CERT Training Course
Scheduled

Border Community SERVICE will host a CERT course on Thursday evenings (6:30 - 9:30 PM) beginning January 13th at the Lancaster Office of Emergency Management at 321 Columbia Avenue in Depew, NY. The course will run eight consecutive weeks with a disaster simulation scheduled for Saturday, March 5th.

All interested community members are encouraged to visit www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment to enroll in this training.

CERT Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers may be needed to help in a Full Scale Exercise – Simulated Disaster Drill which will occur on Niagara’s campus on Tuesday, November 16.

Volunteers would be needed from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and will act as displaced resident students from a residence hall deemed unsuitable for habitation.

CERT members interested in this potential opportunity must contact Dana Estrada at dle@niagara.edu.

CERT Skills Enhancement Training

Whether it’s driving in extreme cold or snow, severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for automobile travel. Motorists are reminded to be cautious while driving in adverse weather and should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies. AAA’s Winter Driving Seminar will cover those topics and more.

- Getting your vehicle ready for winter (preparations and maintenance)
- How to Go on Ice and Snow (driving techniques)
- What to keep in your car in case of breakdown or emergency

Join us Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cambria Fire Company, 4631 Cambria Wilson Road in Cambria (Lockport).

Pre-registration is required. Please contact Valerie Haseley, Niagara County Project Coordinator, at (716) 286-8023 or vhaseley@niagara.edu.
October had been a busy month, as I started doing presentations at the Office of Aging sites, reaching 300 individuals at eight sites throughout the County. I’ve been meeting some great individuals and hopefully gave them some helpful tips to implement during an emergency.

I presented to 350 students at the Niagara Charter School who were extremely inquisitive and excited to go home and make their own Emergency Supply Kit and Family Communications Plan. We also attended the Niagara Charter School Community Health Fair on October 28th at the Doris W. Jones Center in Niagara Falls. We were able to speak with many families and distribute additional materials to the students and parents in attendance.

Earlier in October I attended the two-day NYS Citizen Preparedness Program Conference in Liverpool, NY, which focused on Preparing Vulnerable Populations including Older Adults, People with Pets, Children and Inclusionary Planning. The speakers and break-out sessions were extremely informative and gave suggestions and tips on how to engage these populations through interaction communications, collaboration and networking.

Please contact Valerie Haseley at (716) 286-8023 or vhaseley@niagara.edu if you would like to have a presentation scheduled with your group.

The “Ready America” community preparedness presentation at the Walden Park Senior Center on October 6th was extremely well received. It inspired some fifty residents and their leaders to have a dialogue about the different disaster possibilities and their particular needs in such an event. Thank you to Ms. Elizabeth Triggs for hosting the event and providing delicious chili and cornbread afterwards!

A booth was set up at the Spaghetti Dinner, a fundraiser for the Walden Park Senior Center held at the Schiller Park Senior Center on October 14th. This event garnered leads for additional presentations, fostered key contacts in the community, and let materials be distributed to a wide variety of community members from young school age children to an elderly quilting group. The event was a great success for Border Community SERVICE and a sell out night for the Senior Center. Yum!

On October 30th a “Ready America” presentation was given to community members of the Salem Lutheran Church in South Buffalo. A big thank you to Ken and Joanne Kuzka for their enthusiasm to help neighbors prepare for emergencies and to cope during such an event. Arrangements will be made for the beginning of the new year to meet with several block clubs in the surrounding area for the “Map Your Neighborhood” presentation.

I am working towards partnering with various refugee organizations in the City of Buffalo in order to help them prepare for different crises specific to the Buffalo area. For many, this is their first experience with winter snow and ice and with that comes power outages and various other challenges they may not be prepared for in such a situation.

FYI: November & December CERT skills enhancement workshop - TBA. Watch your email for details.
CERT General Membership Meeting

Town of Tonawanda’s CERT general membership meeting is on Monday, November 29, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Phillips Sheridan Building (3200 Elmwood Ave). The agenda will include final preparations for the elections and acceptance of nominations of active CERT members for the Chairperson and Secretary CERT Board positions.

