

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

Niagara University

October 2008

Page Two:

- City of Buffalo, Niagara County & Town of Tonawanda Updates

Page Three:

- Community Announcements
- Skills Enhancement Trainings
- 2-1-1 Program

Page Four:

- National CERT Newsletter
- New NYS Preparedness Website

Border Community SERVICE

Faculty Advisor

David B. Taylor, PhD

Director

Nancy Brennan Blundell
nbb@niagara.edu
716.286.8304

Coordinators:

Nola Cornett
nch@niagara.edu
716.286.8316

City of Buffalo

Dana Estrada
destrada@bpdny.org
716.851.4299

Niagara County

Michael Torrie
mtorrie@niagara.edu
716.286.8023

OFFICE INFORMATION:

Phone: 716.286.8010
FAX: 716.286.8016

Office Location:

O'Shea Hall, Room B14
Niagara University

Mailing Addresses:

Niagara County:
PO Box 2040
Niagara University, NY
14109-2040

City of Buffalo:
74 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

CERT Training Information

Nancy Brennan Blundell offered information about CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) to attendees at Niagara County's Safety and Wellness Fair, held at Grace Lutheran Church in North Tonawanda on October 4 and sponsored by Niagara County Legislator Pete Smolinski. Border Community SERVICE (Special Emergency Response Volunteer Initiative for Community Empowerment) of Niagara University offers community preparedness training including free CERT courses. For more information, please contact our office or visit www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice.



City of Buffalo

A CERT course for City of Buffalo residents is being held at the Martha Mitchell Community Center, 175 Oakmont, in the Kenfield/Langfield neighborhood of Buffalo. More than forty (40) Buffalo residents are enrolled. This first CERT course for Buffalo residents was made possible by a remarkable partnership of community members interested in making this training available and highly qualified instructors willing to teach the eight (8) class course on Monday evenings (6:30-9:30 PM) starting **Monday, September 29** and ending **November 17**. The training will conclude with a simulated disaster training exercise on **Saturday, November 22**.

City of Buffalo residents who are interested in future CERT courses should contact Dana Estrada at 851-4299 or destrada@bpdny.org.

Niagara County

The first City of Lockport CERT course is being held at the Dale Association Senior Center, 33 Ontario Street in Lockport. The Thursday evening course (6:30 - 9:30PM) began **Thursday, October 2, 2008** and will end on **November 20**. A course review and

simulated disaster training exercise will take place on **Saturday, November 22** at Locks Plaza. The City of Lockport Police and Fire Departments have partnered with BCS to offer this course under the experienced leadership of Howard Morgan.

Niagara County residents who are interested in future CERT trainings are asked to contact Michael Torrie at mtorrie@niagara.edu or 716 286-8023 .

New York Power Authority

The New York Power Authority will partner with Border Community SERVICE to offer CERT training to employees at NYPA during the week of October 27-31. The course will both enhance employee preparedness at their workplace and community preparedness where they live.

Town of Tonawanda

The Town of Tonawanda has tentatively scheduled a CERT course on Wednesday nights beginning October 22, 2008. For more information, please contact Nancy Brennan Blundell at 716 286-8304 or nbb@niagara.edu.

Important Reminder of Monthly Trainings for CERT Volunteers (See Page 3)

Niagara County: US Coast Guard Station (Ft. Niagara) on Thursday, October 16 (6:30 PM)

City of Buffalo: Meals on Wheels on Wednesday, October 22 (6:30 PM)

City of Buffalo

Dana Estrada

Community Preparedness
& Participation Coordinator

716 851-4299



Niagara County

Michael Torrie

Community Preparedness
& Participation Coordinator

716 286-8023

October is raking leaves, pumpkins, apple cider and...winter storms?!? The truth is, we never know what's right around the corner. We all can recall our personal circumstances during the October 13th storm and the way our lives and communities were impacted. Most of us went through a few days without our normal comforts while others spent a couple of weeks without power. After it was all said and done, we shared stories with friends and families about how we 'weathered' the storm. But many of us never stopped to ask, "Did our preparedness behavior change? Are we any better prepared to go through another, perhaps more devastating, storm?"

Many people put off creating a home emergency preparedness kit for several reasons: they believe they will get to it another day, an event is unlikely to occur to their family or it is too costly to assemble the necessary materials. As we've seen in the last few years, weather is fairly unpredictable. No one ever thought a snow storm would sweep through our area in mid-October to be quickly followed by a warm day which caused flooding. We also couldn't imagine that the hurricane that affected Galveston, TX would impact us with 40 mile per hour winds a day after making landfall so far away. Emergency supply kits do not have to be expensive. Goods and materials can be assembled over the course of a week or two. Many items can be picked up for less than a dollar at grocery stores or discount stores. Stockpiling some water for your family (a gallon a day per family member is recommended) is free and easy using clean 2 liter pop bottles. There is no better day than today to start assembling your family's emergency preparedness kit. An hour of your time will save you countless hours of anxiety and frustration later.

For more information on how you can prepare your family and community for an emergency contact me by email at destrada@bpd.ci.buffalo.ny.us or at 716 851-4299. I look forward to hearing from you!

The fall season is here. It is time to check our disaster supply kits. We will miss having our summer clothing in our kits but colder weather dictates the need for change. Please remember to check items that have expiration dates, like medications, and replace them if expired. Don't forget to check the batteries in flashlights. A helpful hint for flashlight storage: place the last battery in backwards for storage so if the flashlight accidentally gets left on in the storage kit your batteries will not run down.

