

## Carbon Monoxide: an Invisible Hazard



Fire isn't the only hazard lurking in your home. Carbon monoxide, an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas, is just as dangerous, if not more dangerous, than open flames.

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of many things. Generators, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices should never be used inside a home, basement, garage, or camper - or even outside near an open window.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible killer. Because of its ambiguous nature, the toxic gas causes nearly 500 unintentional, non-fire related deaths a year. In the recent snowstorm in WNY, three senior citizens died of carbon monoxide poisoning while trying to keep themselves warm with generators. There were an additional 230 cases of carbon monoxide poisoning in Erie County alone.

To prevent carbon monoxide related emergencies, you should equip your home with at least one carbon monoxide detector that has a battery backup. Be sure to change the battery once a year. In fact, make it routine to test and change the battery when you test and change the batteries in your fire alarms.

Other tips for preventing poisoning are:

- Never use a gas range or oven to heat a home.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.
- Never run a gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure, even if the doors or windows are open.
- Keep vents and flues free of debris.
- Never run a motor vehicle, generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine outside an open window, door, or vent where exhaust can vent into an enclosed area.
- Never leave the motor running in a vehicle parked in an enclosed or partially enclosed space, such as a garage.

Volunteers are encouraged to check on elderly neighbors who may use alternative heating sources. Share this information with friends, family, and neighbors. There is serious cause for concern with carbon monoxide.

For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-311-3435.

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### Thanks, Volunteers!!

The "October Surprise" resulted in hardship for many Western New York residents. We were very proud and grateful to hear how volunteers trained by Border Community SERVICE programs so generously worked to lessen the hardships of our community. Thanks!

## Volunteer Opportunities



Most of you know that 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. To help you, here are several opportunities for volunteer service.

**Local Red Cross Chapter** BCS provides training in partnership with three local chapters of the American Red Cross: Niagara Falls Chapter, Greater Buffalo, and Eastern Niagara County Chapter in Lockport. Your local Chapter needs volunteers to assist with blood drives, provide office support, train to become a member of the local Disaster Assistance Program and to support the important work of the ARC in many other ways. Please contact your local Chapter if interested. If you are unsure which Chapter to contact, please call us. Please report all hours of ARC volunteer time to us as Border Community SERVICE hours.

**Project Linus** Project Linus, a not-for-profit program, provides handmade blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. Volunteers are needed to donate their time to create blankets and to help gather financial support. To volunteer, contact the Western New York Chapter of Project Linus at (716) 627 - 3883 or e-mail [plwny@adelphia.net](mailto: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.

**New York State Animal Response Team** NYSART promotes and supports the creation of County Animal Response Teams (CARTs). Attend a NYSART orientation and become a NYSART volunteer. People are needed with varying 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 that, as a condition of funding, Border Community SERVICE must report any and all volunteer hours to our funding agency. Please maintain a personal log of any volunteer hours you might have. Our office sends a monthly reminder to report any hours accrued. Thank you for your cooperation!

## “Family and Friends CPR Anytime”

“Family and Friends CPR Anytime” kits have arrived and they’re even better than we expected. If you have not picked yours up, or made other arrangements for it, please do so today!

Kits are available first to those who reserved them and then on a first come - first served basis. The kits will be given only to those volunteers who earned CPR certification previously. Once the kits are gone, they’re gone!

The kit will enable volunteers to practice and maintain CPR skills for a long time to come. It also allows you to share information with family members and others. Please call 205-0070 to arrange to pick up your “Family and Friends CPR Anytime” kit.

## Basic Volunteer Training

Volunteer training in "Community First Aid & Safety" and "Together We Prepare" is underway in the **Tuscarora Nation**. We hope to offer this training very soon in the **Town of Amherst**.

Volunteers who are missing training components are encouraged to complete their training. All volunteers should complete the train-the-trainer course for "Together We Prepare" and this is an excellent time to do so.

All classes are open to new volunteers. If you have friends, neighbors or colleagues who are interested in joining our volunteer program, encourage them to call us at 716 205-0070 or to enroll online at: [www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice](http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice). **Pre-registration is required.**

## Did you know...?

**Border Community SERVICE Project fun figures:**

About **3200 households** have received first aid kits after community emergency preparedness programs?

About **400 individuals** have participated in volunteer training offered by Border Community SERVICE?

About **250 volunteers** have completed CERT Training sponsored by Border Community SERVICE in Erie County and Niagara County?

About **300 persons** attended the 2006 Bi-National Emergency Preparedness Conference, a 50% increase in attendance from the **200 persons** who attended the 2005 Bi-National Emergency Preparedness Conference.

These accomplishments all resulted from the grant from the **Corporation for National and Community Service**.

## Advanced Level Trainings—CERT

CERT trainings are underway in Elma-Marilla, Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda and at Medaille College.

Please watch for announcements of future trainings and check our website for information regarding Border Community SERVICE sponsored trainings as well as CERT trainings being sponsored by the Town of Tonawanda PD and the Erie County Department of Emergency Services.

An extension of our grant period will allow us to plan additional CERT trainings. Please share this information with family, friends, and colleagues who may be interested in CERT. Encourage them to enroll by calling our office (716 205-0070).

### Lockport

CERT classes will meet from 9 am - 2 pm on Saturdays November 4 to December 9 (no class on 11/28) at the Rapids Fire Company Hall, located at 7195 Plank Road in the Town of Lockport. A disaster training exercise is planned on Saturday, December 9, 9 am - 2 pm. It's not too late to join this class.

### Scheduled CERT Training Exercises:

**November 11: Medaille College CERT**

**December 2: Niagara Falls CERT**

**December 2: North Tonawanda CERT**

**December 9: Rapids Fire Dept., Town of Lockport**

## Skills Enhancement Trainings

Skills Enhancement Trainings are **FREE** monthly trainings and a great opportunity for volunteers to expand their knowledge and skills. We expect to provide a training during the last week of November. You can expect to receive an e-mail announcement about the November training very soon. Volunteers without e-mail should call the office for training details

We'd also like to hear suggestions from our volunteers for future trainings. What topics interest you?

Please let us know if topics such as The Art of Moulage, Preparing for Pandemic Flu, NIMS Training, Building a Volunteer Portfolio, Emergency Communications, or Defensive Tactics interest you. Just send us an e-mail ([nch@niagara.edu](mailto:nch@niagara.edu)) or call us at 716 205-0070.