CERT Class Scheduled to Begin
Thursday, January 10, 2008
Register now!

The City of North Tonawanda will host the first CERT course of 2008 at Columbia Hook and Ladder Company at 85 Columbia Drive (Marion Street) in North Tonawanda.

CERT training begins Thursday, January 10 from 6:30-9:30 PM and continues for eight Thursday nights ending February 28. The course will conclude with a course review and simulated emergency exercise on Saturday, March 1.


Chief Joseph Krantz, Bill Manth and Jerry Doucette of the City of North Tonawanda Emergency Management Office have worked with Border Community SERVICE to plan this training. Course funding has been provided by Niagara County as part of its Citizen Preparedness and Participation initiative.

Participants must be at least 16 years of age. Participant will receive a CERT backpack with emergency equipment. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to register now at our website (www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice) or by calling 716 - 286 - 8010.

BCS Welcomes Linda Czarnecki!

Linda Czarnecki has joined the staff of Border Community SERVICE. Please join us in warmly welcoming her to BCS and to the Niagara University community.

Linda’s professional experience includes designing and developing environmental and safety programs and presenting complex trainings. Linda’s duties in her former position with a private environmental, health and safety consulting firm included emergency preparedness planning and training for the industrial sector and governmental agencies.

Preparedness topics included the management of chemical waste, HAZMAT and HAZ-WOPER spill response training, and various other OSHA safety programs.

Linda completed CERT training in Lockport in July 2006. She is an active member of Greater North Tonawanda CERT and is a volunteer member of the GNT CERT Leadership Committee. Linda has also completed American Red Cross Community First Aid & Safety Training and ARC Disaster Action Team (DAT) Training.
Many parts of the country are dealing with cold temperatures and snow. While the danger from winter weather varies across the country, one of the primary concerns is the weather’s ability to knock out heat, power and communications services, often for days at a time. The National Weather Service refers to Winter Storms as the Deceptive Killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Instead, people die in traffic accidents on icy roads and of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold.

Be Informed:
Be familiar with winter weather terms:
- **Freezing Rain** creates a coating of ice on roads and walkways.
- **Sleet** is rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes roads to freeze and become slippery.
- **Winter Weather Advisory** means cold, ice and snow are expected.
- **Winter Storm Watch** means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible.
- **Winter Storm Warning** means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very soon.
- **Blizzard Warning** means heavy snow and strong winds will produce a blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts and life-threatening wind chill.
- **Frost/Freeze Warning** means below freezing temperatures are expected.

When a Winter Storm WATCH is Issued:
Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, and TV stations, or cable TV such as The Weather Channel for further updates. Be alert to changing weather conditions. Avoid unnecessary travel.

When a Winter Storm WARNING is Issued:
Stay indoors during the storm. If you must go outside, several layers of lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.

If you are driving:
Avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must, carry an emergency supply kit in the trunk. Keep your gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing. Travel in the day, don’t travel alone, and keep others informed of your schedule.

If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route. If you get stuck, stay with your car. Do not try to walk to safety. Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna for rescuers to see. Start the car and use the heater for about 10 minutes every hour but remember to keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won’t back up in the car and cause carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep moving to keep blood circulating and to stay warm. Keep one window away from the blowing wind slightly open to let in air. In extreme cold, use road maps, seat covers, and floor mats for insulation. Huddle with passengers and use your coat for a blanket. Take turns sleeping. One person should be awake at all times to look for rescue crews.

Immediately After a Winter Storm:
Avoid driving and other travel until conditions have improved. Roads may be blocked by snow or emergency vehicles.

Avoid overexertion. Heart attacks from shoveling heavy snow are a leading cause of deaths during winter.

Follow forecasts and be prepared when venturing outside. Major winter storms are often followed by even colder conditions.

Help a neighbor who may require special assistance. Elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance.

For further information on how to plan and prepare for winter storms, visit: Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross or NOAA Watch for more weather-related information.