Spread the Word: A CERT Courses will begin on February 15 in the Town of Wheatfield (A City of Buffalo CERT Course started on February 3!)

A Niagara County CERT course will begin Monday, February 15 at the Town of Wheatfield Community Center. The class will meet on six consecutive Monday evenings (6:30-9:30pm) through March 22 and on two Saturdays: March 6 (9am-3pm) and March 27 (9am-2pm). Please contact Steve Morgan, Niagara County Project Coordinator, at smorgan@niagara.edu or at 716-286-8023 for more information.

Online enrollment and information about CERT and other training opportunities can be found at the Border Community SERVICE website www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice.

A City of Buffalo CERT course began Wednesday, February 3 at the Buffalo Fire Department training hall adjacent to BFD Engine 2 at Elmwood Avenue and Virginia Street. Fifty participants, including large contingents from D’Youville College and the Father Belle Center, registered for the course coordinated by Dana Estrada, City of Buffalo Project Coordinator. The course will continue through March 31.

Volunteer to Teach Emergency Preparedness: Register for the Ready America/Map Your Neighborhood Training Course and become a “Force Multiplier”

You are the best person to teach emergency preparedness to the people who are important to you. They may be in your neighborhood, your workplace, your clubs and service organizations, your sports teams, and in your places of worship. Please help to multiply our ability to share vital preparedness information by training to present “Ready America” and to facilitate “Map Your Neighborhood” training. Course times and locations will be announced soon.

Ready America (www.ready.gov) is a national campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. The goal of the campaign is to get the public involved and ultimately to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation. We will be training Citizen Corps volunteers, including USAonWatch and CERT members, to assist with this effort and to facilitate “Map Your Neighborhood.” Map Your Neighborhood (www.emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml) is a program designed to help neighborhoods prepare for disasters by learning the “9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster” to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood. Please contact Nancy Brennan Blundell at 286-8304 or nbb@niagara.edu if you’re interested in this training.
January has been a busy month in the City of Buffalo!

Border Community SERVICE sponsored a winter driving education course at Medaille College on January 13th. John Scheider and Jim Worth, AAA Auto Repair Specialists, and Michael Formanowicz, Manager of AAA Driving, reminded us of some common sense driving tips and explained why servicing your car for winter is extremely important. They brought some great giveaways for presentation attendees. Lisa Reda won a AAA membership and Anne Karlsen and Gwen McCool both won great emergency car kits. Thank you to AAA of Central and Western New York and to Medaille College for hosting the presentation.

On January 19th, I was interviewed for the cable access show “Aging is for Everyone” sponsored by the Erie County Department of Senior Services. The entire show was dedicated to emergency preparedness and also included presentations by the Food Bank of Western New York about the types of food to keep in your pantry for emergencies and another about 2-1-1, the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human services information and referral. It was a great experience and extremely informative. Keep watching for the show to be repeated throughout the month of February. I was also invited by Lutheran Employment Services and the Masten YMCA to give presentations on emergency preparedness. Thank you to both organizations for hosting!

We’re also busily preparing for the next City of Buffalo CERT course beginning February 3rd. We look forward to a great class and welcoming 40 new members into the City of Buffalo CERT family!

Finally, the next CERT Skills Enhancement Training will take place on February 9 (7-9PM) when Nancy Blundell and Christine Shiah will teach “Sign Language in Emergency Situations” at Medaille College, Room M215. I hope you will participate.

CERT members are welcome to attend the following SMART (Specialized Medical Assistance Response Team) trainings. Please contact Pati Aine at (716) 961-6898 or patiaine.guzinski@erie.gov if you wish to attend. All SMART classes will be held at the Erie County Fire Training Academy, 3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

- **Wednesday, February 17**
  - 6:00p - 8:30p Sanity Amidst the Chaos - Bonnie Frazer

- **Saturday, February 20**
  - 9:00a - 11:30a Sanity Amidst the Chaos - Bonnie Frazer

- **Wednesday, April 21**
  - 6:00p - 9:30p ICS 100 & IS 700

- **Saturday, April 24**
  - 9:00a - 12:30p ICS 100 & IS 700

- **Wednesday, June 16**
  - 6:00p - 9:30p Emergency Response to Terrorism

- **Saturday, June 19**
  - 9:00a - 12:30p Emergency Response to Terrorism

- **Wednesday, July 21**
  - 6:00p - 8:30p CPR/Blood Borne Pathogens

- **Saturday, July 24**
  - 9:00a - 11:30a CPR/Blood Borne Pathogens

- **Wednesday, August 18**
  - 6:00p - 8:30p Mass Fatalities - Erie County Medical Examiner

