CERT Trained
City of Buffalo Residents
Invited to CERT Organization Meeting

The City of Buffalo in partnership with the Border Community SERVICE Project of Niagara University will host a CERT volunteer information and organization meeting for CERT trained City of Buffalo residents.

The meeting will take place 6:30-9:30 PM on Wednesday, July 30th. Medaille College has graciously agreed to host the meeting at their City campus located at 18 Agassiz Circle (near the intersection of Rte. 198, the Scajaquada Expressway & Parkside Ave.). It will be held in the Main Building Lecture Hall on the Medaille Campus. The campus has ample free parking and can be reached by NFTA.

The purpose of the meeting is to reengage Buffalo residents who completed CERT training, to discuss the many ways CERT volunteers can utilize their skills to help the City of Buffalo in the event of an emergency, and to consider future training to enhance existing emergency response skills. All CERT trained City residents are encouraged to participate in this important meeting whether or not they received CERT training within City limits.

Additionally, volunteers will review the newly drafted “City of Buffalo CERT Policies and Procedures” and interact with speakers from the Buffalo Police Department, the Buffalo Fire Department and the City of Buffalo.

Please contact Dana Estrada, City of Buffalo Citizen Preparedness & Participation Coordinator, by phone at 716 851-4299 or by email at destrada@bpd.ci.buffalo.ny.us for additional details or to RSVP for this important meeting.

Flash Flood Safety

Go to higher ground!
When you receive a Flash Flood Warning, get out of areas subject to flooding (dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.). Children should NEVER play around high water, storm drains, or viaducts. Avoid already flooded areas. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.

During the flood:
Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service. Avoid areas subject to sudden flooding.

If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, STOP! Turn around and go another way.

Use flashlights, not lanterns, torches or matches, to examine buildings. Flammables may be inside. Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.

After the flood:
If driving, be aware that the roadbed may not be in tact under flood waters. Turn around and go another way. NEVER drive through flooded roadways! The depth of water is not always obvious. The roadbed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away. Remember, it's better to be wet than dead!

If fresh food has come in contact with flood waters, throw it out. Boil drinking water before using. Wells should be pumped out and the water tested for purity before drinking. If in doubt, call your local public health authority.

Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence might hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
Hello to all and welcome to summer! June was an exciting month at the Border Community SERVICE Project and July promises to be the same.

The New York State Community Volunteer Preparedness Conference was held in Albany on June 12 and 13. After being welcomed by John Gibb, Director of the NYS Emergency Management Office (SEMO), participants attended workshops focused on community collaboration, presentation skills, grant seeking and Citizen Corps. The conference provided an opportunity to network with emergency preparedness groups and volunteers from across the state. I hope that when this conference is held again next year, many of you will have the opportunity to attend.

June also brought the opportunity for Niagara County volunteers to attend two skills enhancement trainings: Traffic Control and Defensive Tactics. As we move into July we’re working to provide high quality skill enhancement training including “Basic Ropes, Knots, and Rigging” to be taught by Captain Tom Evans of Niagara Falls and American Heart Association CPR. The dates for these trainings will be sent to you as soon as they are confirmed. I hope everyone who has ideas and recommendations for future skills enhancement training to contact me by email at mtorrie@niagara.edu or by phone at 716 286-8023.

“Crime Night Out” will be held in Niagara Falls at the 18th Street Community Center on Tuesday, July 29th from 5:30 pm until 9 pm. Our new CERT shelter will house an information booth during the event. I’d like to hear from anyone who wishes to help out. Community Groups in Niagara County who’d like to host a Community Preparedness presentation should contact me for open dates. New presentations include “Building and Strengthening Disaster Readiness Among Neighbors” and “Map Your Neighborhoods” both originated by (State of) Washington Emergency Management Public Education. We’ve also prepared a presentation of special interest to families with children.

I wish all of you a very safe and Happy Fourth of July. Stay Prepared and Informed.
Volunteer Wisdom for Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

“Once upon a time, there were four people; their names were Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it but Nobody did it. So consequently Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.”

Community Announcements

In partnership with the Michigan Avenue Block Club, the PLWW Block Club, the North End Block Club, and the Hyde Park East Block Club, the Niagara Falls Block Club Council will host

“Crime Night Out”

on Tuesday, July 29 beginning at 6:00 PM
at the 18th Street Community Resource Center & Police Substation located at 1667 Linwood Ave in Niagara Falls

Border Community SERVICE has been invited to host an information table at this event. Greater Niagara Falls CERT members are encouraged to volunteer to staff this table and promote preparedness in Niagara Falls. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Michael Torrie at 716 286-8023 or mtorrie@niagara.edu.

Niagara County and the Town of Cambria will celebrate 150 years at a Bi-Centennial Event scheduled Friday, July 25th to Sunday, July 27th at Niagara County Community College.

Border Community SERVICE has been invited to host an information table at this event. Central Niagara County CERT members are invited to volunteer to staff this table and promote preparedness in central Niagara County.

To volunteer, please contact Michael Torrie at 716 286-8023 or mtorrie@niagara.edu.

NF Memorial Medical Center Welcomes the BPO!

When: Wednesday, July 9 at 7pm
Where: Schoellkopf Park (Pine Avenue at Portage Road)

FREE TO THE PUBLIC!
Bring your own lawn chair!

Free Online Training Sessions!

http://www.ualbanycphp.org/learning/

Excellent online information can be found at the website listed above. The Center for Public Health Preparedness offers numerous free online trainings such as “Mass Dispensing: A Primer for Community Leaders,” “Your Family Disaster Plan,” “Preparedness & Community Response to Pandemics,” and many more! All CERT volunteers are encouraged to visit this site and complete any applicable courses.