

SPECIAL ALERT: CERT Volunteer Opportunity:
First Responder Flu Vaccination POD

The Niagara County Department of Health will conduct a Point of Dispensing Training Exercise from 4 - 7 PM on **Tuesday, December 19** at the **Niagara Falls Fire Department Headquarters**, 3115 Walnut Ave. at Hyde Park Blvd. CERT Volunteers please call 205-0070 to volunteer if you're available to assist in delivering flu shots to Niagara Falls' first responder community of fire fighters and police officers. A bonus...your flu shot will be free too!

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Our Final Grant Extension!

Border Community SERVICE has received more great news from our funding agency! We're delighted to announce that the Corporation for National and Community Service has approved another three (3) month extension for our grant! Originally scheduled to conclude at the end of September and then extended to the end of December, Border Community SERVICE can continue its training and community preparedness efforts until **March 31, 2007!** Regrettably, this is the final extension we'll be able to receive and BCS sponsored training will conclude in a few short months.

Extended plans still include additional CERT trainings in Erie and Niagara Counties, a disaster training exercise for the Niagara University community, additional community education presentations, and business preparedness training. In the last 3 months of the grant, we will also schedule our final **Community First**

Aid & Safety classes.

Before we say farewell, our biggest goal is to help to create community structures for the hundreds of CERT volunteers. Our overall goal is sustainability for the programs we've worked very hard to get up and running in the past several years.

Please note that our grant extension budget has **no funds for CPR recertification** through the American Red Cross. For those who were previously certified, "Family and Friends CPR Anytime" kits are available. The kit enables volunteers to practice and maintain skills for a long time to come. It also allows you to share information with family members and others.

Call 205-0070 to arrange to pick up your "Family and Friends CPR Anytime" kit.

Border Community SERVICE

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Happy Holidays to our wonderful
volunteers and
community partners!



Home Fire Safety Tips!



Here are some fire safety tips from the American Red Cross. During this time of year, it is essential to remember the importance of fire safety and how your family plans for it. Many fires during the holiday season begin with dry Christmas trees or overloaded electrical outlets. Please use caution when decorating. Additional fire prevention and planning tips can be found at www.redcross.org or by calling your local fire department.

Make Your Home Fire Safe

- Install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home.
- If your family sleeps with doors closed, install smoke alarms inside sleeping areas, too.
- Check each smoke alarm once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace all batteries at least once a year.
- Vacuum away cobwebs and dust from your smoke alarms.
- Smoke alarms become less sensitive over time. Replace your smoke alarms every ten years.
- Consider having one or more fire extinguishers in your home. Get training in how to use them.

Plan Your Escape Routes

- Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.
- Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on second or third floors. Learn how to use them and store them near the window.
- Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.

Escape Safely

- Once you are out, stay out! Call the fire department from a neighbor's home.
- If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out. If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.
- If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door as close to the top as you can reach before opening it. If it is warm, use your second way out.
- If smoke, heat, or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.

Did you know...

Community Blue health insurance pays for Community First Aid and Safety training. For volunteers who have this insurance, if you hold certifications that will expire after our program ends or are unable to complete your training before we end, you are eligible to receive this training at no cost!

For those with Independent Health insurance, Independent Health will pay \$10 towards the cost of these trainings.

Volunteer Opportunities



We are an organization of trained emergency preparedness volunteers. The program goal is to have volunteers provide four hours or more of community service each month. Here are several opportunities for volunteering:

Local Red Cross Chapter BCS provides training with 3 local chapters of the American Red Cross. Your local Chapter needs volunteers to assist with various programs and activities. Please contact your local Chapter if interested. If you are unsure which Chapter to contact, please call us. Report all hours of ARC time to us.

Project Linus provides blankets to seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need children. Volunteers are needed to create blankets and help gather financial support. Contact the WNY Chapter at (716) 627 - 3883 or e-mail plwny@adelphia.net to offer your help with this worthy effort.

Niagara Medical Reserve Corps The NMRC is a group of medical personnel (doctors, dentist, pharmacists, and nurses) willing to augment available medical personnel in the event of an emergency. The NMRC meets monthly for training. Please call our office for more information.

NYS Animal Response Team

NYSART promotes and supports the creation of County Animal Response Teams (CARTs). Attend a NYSART orientation and become a volunteer. People are needed with various skills, expertise, and resources. NYSART volunteers will have priority consideration for available training, and will participate in planning, preparedness, and response activities. Contact the NYS Dept of Agriculture & Markets, Division of Animal Industry, Attn: David Chico, 10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235.

If you know of any volunteer activities appropriate for BCS volunteers and would like to include us, please contact Nola with that information.

Please remember Border Community SERVICE must report any and all volunteer hours to our funding agency. Please maintain a personal log of your volunteer hours. Our office sends a monthly reminder to report hours accrued. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance!

CERT Trainings

Register and tell others about these final opportunities for CERT Training

Several CERT trainings have been scheduled and more are being planned to begin in January. If you haven't taken CERT Training, please register now. Spread the word and encourage others to enroll by calling our office at 205-0070.

Cambria

The Cambria Volunteer Fire Department will present a course on Thursday evenings from January 11 through February 22 at the Cambria Volunteer Fire Hall (Cambria-Wilson Road) from 6:30 - 9:30 PM. The final simulation exercise is planned for Saturday, February 24 or March 3 from 9 AM to 2 PM. A specific date will be announced at training.

Niagara University

A training for Niagara University students, faculty, and staff is planned. Availability permitting, this series will be opened up to

the community. Classes begin on Saturday, January 20, 2007 from 9 AM to NOON. Classes run every Saturday, 9 AM to 3:30 PM through February 10, 2007. The final simulation exercise is Saturday, February 17 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Classes will be held in Dunleavy Hall, Room 127.

Grand Island

The Grand Island Fire Company will present a course on Thursday evenings from January 11 through February 22 at the Grand Island Fire Hall (Baseline Road) from 6:30 - 9:30 PM. The final simulation exercise is Saturday, February 24 from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Several other CERT trainings are in the planning stages for Niagara and Erie Counties! Watch your e-mail or call BCS for details.