- **Saturday, August 21**
  - 9:00a - 11:30a Mass Fatalities - Erie County Medical Examiner

- **Wednesday, October 20**
  - 6:00p - 8:30p Animals in Disasters - Helen Robert

- **Saturday, October 23**
  - 9:00a - 11:30a Animals in Disasters - Helen Robert
Luck: Where Preparation Meets “Something”

It's long been said that luck is when preparation meets opportunity. (Seneca, 5BC-65AD) In modern times, while that may be true, we also think of luck as when “preparation meets catastrophe.” Preparation. Planning. Learning. It's what we at Border Community SERVICE strive to help people accomplish. In other words, we want people to be “lucky.”

For those who have completed CERT training, you may recall that the purpose of triage is to “do the most good for the most people”. I would encourage you to extend that mindset to your choices for emergency and disaster preparedness training as well as your day to day life. Preparing MOST for events that you will MOST likely experience will provide the BEST return on your investment of time and effort. In addition, obtaining a general knowledge of survival and disaster management techniques will also serve you well.

Over the holidays, our family lost its patriarch. His demise was quick, but not sudden. It was certainly not planned. As recently as early December he had updated his Will, Health Care Proxy and Power of Attorney. In this case, preparation met catastrophe and the result was less stressful because of the planning process. Not everyone will find a need for a health care proxy or a power of attorney; but if the time arrives that you need them, frequently it’s too late to get them. Having planned for the most likely series of events proved to be wise actions on our family member’s part.

My concept of disaster and emergency planning follows the same train of thought. A just in time education and event based planning is not has helpful and pre-planning and training in advance for most likely scenarios. Setting priorities should begin with risk assessment to determine what emergencies might befall you. As an example, did you realize that since 1915 only 784 people have been killed by earthquake related events, but that in 2008 alone more than 3,300 people were killed by fire? In 2008, 84% of all civilian deaths occurred in residences! (Source: U.S. Fire Administration) As recent events in Haiti show us, earthquakes are certainly catastrophic and must be given some thought and care but fire is more of a threat to the average American and even a big threat when in private, familiar surroundings. Sound the alarm to your family, friends and neighbors: Have working some detectors, make a fire plan, communicate the fire plan and practice the fire plan with your families and friends. It's likely to payoff.

Education and training are what we like to provide through the BCS program at Niagara University. The 2010 skills enhancement training series began on January 9th when 20 volunteers completed American Red Cross Mass Care and Shelter Management modules. Instructor Mike Hoplight gave an enlightening presentation. His years of experience added credibility and usefulness of the information. CERT trained volunteers continue to provide needed support at county sponsored H1N1/Seasonal Flu PODS and other opportunities for service and education develop each week. On Saturday, February 27 (9am-1pm) Incident Command System and National Incident Management System training will be offered in St. Vincent’s Hall. Please contact me to enroll.

Other Niagara County related training programs can be found in this edition. Please remember that our program is intended to be a regional effort. Please take advantage of our activities throughout Erie and Niagara County, including the City of Buffalo. If you need words of encouragement and support to travel outside of your local area, please call me in the office at 826-8023. You'll find that CERT members from other communities are banded together for mutual aid and support, just like the people from your own group.

WHEATFIELD CERT: CERT training is scheduled to begin in Wheatfield on February 15. You, your family, friends and neighbors are invited to register for the class at http://www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment . The class is open to all residents of our service area.

AMATURE RADIO UPDATE: We had a strong response from the CERT community regarding the proposed Amateur Radio Licensing Class. I met with John Kasupski (W2PIO), John Maxwell (W2JM), Paul Francavilla (N2SUI) and Mike Duff (AC2CK) to discuss the program. We have competent faculty. We have facilities. We have a national curriculum. HOWEVER, the national test question pool is changing as of July 1, 2010. The assembled group is evaluating the availability of instructional materials to determine what would provide the most benefit to prospective licensees. “Stay Tuned!” KC2WBW
American Heart Association CPR/AED training will take place Monday, February 8 at the Town of Tonawanda Fire Training Tower. Pre-registration is required. All instruction starts at 6pm. You can decide the level you want to achieve:

- 6-8pm Heartsaver Adult/Child CPR
- 8-9pm Heartsaver Adult/Child AED
- 9-10pm Heartsaver Infant CPR

A CERT general meeting on Monday, February 1 included a presentation on EMP, the introduction of proposed Town of Tonawanda CERT By-laws, regional CERT updates, and an overview of anticipated skills enhancement trainings.

