Effective Emergency Response Plays Important Role in the State of the State Address

On January 9th, 2013 Governor Cuomo presented his State of the State address. An important component was his call for disaster preparedness and collaboration and coordination among local, State and federal authorities, organizations, the private sector and both skilled first responders and community members willing to assist. Several of his proposals tie very closely into the work that Border Community SERVICE conducts throughout Western New York. Among them:

- **Statewide Volunteer Network**: To capitalize on New York's spirit of volunteerism, the Governor proposed creating a Statewide Volunteer Network to mobilize and organize volunteers based on their skills, interests and resources.

- **Citizen Education Campaign**: The campaign would focus on preparing all New Yorkers as "in-house first responders."

- **Ensure that Vulnerable Populations Can Receive Help in an Emergency**: The use of voluntary and effective Vulnerable Population databases will be expanded so first responders, outreach workers, and healthcare and human services personnel can find and serve those who may need assistance before, during, and after emergencies, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, infants and children, and people with chronic medical conditions.

- **Communicating with New Yorkers in an Emergency**: Cell phone networks and other communications systems must be strengthened to ensure that first responders and citizens never lose the ability to communicate fully and instantly. In addition, New York will develop a program to allow mass text messages to be sent to all wireless phones in a chosen geographic area. In addition, the State will explore establishing a one-stop disaster recovery communications hub that is integrated with social networking, mobile messaging and chat tools - using all available means to reach New Yorkers.


Governor Cuomo’s important initiatives, in an effort to create an effective emergency response in New York, are critical to New York’s well-being. Border Community SERVICE is poised to be an important component of many of these initiatives in Western New York and we look forward to engaging the Governor’s office as we move forward in 2013.
Border Community SERVICE

City of Buffalo  Dana Estrada  716-205-0075

It’s been a busy month! I was very happy to have the opportunity to represent Buffalo at the International Disaster Conference and Expo. I came back very proud at all that the Border Community SERVICE program has accomplished but with a great understanding that still more needs to be done.

Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University had the opportunity to speak to two components of the Kappa Upsilon Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority on January 12th at the Gloria Parks Community Center – the Zeta Archonette Club (14 to 18 year olds) and the Zeta Amicette Club (9 to 13 year olds). The girls were wonderful participants in the presentation and seemed to learn a great deal.

As we move into the warmer months, I look forward to getting out to community events. If you know of any in the City of Buffalo that are looking for informational tables or presentations, please feel free to email me and let me know of the opportunity. As you all know, getting information out to community members is key to preparing for any sort of disaster that can come our way!

Dana Estrada and James Glass, Erie County Emergency Services, had the opportunity to travel to the International Disaster Conference and Expo held in New Orleans, LA from January 8th through January 10th. The purpose of IDCE is to unite public and private sector emergency preparedness and disaster response professionals from around the world for discussions regarding policy, lessons learned, best practices, and forward thinking. Public sector attendees included over 1000 government policy decision makers from over 27 countries, as well as leadership from Federal, State and Municipal Emergency Management/Homeland Security offices. Private sector attendees included professionals representing different agencies that offer support and services for the entire disaster cycle: Preparation, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation.

The Conference was a wonderful opportunity to see how other agencies and municipalities work to better prepare their communities in disaster preparedness and disaster response. To learn more about the conference please visit the IDCE website at: http://www.internationaldisasterconference.com/conference.html

Scouting Workshop Summary

On January 19th, over 100 local boy and girl scouts and their troop leaders attended the third annual Scout Free Emergency Preparedness Workshop. The workshop is collaboration between Border Community SERVICE and Howard Morgan – Boy Scout leader, volunteer firefighter with Cambria and Niagara University employee, who has served as course designer and instructor. The students learn about basic preparedness, first aid, working together as part of a team and, of course, Niagara University. It’s such a worthwhile program that many troops send new members year after year so they can earn their preparedness badges and patches. Many thanks to Howard Morgan for once again helping to put this conference together.
I am pleased to announce that I am back in my position at Border Community SERVICE. Although I was only gone for a short time, I am glad to be back and coordinating the CERT program and engaging the citizens of Niagara County on emergency preparedness through community education and outreach. I hope to be scheduling some upcoming trainings in the future so be on the look-out for details.

