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

INSIDE
Page 2: Niagara County Update; Amateur Radio Course
Page 3: City of Buffalo and Town of Tonawanda Updates

ADVANCED CERT TRAININGS ANNOUNCED

ARC Shelter Operations and Mass Care Training at Niagara University on Saturday, January 9, 2010

The American Red Cross /Niagara County Chapter and Border Community SERVICE will partner from 9am until 4pm on Saturday, January 9, 2010 to offer two courses intended to prepare CERT volunteers for service when meeting the needs of people displaced as a result of a disaster. The course is free.

Shelter Operations is an instructor-led, basic level course designed to give participants and overview of the ARC policies and procedures for setting up, running, and closing a shelter during a disaster. The course includes lecture and group exercises. It is 3 hours in length.

Mass Care Overview involves video segments, instructor lectures and classroom activities and is intended to provide an overview of Mass Care group activities in support of a disaster relief operation. This course is also three hours in length.

All CERT volunteers in the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara region are invited to attend. Please register at http://www.niagara.edu/mass-care/ or call Steve Morgan at 286-8023 or smorgan@niagara.edu.

January 13, 2010: “Be Prepared for Winter Driving Conditions” the topic of American Automobile Association Speakers in Buffalo

AAA Western & Central New York and Border Community SERVICE will offer important information about being prepared for safe winter driving from 6 to 7:30 pm on Wednesday, January 9, 2010 in the lecture hall of the main classroom building at Medaille College.

All CERT volunteers in the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara region are invited to attend. Please contact Dana Estrada at 716.851.4299 or destrada@bpdny.org to register.

January 21, 2010: “Moulage: The Art of Applying Mock Injuries” Stephen Stouter will lead a Participatory Workshop in Tonawanda

Have you ever wondered how the Grand Island CERT Moulage Team works its magic? Learn to moulage the “victims” of simulated disaster training exercises when Stephen Stouter leads this participatory workshop from 7-9pm in the Tonawanda Fire Tower classroom on Thursday, January 21, 2010. All CERT volunteers in the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara region are invited. Please contact Jess Martin at 286.8306 or jmartin@niagara.edu to register.
Recently, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launch a seasonal update of their “Ready American” program Resolve to be Ready 2010. The message is simple: 1) Get a Kit, 2) Make A Plan and 3) Be Informed. An alternative one step version is the Boy Scout Motto, “Be Prepared”. This message is shared often by Border Community SERVICE and emergency preparedness professionals, and it’s important.

The New Year gives all of us an opportunity to review our accomplishments in 2009 and plan (resolve to) for the coming year. Good resolutions might include a review of your personal emergency plan or, if you haven’t written one yet, MAKE a personal or family emergency plan.

Step #1 - Get a Kit: Preparedness experts state that you can expect to be on your own during and after a disaster for up to three days, so you should plan for that possibility. Adequate food, water, health, hygienic needs and environmental comfort should all be considered when planning your kit. Make sure that you kit includes all the tools and implements (e.g. a can opener) that you will need to utilize your disaster kit. Everyone, but especially people with special needs, pets and the elderly, should consider tailoring their kit to their own needs. Specific details can be found at http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html. You can also write or call Border Community SERVICE to request the Ready.gov brochures.

Step #2 - Make a Plan: The planning process begins with your thought, progresses to writing it out, continues by sharing it with family and friends and reviewing it, and finally revising it on a regular basis. The family plan should include identifying an out of town contact who each member can check in with if family members get separated. Having an out of town contact provides a central contact point unaffected by disaster and unaffected by local communications network failures. The plan should also include a central meeting place, local emergency contacts, and lists of family items and information that are most important to secure. Subscribing to alerting services, such as nyalert.gov, can provide timely information regarding disaster operations in your area.

Step #3 - Be Informed: Alerting services and commercial radio (AM/FM bands) can provide important information to assist your decision making in times of disaster. Fresh and charged batteries or devices powered by hand crank or solar cells can provide valuable information even when the power is out. Decisions that you make to shelter in place or evacuate may have dramatic, long term effects on personal and family well-being.

We live in the best, most prepared, and powerful country in the world; yet, our nation’s success in managing disaster situations largely depends on the preparations of each citizen and their willingness to do the right thing as a team. As Margaret Mead is quoted as saying “Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else” and “A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Please “Resolve to be Ready” in 2010 and enjoy a safe and Happy New Year.