The advanced course include "Map Your Neighborhood"/Ready America in March. Ready America is a national campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. The goal of the campaign is to get the public involved and ultimately to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation. We will be training Citizen Corps volunteers, including USAonWatch and CERT members, to assist with this effort and to facilitate “Map Your Neighborhood” training. For more information please visit: [http://www.ready.gov and www.emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml](http://www.ready.gov and www.emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml).

Future trainings include Emergency Medical Services in April and Animal Safety during Disasters in May. A free Regional Volunteer Conference is planned at Niagara University on Saturday, June 12.

The Town of Tonawanda Police Department has a new member on their force. He is a German Shepherd dog named “Tank.” Tank graduated from school in December and passed with high honors. The Town of Tonawanda Police Department and the citizens who Tank will serve want him to be safe while on the job. They plan to buy him a bullet proof vest. Be sure to come to community events to meet “Tank.”

The Niagara Beautification Commission is looking for volunteers to help with its annual clean up and beautify Niagara Falls event. The event will be Saturday, April 24, 2010. Additional information will follow so please watch your email and future newsletters.

To join the Border Community SERVICE cleanup team, please call Nancy Brennan Blundell at 286-8304.

CERT Volunteers Needed for Niagara County PODs

The following is a list of Niagara County H1N1/Seasonal Flu Clinics scheduled in February and March:

- **Tuesday, February 2, 2010** - South Lockport Fire Hall, 5666 S. Transit Rd., Lockport 14094 from 10 am to 8 pm
- **Friday, February 12, 2010** - Niagara Wheatfield School, 2292 Saunders Settlement Rd., Sanborn 14132, from 10 am to 8 pm
- **Wednesday, February 17, 2010** - Doris W. Jones Family Resource Bldg., 3001 Ninth St., Niagara Falls, 14305, from 10 am to 7 pm
- **Monday, February 22, 2010** - Niagara Catholic School, 520 - 66th St., Niagara Falls, 14304, from 10 am to 8 pm
- **Thursday, March 11, 2010** - Lewiston Porter School, 4061 Creek Rd., Youngstown, 14174 from 10 am to 8 pm

As always, volunteer assistance will be greatly appreciated at the above listed PODs. Please contact Jayne Ferguson at [jayne.ferguson@niagaracounty.com](mailto:jayne.ferguson@niagaracounty.com) or (716) 439-7439 as soon as possible if you can help with this important public health initiative.
The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) launched an effort to encourage everyone to install and maintain home smoke alarms and, if possible, sprinklers. More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year, and the majority of them have no working smoke alarm. To prevent these deaths, the USFA, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sponsoring the nationwide Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign, which emphasizes that “Smoke Alarms Save Lives.”

“The U.S. Fire Administration tracks fatal home fires every day, and it is tragic to see how many deaths are linked to homes without working smoke alarms,” said Kelvin J. Cochran, U.S. Fire Administrator. “The USFA is committed to preventing the loss of life and we want residents and fire fighters to be safe.” He added, “Smoke alarms are inexpensive, easy to install, and easy to maintain. We are asking everyone to make sure they have working smoke alarms in their homes, and if possible, sprinklers.”

When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present in a home, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82 percent, when compared to a residence without either. According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2003-2006, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Cochran also emphasized that firefighters often die in the line of duty trying to rescue people who did not get out at the first sign of a fire. He added, “Smoke alarms and sprinklers give you and your family more time to get out, before firefighters have to come in to rescue you.”

The Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign is promoting fire safety through a free Campaign Toolkit DVD; featuring English and Spanish educational materials; print, radio and television public service announcements; children’s materials, a video demonstration of how quickly a home fire spreads, and on the USFA’s consumer-friendly Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms.

The USFA offers a few helpful tips on smoke alarms and sprinklers:

- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.
- The USFA recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and change alkaline batteries at least once every year, or as instructed by the manufacturer. You can use a date you already know, like your birthday or when you change your clocks, as a reminder.
- If possible, install residential fire sprinklers in your home.
- Avoid painting or covering the fire sprinkler, because that will affect the sensitivity to heat.

Materials can be downloaded at www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms (English) or at www.usfa.dhs.gov/detectoresdehumo (Spanish). The Toolkit disc with campaign materials is available from the USFA Publications Center at www.usfa.dhs.gov

CERT Pop-up Shelter Available for Community Events

A 10’ x 10” CERT green pop-up shelter and a portable table are available for use by CERT groups at community events. Please call to reserve. FEMA preparedness pamphlets are also available for distribution through CERT.