I hope all who attended enjoyed and benefitted from the education they received.

The August Skills Enhancement Training "Moulage Training" will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 6:30pm in Room 201 of St. Vincent's Hall on campus. I encourage all of you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn the skill of applying simulated injuries as it is a wonderful chance to be involved in future disaster simulation drills.

As fall moves closer the Border Community SERVICE program expects to support CERT trainings at four locations. Please encourage anyone who is interested in taking this very valuable course to contact me at 286-8023 or mtorrie@niagara.edu.

"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."
- Vince Lombardi

Community Announcements

Have a Community Event Scheduled?

Please contact Border Community SERVICE with the event information (including: a description, date, times, place/location and contact information). We'll be pleased to add it to the Community Announcement section in our newsletter!

It's easy and FREE publicity! Send event information to Nancy Brennan Blundell at nbb@niagara.edu. Our newsletter is published the first week of every month so please send your submissions early to provide adequate announcement time.

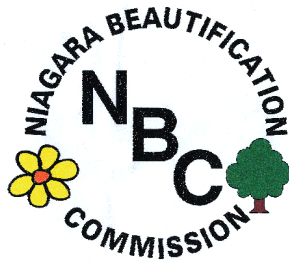
Become a Niagara Beautification Booster!!

Border Community SERVICE volunteers have supported the Niagara Beautification Commission in the past by participating in clean-up and planting efforts.

Now, with a donation of \$10.00 a year, you can be a Niagara Beautification Booster. "By joining, you can help:

- Lessen Litter
- Eliminate Graffiti
- Encourage plantings of flowers, trees and shrubs

Your \$10.00 check, payable to **Niagara Beautification Commission**, can be mailed to: 1609 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14302.



Mark Your Calendar for Skills Enhancement Trainings

Niagara County

The August Skills Enhancement Training "Moulage Training." will be held on **Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 6:30pm** in **St. Vincent's Hall, Room 201**. Moulage is the art of applying simulated wounds and injuries to volunteer "victims" participating in CERT Simulated Disaster Exercise Drills. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn this skill as it is a wonderful chance to be participate in future disaster simulation drills and provide an essential service. Please contact Michael Torrie or watch your email for additional details!

City of Buffalo

A late August City of Buffalo CERT meeting is being planned for city residents at Medaille College. CERT members will engage in team building experiences and neighborhood networking. Dana Estrada will provide additional details as soon as they are available. You can also call Dana (851-4299) for more information.

On **September 27th** there will be a "Disaster Management Seminar" held in partnership with the American Red Cross. Please watch your email for location and time details!

September is National Preparedness Month - Help Kids to Be Ready

Denise Herkey-Jarosch, Regional Program Coordinator of the American Red Cross, suggests these child-centered activities.

Organize a Scavenger Hunt

Encourage kids to search for items to include in an emergency supply kit (bottled water, non-perishable food, flashlight, batteries, radio, whistle, pet food, etc). While the kids hunt for supply kit items, it's a great opportunity to distribute family emergency plan templates to their parents and/or caregivers.

What Is It?

Cut 4-5 holes in a cardboard box and allow children to reach inside to feel for items that should be included in an emergency supply kit. Have 4-6 items inside, e.g. whistle, bottled water, granola bars, flashlight, battery operated radio, etc. Offer a small prize (sticker, candy) to kids who guess the items.

Additional high quality emergency preparedness activities for children are available at www.ready.gov.