Amateur Radio Course: Everybody Likes (a) Ham

Niagara County Project Coordinator, Steve Morgan (KC2WBW) and a group of CERT volunteers with amateur radio licenses are planning to conduct an amateur radio pre-licensing course early in 2010. The initial course will help interested CERT volunteers to successfully pass the “Technician” Class or entry level licensing exam. A successful course and interest may lead to future programs to assist with the “General” and “Amateur Extra” licensing process.

Amateur (HAM) radio operators who join and work with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and other organizations provide a variety of emergency and special event communications services throughout the area and the country. If you are interested in attending the Technician Class course please contact Steve Morgan (smorgan@niagara.edu) or at (716) 286-8023. More information about amateur radio and links to ARES and RACES can be found at http://www.arrl.org
As many of you know I returned to work on November 30th after the arrival of my daughter, Claire. Thank you for all of your well wishes. We are truly blessed and have so much to be thankful for during this holiday season.

On Wednesday January 13th, at 6pm, AAA of Western New York will be presenting Emergency Preparedness for Travel and Winter Emergency Car Care. This meeting will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Main Building at Medaille College and is open to all so feel free to invite family and friends. Free parking is abundant at Medaille and it is easily accessible by public transportation as well.

We’re also setting up a new CERT course in the City of Buffalo. The training will begin the fourth week of January and will take place on the West Side. If you know of anyone that is interested in CERT training, please look for more details to be announced or give me a call. We are excited that we are finally able to offer CERT in the City of Buffalo once again!

As you know, a neighborhood that is well prepared and working together makes for a stronger community. I am quickly filling up my calendar for January and February but still have many dates available for emergency preparedness presentation. If you are a member of a block club, community agency/center, religious organization, school or business in the City of Buffalo please contact me to schedule a free emergency preparedness presentation for your members. I can be reached at (716) 851-4299 or via email at destrada@bpdny.org.

Best wishes for a wonderful new year!

---

Border Community SERVICE welcomes Jessica Martin to its staff as Town of Tonawanda Citizen Corps coordinator. Jess is a volunteer fire fighter and certified EMT Basic with the Upper Mountain Volunteer Fire Company in Lewiston, NY. She is also a Volunteer First Aid Instructor with the Red Cross. As a member of the Kissing Bridge Ski Patrol, Jess assesses injured skiers’ needs, provides first aid, and contacts local ambulance services. Jess will graduate from Niagara University in May 2010 with dual Bachelor’s of Science degrees awarded by the Departments of Criminal Justice and International Studies. Jess can be contacted at 716-286-8306 or jmartin@niagara.edu.

A Town of Tonawanda CERT Board meeting has been scheduled on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7pm in the Fire Tower classroom. All CERT trained residents of the Town of Tonawanda are welcome to be present.

There will be a Town of Tonawanda general CERT meeting at 7:00pm on Monday, February 1 in the Sheridan-Parkside Auditorium. The agenda for that meeting includes a presentation by on Electro-Magnetic Pulse (EMP) that was the subject of a recent conference in Niagara Falls. EMP is a burst of electromagnetic radiation that results from an explosion (especially a nuclear explosion) or a suddenly fluctuating magnetic field.

EMP is one of a small number of threats that can hold our society at risk of catastrophic consequences. The common element that may produce such an impact from EMP is primarily electronics, an element that is so pervasive in all aspects of our society and military, coupled through critical infrastructures. Many believe that our vulnerability is increasing daily as our use of and dependence on electronics continues to grow. The presentation portion of the meeting is open to the public. Because all attendees will receive an informational disc, please register by contacting Jess at 716-286-8306 or jmartin@niagara.edu to reserve your spot.

Many thanks to CERT volunteers who helped at the H1N1 Flu PODs in Tonawanda on December 11 and December 28! Thank you, too, to the Town of Tonawanda CERT members who assisted at the St. Amelia’s food and toy drive on December 15, 2009. Their assistance was much appreciated as the church was able to assist approximately 200 families.

Please watch your emails and future newsletters for additional information regarding an American Heart Association CPR & AED training course in February. More details will be announced as they become available.