Anyone can be nominated as long as they meet four basic criteria:

- Must be an active member of Tonawanda CERT. Active members volunteer and attend events promoting and involving the Tonawanda CERT (ex: Town Showcase, National Night Out, Quarterly Meetings, etc).
- Must have a Certificate of Completion for ICS 100, the FEMA Incident Command course offered through CERT training or on-line from FEMA.
- Must be enrolled with Niagara University Border Community SERVICE.
- Must have completed the basic CERT Training program (8 weeks).

Nominees are expected to present their qualifications for the desired position to CERT members at the general CERT membership meeting. Nominations for Executive Board Chairperson and Secretary will be open and accepted at the General CERT membership meeting Monday, November 29, 2010, and Monday, December 13, 2010 in room 123 at the Phillips Sheridan Building (3200 Elmwood Drive). Elections will be held at the January meeting. If you are interested, plan on attending the November meeting.

Volunteers Needed for Niagara County Department of Health POD

The Niagara County Department of Health is looking for volunteers to assist with their upcoming Point of Dispensing (POD) for the Flu Vaccine taking place on Friday, December 10 at Gratwick Fire Department, 110 Ward Road in North Tonawanda.

Volunteers are needed between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and will be provided with training, food and beverages. If you are interested, please contact Jayne Ferguson with the Department of Health at 439-7439 or jayne.ferguson@niagaracounty.com.

CERT Volunteers Needed

CERT Volunteers are invited to assist with the final Town of Tonawanda CERT Training Exercise on Saturday, November 13, 2010 starting at 9am at the Town of Tonawanda Fire Tower Classroom (70 Fire Tower Drive). Volunteers are asked to assist with check in, volunteer victim management, and the wrap up. CERT members are also invited to volunteer as victims for the final CERT exercise. Volunteer victims are asked to report to the Fire Tower after 9:30am. CERT members who feel they will benefit by participating as a student in the final exercise are welcome to join and participate.

Anyone interested in volunteering or participating as a student in the final exercise must RSVP to Jess Martin at 716-286-8306 or jmartin@niagara.edu

Terrorism Class

The current CERT class will have Buffalo Police Captain Gregg Blosat speaking on Monday, November 8, 2010 regarding terrorism at the Town of Tonawanda Fire Tower Classroom (70 Fire Tower Drive), starting at 6pm. Town of Tonawanda Police Lieutenant and SWAT Team Leader Timothy Hark will also be present at this class.

Anyone who is currently a CERT member who wants an update on this important topic is welcome to attend.

RSVP to Jess Martin at 716-286-8306 or jmartin@niagara.edu
Regional CERT IDs

We are in the process of finalizing the details to conduct background checks on our CERT volunteers in order to issue Regional CERT Id’s. Therefore, we need to make sure we have our records up-to-date. We need the following from you before the background check is conducted:

1. Completed CERT certificate (issued at the time you went through CERT training)
2. BCS Volunteer Enrollment Form
   (available at our website www.niagara.edu/border-community-service)
3. ICS 100 (visit http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100A.asp and click on the “Take This Course” link on the right hand side. A course completion certificate will be emailed to you that can be forwarded to our department or saved as a PDF and sent to our office.)

Please email the documents as a PDF or JPG to gstruzik@niagara.edu or print out or make a copy and mail to:
   Border Community Service
   Attn: Gail Struzik
   Niagara University
   PO Box 2040
   Niagara University, NY 14109-2040
Or fax these documents to our office: (716) 286-8016

Please contact your region’s CERT Coordinator if you have any additional questions:
Niagara County – Valerie Haseley at 716-286-8023 or vhaseley@niagara.edu
Buffalo – Elizabeth Oddy at 716-851-4299 or ehoddy@niagara.edu
Town of Tonawanda – Jess Martin at 716-286-8306 or jmartin@niagara.edu
All other towns/regions – Gail Struzik at 716-286-8388 or gstruzik@niagara.edu or Dana Estrada at 716-286-8304 or dle@niagara.edu

~ As winter approaches, let’s appreciate all that the month of November brings with it ~

