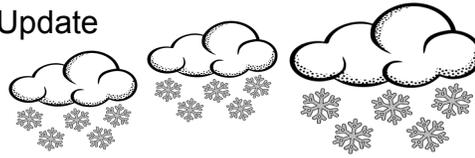


Border Community SERVICE

JANUARY 2016

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Register today



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

WORKSHOP FOR WNY SCOUTS

Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University is offering a FREE Emergency Preparedness Workshop for all Western New York Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

The workshop is taking place at Niagara University on Saturday, February 6, 2016 with registration beginning at 8:30 am and the program will run from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm. A complimentary lunch will be provided to all attending.

The program is open to all Scouts ages 11-18 who have **not** previously participated in prior Scouting workshops offered here at NU and includes education and information to complete the requirements of the Girl Scout Emergency Preparedness Patch and the Boy Scout Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge, excluding the practical exercise (disaster drill).

If your troop is interested in participating, please register online at

<http://levesqueinstitute.niagara.edu/programs/border-community-service/events/show/1>

Please note that there is limited space available.

Please contact Dana Estrada, Border Community SERVICE Director at 716.851.4299 or dle@niagara.edu if you have any questions. Thank you.

Border Community SERVICE of NU

A program of the
Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.
Institute for Civic
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Happy New Year! It's hard to believe we've ticked another 12 months of the calendar!

Border Community SERVICE wrapped 2015 with a presentation at CAO on Harvard Place.

(The building is arguably one of the prettiest and best kept secrets in architecture in Buffalo!)

The presentation was for the Heath Services Advisory Committee, made up of many local service providers from across Buffalo, including CAO, Head Start, and UB Dental among many other providers.

Border Community SERVICE also spent a day at the Metropolitan Methodist Church on Best Street for a Community "How Can We Help You?" event. There were many, many different agencies present and lots of church and community members that took advantage of fellowship and information available at the day long celebration. BCS made wonderful connections and hopes to work with new partners from this event in 2016.

We're looking forward to a productive year in the City of Buffalo, with hopes of reaching new organizations with our message. As always, if you know of someone in the City of Buffalo that could benefit with emergency preparedness information, please have them call 851-4299!

Niagara County

Terri Mannarino

716-205-0076

This month found Border Community SERVICE finishing up the last third grade classroom at Hyde Park Elementary School in Niagara Falls. Mrs. Williams' class was very engaged and shared a large amount of background information about this topic. It always amazes me as to how much children add to the discussion and how interested they are in learning about preparedness. Our program sends them home with not only information, but activities to complete with their families so as to be prepared in case of a storm or other emergency.

I also presented a short overview of our program to the Lockport Association of Health Agencies, which was well received. The wonderful thing about these meetings is that not only do we provide our information to the actual attendees, but inform them about what we can bring to their clients, residents, or students. That same day found us finishing the last class of third and fourth graders at Maple Avenue School in Niagara Falls. Another great class of students who participated and asked numerous questions about the subject.

The last event of the month found BCS at the Niagara Falls Public Library, speaking to Niagara Charter School's PTA. The nice part of the evening was that one of the children attending with her parent had participated in the presentation in her school. It was so nice to have her remember and add to my presentation - children are such sponges when it comes to knowledge; nice to have it reaffirmed three months after the initial presentation! Some things do stick with us!



Are You Ready?

The United States experiences extreme and dangerous weather, and this winter, parts of the U.S. face a particularly severe threat. Forecasts are showing a soon-to-peak El Niño that could deliver drenching conditions to California and throughout the South. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has developed fact sheets on El Niño available at [NOAA El Niño Impacts by region](#) and the Winter Outlook is available at [NOAA El Niño Winter Outlook](#). These predicted conditions come with an enhanced flood threat and an increase in tornado activity through the spring.

For the next several months, many areas in the United States are at an increased flood risk from El Niño as a direct result of drought and wildfires. Disasters don't always occur when families are together in one place. Now is the time to put together a [family communication plan](#) and talk with your family about ways to contact each other during an emergency, and designate a safe meeting spot. You can also plan ahead by knowing official evacuation routes, and keeping important papers in a safe, waterproof place. Additional tips and resources on how to stay safe and prepare are available at www.ready.gov.

More information is available about El Niño at www.fema.gov/el-Niño. The tab labeled *Additional Resources* include links to resources from various federal agencies including NOAA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Do you have a Family Emergency Communication Plan?

Creating your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* starts with one simple question: "What if?" "What if something happens and I'm not with my family?" "Will I be able to reach them?" "How will I know they are safe?" "How can I let them know I'm okay?" During a disaster, you will need to send and receive information from your family.

Communication networks, such as mobile phones and computers, could be unreliable during disasters, and electricity could be disrupted. Planning in advance will help ensure that all the members of your household - including children and people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, as well as outside caregivers - know how to reach each other and where to meet up in an emergency. Planning starts with three easy steps:

1. **Collect** - create a paper copy of the contact information for your family and other important people/offices, such as medical facilities, doctors, schools, or service providers.
2. **Share** - make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. If you complete your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* online at ready.gov/make-a-plan, you can print it onto a wallet-sized card. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.
3. **Practice** - have regular household meetings to review and practice your plan.



