

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

Niagara University

October 2007



Remember the "October Surprise"? Many families in Western New York struggled through days without electricity, heat, or phone service. To commemorate those eventful days, the Greater Buffalo Chapter of the American Red Cross has organized an extraordinary emergency preparedness information fair. "Storm the Mall" will take place on Saturday, October 6 from 10 AM to 6 PM at the Eastern Hills Mall on Transit Road in Clarence.

A professional staging company will change the appearance of the mall to that of a storm damaged town. Children are the focus of the day. Each child will receive a "passport" that

will be stamped after activities are completed. Passport can be turned in for wonderful prizes, which include a \$1000 scholarship from First Niagara Bank!

Border Community SERVICE has been invited to participate in wonderful community event. We need volunteers to staff our information table, hand out information, answer training questions, and offer a readiness activity for children.

Interested volunteers should contact the BCS office at 716 205-0070 or by email at nbb@niagara.edu.

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Border Community SERVICE

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Family Drills: A Real Adventure!

Is your family prepared for a disaster? If you've packed an emergency supplies kit, created a communications plan, and discussed ways to shelter in place or evacuate, that's great!

Planning is important but only a rehearsal will identify any flaws in your plans. Please consider trying these suggestions:

- Surprise your family with an unannounced trip. Give your family 20 minutes to pack and then leave ready or not! Drive 100 miles and stay in a hotel. At your destination, make a list of everything you forgot.
- Try a weekend without electricity by shutting off the breaker. Cook your food over a fire in the yard or eat cold foods.

- Go for a drive one afternoon and surprise everyone with a stop at a remote area and spend the night there with only the items in your car. By morning you will know what items you need in your car emergency kit.
- Will your survival foods last a whole weekend? Try to live a whole week using only foods in your pantry and your stored water supply.
- Try a fire drill at 2 AM. No electric lights allowed.

These adventures may seem a little extreme but each one will help identify missing supplies, useless items, or insufficient plans. Better to find out now during a practice drill rather than later during an emergency!

CERT Meetings Announced!

Each of the three **Niagara County CERT** Groups have scheduled general membership meetings. **Please attend!**

Central Niagara County CERT

Thursday, October 11, 2007 (7:00 - 9:30 PM)

Cambria Volunteer Fire Company
4631 Cambria-Wilson Road, Cambria

Greater North Tonawanda CERT

Saturday, October 20, 2007 (9:00 - 11:30 AM)

Fisherman's Park on River Road
North Tonawanda

Greater Niagara Falls CERT

Saturday, November 3, 2007 (9:30 AM - Noon)

Niagara Falls Public Library
1425 Main Street, Niagara Falls

Community Events for Children & Their Families

Saturday, October 6th : "Storm the Mall," an emergency preparedness information fair especially for children. 10 AM to 6 PM at Eastern Hills Mall on Transit Road in Clarence.

Saturday, October 6th : PLWW's 10th Annual Kids Safety Day, 11 AM to 3 PM at the Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club, 725 17th Street, Niagara Falls.

We Need Your Help! Please Volunteer.

Storm the Mall

Saturday, October 6

Your help is urgently needed! We've been asked to participate in "Storm the Mall" a wonderful emergency preparedness event, especially for children and their families. We need your help! See story on Page 1.

Niagara Falls Veterans Memorial Park

Architectural assistance is needed in the planning process for the new Niagara Falls Veterans Memorial Park. If you have any experience and some time to donate to help create the drawings, contact Mike Rimmen at mrinnen@sysr.com

Important Conference Announcement!

We regret to announce that the 2007 "Crossing Borders" **Emergency Preparedness Conference** has been **postponed** from the Wednesday & Thursday, October 31 & November 1, 2007 dates. We apologize for any inconvenience. New dates will be announced soon when the conference is rescheduled in late winter or early spring 2008.

Conference updates will be posted at the **conference website**: <http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice/2007-conference.htm>. Please share this information.

Training Opportunities

American Red Cross

Saturday, November 3 (9AM—4:30 PM)

Eastern Niagara County Chapter'

637 Davison Road, Lockport

The Eastern Niagara County Chapter of the American Red Cross (Lockport) has scheduled **free** emergency preparedness training. Lunch will be provided.

Training topics include:

- "Introduction to the American Red Cross"
- "Mass Care"
- "Shelter Operation"

A day of training can greatly enhance personal preparedness and can lead to joining an American Red Cross Disaster Action Team. Please consider registering to attend this comprehensive emergency training: **Call 716-434-8876 to register.**

County Animal Response Team

This course overviews of the types of disasters that can affect animals, why it is important to plan for animals, New York State Animal Response Teams, County Animal Response Teams (CART), and the Incident Command System. The course is designed for new members or those who are interested in joining a CART, or other individuals interested in helping people and animals in the event of an emergency. The course is free and open to the public. To register, visit <http://www.ualbanycphp.org/learning/default.cfm>.