Emergency Preparedness Workshop offered
for Western New York
Boy Scouts
and
Girl Scouts

Registrations are now being 'wait-listed' for our January 19th workshop, offered on the Niagara University campus between the hours of 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. If you would like to be added to our wait list, please call 716-205-0077 and leave us your name, phone number and the number of scouts you would like to sign up for this event.

This event includes education and information to complete the requirements of the Boy Scout Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge and the Girl Scout Emergency Preparedness Patch, excluding the practical exercise (disaster drill).

Registration begins at 8:30 am. For more information, please call Dana Estrada, Executive Director of BCS, at 716-205-0075 or dle@niagara.edu. (please see our flyer available on page 5 of this newsletter). Reminder: scouts and leaders should be in uniform.

Regional CERT ID Badges
This is the last month that we will be able to conduct background checks - the third requirement in obtaining a regional CERT ID badge.

To be eligible for your badge, you must have:
(1) Completed the CERT training course
(2) Completed ICS 100 and are able to provide proof of completion (if you do not have this proof, you can complete the requirement on-line at http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100b.asp
(3) pass the background check which will be provided to you upon completing the first two requirements

If you haven’t already obtained your badge and would like to do so, please contact Gail at gstruzik@niagara.edu.
December was an incredibly busy month for Border Community SERVICE’s project in the City of Buffalo. We kicked things off by presenting to foster parents at New Directions Youth and Family Service site in the City of Buffalo on December 6th and the 13th. New Directions is a wonderful organization whose mission is to foster resilient, self-reliant families and permanence for at-risk children in the shortest time possible.

We also had the opportunity to present at Lyndon B. Johnson Apartments. Located steps away from Main Street, the apartment complex was gracious enough to let me take over their monthly meeting so their residents could get information on emergency preparedness. Attended by 35 people, the meeting proved to be very lively and we had great discussion. Special thanks to CERT member Howard Freeland for organizing the presentation.

Right before the holidays, we were invited by the Buffalo United Charter School to take part in a health and safety fair at the school. What fun! Throughout classrooms different organizations had information tables and hands on activities for students and parents. We were lucky to be paired with the City of Buffalo Police Explorers, who offered identification fingerprinting to the kids.

On December 18th, we once again visited local City of Buffalo schools and delivered brochures to school children to take home for parents. We dropped brochures off at D’Youville Porter Campus, Buffalo Elementary School of Technology, Antonia Pantoja Community School, Native American Magnet and the Frank A. Sedita Elementary School. In all, over 3000 brochures were distributed through this initiative.

BCS had the opportunity to host a skills enhancement presentation by Dave Whalen on Disability Awareness Training for CERT members and First Responders at Medaille College on December 10th. Over 30 people were in attendance at that presentation. Many attendees remarked that it was the most worthwhile training that they had been to in quite some time. For more information on Dave Whalen and his program please visit http://www.disabilityawarenesstraining.com.

Now that a very busy 2012 has come and gone, we’re looking forward to an amazing 2013!
Did you know?

The month of January is now officially recognized as **Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month** throughout New York State. Prevention is the key to avoiding carbon monoxide poisoning and all homes within the state of New York, by law, are now required to have a CO detector properly installed. This legislation was fought for by the Hansens, Ken and Kim Hansen, who lost their beautiful 17 year old daughter Amanda to this deadly killer. “Amanda’s Law” was signed by Governor David Paterson on Aug. 27, 2009 - roughly seven months after Amanda’s death. It was said to have passed in record time.

Carbon monoxide is more infamously known as the “silent killer” due to its being an odorless, colorless and toxic gas, making detection impossible without a warning device. At lower levels of exposure, CO can cause mild effects such as headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue, which are symptoms often mistaken for the flu.

CO is produced from incomplete combustion and can be formed by open flames; unvented kerosene and gas space heaters; back-drafting from furnaces, gas water heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces; gas stoves; leaking chimneys; generators and other gasoline-powered equipment; automobile exhaust from attached garages; and tobacco smoke.

A CO detector should be located on the sleeping level of a residence, and batteries should often be changed to ensure it is working properly. Detectors are sold at any hardware or building materials store. Please protect yourself and your family!
Driving in Snow and Ice

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination. If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared and that you know how to handle road conditions. It's helpful to practice winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle.

Driving safely on icy roads
1. Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
2. Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
3. Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
4. Keep your lights and windshield clean.
5. Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
6. Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
7. Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
8. Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

If your rear wheels skid...
1. Take your foot off the accelerator.
2. Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.
3. If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you recover, ease the steering wheel toward that side. You might have to steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.
4. If you have standard brakes, pump them gently. If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse — this is normal.

If your front wheels skid...
1. Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately. As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch, and accelerate gently.

If you get stuck...
1. Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.
2. Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way.
3. Use a light touch on the gas, to ease your car out.
4. Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.
5. Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels, to help get traction.
6. Try rocking the vehicle. (Check your owner's manual first — it can damage the transmission on some vehicles.) Shift from forward to reverse, and back again. Each time you're in gear, give a light touch on the gas until the vehicle gets going.

Sources: National Safety Council, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, Washington State Government Information & Services
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Open to all Western New York Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

- Saturday, January 19, 2013
- Registration at 8:30 am and Workshop is from 9 am-3:30 pm
- Niagara University Campus
- Lunch is provided
- Cost is Free!
- For Ages 11-18

Provided by Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University

Limited space is available so Register Online early at www.niagara.edu/border-community-service or contact Dana Estrada, at 716-205-0075 or dle@niagara.edu