If you are using a mobile phone, a text message may get through when a phone call will not. This is because a text message requires far less bandwidth than a phone call. Text messages may also save and then send automatically as soon as capacity becomes available.

Collect Information

Household Information:

Write down phone numbers and email addresses for everyone in your household. Having this important information written down will help you reconnect with others in case you don't have your mobile device or computer with you or if the battery runs down.

School, Childcare, Caregiver, and Workplace Emergency Plans:

Because a disaster can strike during school or work hours, you need to know their emergency response plans and how to stay informed. Discuss these plans with children, and let them know who could pick them up in an emergency. For children without mobile phones, make sure they know to follow instructions from a responsible adult, such as a teacher or principal.

Out-of-Town Contact:

It is also important to identify someone outside your community or state who can act as a central point of contact to help your household reconnect. In a disaster, it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town because local phone lines can be jammed.

Emergency Meeting Places:

Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite. Make sure these locations are accessible for household members with disabilities or access or functional needs. If you have pets or service animals, think about animal-friendly locations. Identify the following places:

Indoor: If you live in an area where tornadoes, hurricanes, or other high-wind storms can happen, make sure everyone knows where to go for protection. This could be a small, interior, windowless room — such as a closet or bathroom, on the lowest level of a sturdy building, or a tornado safe room or storm shelter.

In your neighborhood: This is a place in your neighborhood where your household members will meet if there is a fire or other emergency and you need to leave your home. The meeting place could be a big tree, a mailbox at the end of your driveway, or a neighbor's house.

Outside of your neighborhood: This is a place where your family will meet if a disaster happens when you're not at home and you can't get back to your home. This could be a library, community center, house of worship, or family friend's home.

Outside of your town or city: Having an out-of-town meeting place can help you reunite if a disaster happens and you can't get to any of your pre-arranged meeting places or if your community is instructed to evacuate. This meeting place could be the home of a relative or family friend. Make sure everyone knows the address of the meeting place and discuss ways you would get there.

Other Important Numbers and Information: You should also write down phone numbers for emergency services, utilities, service providers, medical providers, veterinarians, insurance companies, and other services.

Share

- Make copies of your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* for each member of the household to carry in his or her wallet, backpack, or purse. Post a copy in a central place at home.
- Make sure all of these important numbers are programmed in everyone's mobile devices.
- Make sure your out-of-town contacts know our plans and how to get in touch with all of your household members.

Practice

- If necessary, practice texting. Make sure you discuss what you should send by text. Keep it short - example: I'm okay. At the library.

- Regularly have conversations with household members and friends about the plan, such as whom and how to text and call, and where to go. Review and update your plan at least once a year in case any changes need to be made.
- Make sure everyone, including children, know how and when to call 911 for help. You should only call 911 when there is a life-threatening emergency.
- After you practice, talk about how it went. What worked well? What can be improved? What information needs to be updated? If you make updates, remember to print new copies of the plan for all involved.

Other Important Tips for Communicating in Disasters

- Text is best when using a mobile phone, but if you make a phone call, keep it brief and convey only vital information to emergency personnel and/or family or household members. This will minimize network congestion, free up space on the network for emergency communications, and conserve battery power. Wait 10 seconds before redialing a number. If you redial too quickly, the data from the handset to the cell sites do not have enough time to clear before you've re-sent the same data. This contributes to a clogged network.
- Conserve your mobile battery by reducing the brightness of your screen, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you do not need.
- Keep batteries charged and keep a charger close-by.
- Use the internet to communicate by email, Twitter, Facebook, or other social media networks. These communication channels allow you to share information quickly with a widespread audience or to find out if loved ones are okay. The Internet can also be used for telephone calls through Voice over Internet protocol. For those who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities, you can make calls through your IP Relay Provider.

Recapping....

Prepare yourself and your family for a disaster by making an emergency plan.

Download the [Family Communication Plan for Parents and Kids](#) (PDF - 1.2 Mb), print the pages and fill them in offline.

Your emergency planning should also address the [care of pets](#), [aiding family members with access and functional needs](#) and [safely shutting off utilities](#).

You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at work, daycare and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Read more about [school and workplace plans](#).

Once you've collected this important information, gather your family members and discuss the information to put in the plan. And then practice it.



Examples of what you need to know and make available to those in your *Family Emergency Communication Plan*:

Family Emergency Communication Plan

Home #: _____

Address: _____

Household Information:

Name: _____

Mobile #: _____

Other # or social media: _____

Email: _____

Important medical or other information: _____

School, Childcare, Caregiver, and Workplace Emergency Plans:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Emergency/Hotline #: _____

Website: _____

Emergency Plan/Pick-Up: _____

In Case of Emergency (ICE) Contact:

Name: _____

Mobile #: _____

Home #: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Out-of-Town Contact:

Name: _____

Mobile #: _____

Home #: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Meeting Places:

Indoor: _____

Instructions: _____

Neighborhood: _____

Instructions: _____

Out-of-Neighborhood:

Address: _____

Instructions: _____

Out-of-Town:

Address: _____

Instructions: _____