Valerie Haseley
Niagara County Project Coordinator
Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University

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**Sandy Debris Removal**

**Passes 95 percent in 95 days**

According to a press release on February 1, 2013 from FEMA, debris removal efforts after Hurricane Sandy in New York are nearing completion. More than 95 percent of the debris has been removed within 95 days of the storm hitting New York. That includes everything from fallen trees to vehicles, boats, drywall and furniture, washers, dryers and insulation. It all amounts to 5.25 million cubic yards of debris caused by the strong winds and heavy rains created by Hurricane Sandy, beginning Oct. 27, 2012. That's enough debris to fill the 102-story Empire State Building a little more than 3.5 times.

Collecting and hauling debris to the curbs has involved homeowners, neighbors and volunteers working with city, state and federal agencies. Neighbors and volunteers combined their skill and chainsaws to remove broken trees from yards and streets along with cleaning up disaster debris from public streets.

The demolition of destroyed structures is ongoing and about 20 percent complete. Vegetation, such as wood, tree branches, leaves and other organic matter, is incinerated or chipped. Chips will be recycled for beneficial reuse.

FEMA’s Public Assistance program reimburses state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations 75 percent of eligible debris removal costs. In order to qualify, damage must be a direct result of Hurricane Sandy.

*Aerial view of debris being collected at a debris collection site on Midland Beach, New York.*

Andrea Booher/FEMA
Spring — Just around the corner?

The groundhog has made his prediction - so now it's time to get ready for the early arrival of spring! That means, put away the boots and bring out the sandals! To help your boots retain their shape, cut pool noodles to fit inside your boots and store them till next winter. Here are some other tips, compliments of *The Knot,* [The Nest]

**Kitchen tips:**

**Vanilla Extract** - Clean the microwave and leave it smelling sweet with this household trick! Mix 2 cups of water and 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract in a microwave-safe container, and zap it on high for five minutes. When it's done, remove the container and wipe down the interior of the oven; any gunk should slide right off.

**Eggshells** - Having trouble cleaning narrow-necked bottles and vases? Drop a handful of crushed eggshells into the bottle, add warm water and a squirt of dishwashing liquid, and swirl it around. The shells will scrape off any hard-to-reach spots.

**Coffee Filter** - Wipe down all TVs, computers, other screens and mirrors with a coffee filter (minus the brew grounds), and voila, dust-free!

**Bread** - It’s not just the best part of your sandwich. Bread is also great for dusting paintings that can be harmed by traditional cleaners. And its naturally sticky texture is great for picking up small pieces of broken glass.

**Cornstarch** - It’s a staple for gravies, stews...and carpet stains! Just mix it with water to make a paste and treat on the spot. Its absorbing power will soak up the stain.

**Baking Soda** - Mix with water to create a natural cleaner that’s great for everything from dirty sneakers to scuffs on walls. We love to use it to clean stainless steel in the kitchen without scratching. Sprinkle baking soda onto a clean, damp sponge or cloth, and wipe the sink clean; then rinse thoroughly.

**Green Tips for Every Room In Your Home:**

Unplug any electronics that you're not using. Leaving them plugged in - yes, even if they're turned off - wastes lots of energy and ups your monthly electric bill as well.

Trade incandescent bulbs for compact fluorescent ones (CFLs); they use a whopping 75 percent less energy and last 10 times longer.

Nuke food in ceramic or glassware only. Some plastic containers radiate an icky petroleum product that can get absorbed into your meal.

Set the thermometer on your washer to cold when you do your laundry. There’s one exception: bedding. You need to use hot water for bedding in order to kill dust mites.

Install a water-saving showerhead. There are affordable models that cut water use by 50 to 70 percent and can save a family of four up to $250 a year.