Thanks to those who participated in the "Preparing the Presenter" Skills Enhancement training in September. I look forward to having you help spread the Preparedness message throughout Niagara County. As promised, I have scheduled Skills Enhancement trainings for the final quarter of the year:

Thursday October 16, 2008 - Local Maritime Security,

6:30pm at the US Coast Guard Station Niagara
(Fort Niagara State Park in Youngstown)

Saturday November 8, 2008 - Shelter Management

Time and Location to be announced

Thursday December 18, 2008

American Heart Association CPR and AED,

6:30pm -9:30pm Location to be announced

Please save these dates for these great trainings, I will get final information to you as soon as I have it.

CERT Training is moving forward in Niagara County. The City of Lockport Training began **October 2nd** at the Dale Association Senior Center. The Border Community SERVICE Program will also coordinate a CERT Training at the New York State Power Authority in October.

We are working in the City of Niagara Falls to establish a CERT Leadership group that will move the Niagara Falls program forward. There are preliminary plans to offer a CERT course in the Town of Wheatfield. We will be working with the Town's Fire Advisory Board on a January Training. There are more plans in the process for CERT Training. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to take this valuable training. Anyone who is interested should be encouraged to go to the Border Community SERVICE website and submit a volunteer enrollment form.

Community Announcements

Do you have a Community Event scheduled?

Please contact Border Community SERVICE with event information (a brief event 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! Please send event information to Nancy Brennan Blundell at nbb@niagara.edu. Our newsletter is published the first week of every month. Plan ahead and send your submissions early to provide adequate announcement time.

2-1-1 Program Launched to Assist Residents Needing Information!

In July 2000, the Federal Communications Commission assigned the three digit phone number 2-1-1 as the designated number for people to call when looking for information on health and human services.

In February 2008, Central Referral Service Inc. partnered with the United Way Buffalo and Erie County, the United Ways representing Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties, the American Red Cross, the Wyoming County Community Action Inc., brought this service to Western New York.

2-1-1 WNY will work closely with local emergency agencies to provide as inclusive as a list as possible. It is a state-wide effort and will be linked to other 2-1-1 centers

across New York. It is different than 911, which is for emergencies. 2-1-1 is for informational purposes and makes it possible for people in need to navigate the large amount of resources available.

2-1-1 provides callers in need with information about and referrals to human services such as basic human needs (food banks, clothing closets, shelters); physical and mental health resources; work support; support for individuals with disabilities and older Americans; children, youth and family support; and volunteer opportunities and donations. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is free, confidential and offered in multiple languages.

For additional information, visit www.211wny.org.

Skills Enhancement Trainings!

All Border Community SERVICE volunteers are welcome at all trainings. RSVP as indicated.

City of Buffalo

Wednesday, October 22nd, 6:30pm

Learn about the Meals on Wheels emergency plan and receive training to potentially assist the organization during an emergency. Many Meals on Wheels volunteers are seniors who may themselves be greatly impacted by severe inclement weather. This training will be at the Meals on Wheels facility in Buffalo.

Contact **Dana Estrada** at **851-4299**
or destrada@bpdny.org to register.

Niagara County

Thursday, October 16 (6:30PM-9PM)

“Local Maritime Security” will be presented at the US Coast Guard Station Niagara in Fort Niagara State Park in Youngstown, New York.

Please contact **Michael Torrie** at **286-8023**

or

mtorrie@niagara.edu to register.

Inaugural Edition of the NEW “CERT National Newsletter”

The CERT National Program Office recently issued the first issue of the "CERT National Newsletter." The publication will offer updates on the program, highlight successes of local programs and provide valuable information for current and prospective CERT programs.

The National CERT Newsletter will be published quarterly. Local CERT organizations may submit articles about their team. Some story ideas to consider: Your CERT in Action – CERT activations in emergency or non-emergency community service projects; CERT exercises you have conducted; a

CERT member who has acted above and beyond the call of duty; community awards or commendations your CERT Program or teams have received; or innovative ways you have dealt with challenges in your CERT Program. Publication is based on a variety of factors; there are strict guidelines. Please check the newsletter for more information.

For additional information or to subscribe for email delivery of this important newsletter, please visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/newsletter.shtm>

New and Improved New York State “Aware/Prepare” Website!

In September, as part of National Preparedness Month, New York State unveiled its new preparedness website: <http://www.nyprepare.gov>.

The state's revamped preparedness website offers “one-stop shopping” for New Yorkers to obtain safety information online. It hosts large amounts of information as well as links to agency web pages such as the Office of Homeland Security, the New York State Emergency Management Office (NYS SEMO), the Department of Health, the Division of State Police, the Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Department of Insurance, the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Visitors to the site will be able to view and download important information and publications for natural disasters, terrorism-related events, and critical health safety information in addition to crime prevention publications. The site links to the Department of Homeland Security's Ready page and offers information for children through its “Ready Kids” site. Businesses can also find critical information on developing continuity operations plans, safety information for employees and other business-related material.

Please visit <http://www.nyprepare.gov> today and explore its options! Preparedness is something that should be practiced 365 days a year, not just during the time set aside as National Preparedness Month!

Congratulations to BCS Volunteer Dr. Maria Crea!

Dr. Maria Crea Smith was awarded the YWCA of Niagara Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2008 Niagara Awards. The awards began in 1997 as a way to recognize local women whose outstanding contributions to their respective fields are worthy of recognition by their peers. Dr. Crea has spent the better part of 50 years serving the Niagara community in various capacities, including as a long-time Border Community SERVICE volunteer and co-commander of the Niagara County Medical Reserve Corps. Congratulations again and thank you for your dedication!