- Sadie Hawkins Day falls this year on Saturday, November 6th. Girls - remember to ask your favorite boy to dance!
- Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 7th; don’t forget to turn your clocks back one hour and enjoy that extra hour of sleep.
- Veteran’s Day (originally called Armistice Day) will be celebrated on Thursday, November 11th; to all our veterans that helped to keep America free - our deepest gratitude and thanks to each individual and their families, many who have sacrificed the ultimate.
- Thank you President Lincoln for declaring the fourth Thursday in November an official holiday - Thanksgiving! This year it will be celebrated on Thursday, November 25th. Happy turkey day to all!
- November is also American Diabetes Awareness Month, and the American Diabetes Association is encouraging the public to take action against this devastating disease by asking, “How will you stop diabetes?” The future is in your hands. The mission of the American Diabetes Association is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by the disease, while raising awareness about diabetes (Type 1 and 2) and supporting the community through educational programs, advocacy, comprehensive resources and fundraising to support research and care. For more information, visit www.diabetes.org
FEMA Challenges America to Find New Ways to Prepare for Disasters

THE CHALLENGE
To come up with ideas on how we can all help prepare our communities before disaster strikes. The sky is the limit. We want ideas from across the spectrum, from within whichever field you work, for whatever community in which you live.

This could be a new project or means of engaging the public to prepare for disasters on the individual or family level; a public service announcement about business preparedness to play on local radio or TV stations; or a new device, technology, application or piece of equipment to mitigate the effects of disaster.

Submissions will be judged based on originality, level of community engagement, and ease of implementation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
At the 2010 TEDMED Conference in San Diego, CA, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate spoke about the need to expand the emergency management team and engage all Americans in better preparing our communities before disaster strikes. The conference included business leaders, journalists, entertainment figures, scientists, artists and authors, who discussed how their diverse fields intersect with health and medicine. Administrator Fugate took the opportunity to challenge his fellow attendees to come up with ideas on how we can better prepare communities before disasters strike.

Mr. Fugate made the following statement at the conference:

“At FEMA, we are always encouraging the American public to be prepared, to visit http://www.ready.gov. But we are also always trying to engage the public to find new ways to prepare for disasters before they strike. It comes down to a simple question that everyone should consider: isn’t there more we can all be doing to share the responsibility to be prepared?

How can we—as we play our many roles as part of businesses, governments, medical and emergency response fields, community groups, schools and families—make our communities more resilient?

In short - Is there some way we can inoculate our communities against the impacts of disasters?"

HOW TO ENTER
FEMA is encouraging all members of the public to participate and submit their ideas by visiting www.challenge.gov/fema until January 2, 2011 at 11:59 PM EST.

PRIZES
Winners will be announced January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM EST. The best, most unique idea will be selected as the winner and will be highlighted on FEMA’s website (www.fema.gov).
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). Scouts and leaders should be in uniform.

Open to all Western New York Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts
- Saturday, January 8, 2011
- Registration at 8:30 a.m. and Workshop is from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 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 call Valerie Haseley, Niagara County Project Coordinator, at 716-286-8023
Now Accepting Applications for Membership!

The Niagara County Auxiliary Police are recruiting new members throughout the month of November to provide assistance to residents, police and other emergency services in the Niagara County. This all volunteer unit is primarily used for traffic and crowd control at various county events such as fairs, parades, cruises, fireworks celebrations, parades, and air shows as well as many other nonprofit events. While on patrol they serve as the “eyes” and “ears” for law enforcement officers, freeing them to focus on their primary law enforcement duties.

Requirements:
- Must be at least 21 years old or 20 if you are in the Criminal Justice Program
- Must be resident of Niagara County
- Must be a citizen of the United States
- Must possess a valid NYS driver's license
- Must possess a high school diploma or G.E.D.
- Must be of good moral character without a felony conviction. (A misdemeanor conviction may also prevent acceptance)
- Must be able to pass a physical examination
- Must be willing to submit to fingerprinting
- Must consent to a background investigation
- Must be willing to submit to a drug test and be willing to submit to a psychological exam
- Be willing to donate a minimum of 100 volunteer hours per year
- Be willing to attend the Niagara County Auxiliary Police Training Academy and NYS Peace Officer Certification Course

Benefits:
- Self-satisfaction in knowing that you are serving your community.
- Excellent experience for those considering a career in law enforcement.
- Many local colleges give credits to criminal justice majors who successfully complete the Auxiliary Police basic training course.
- Part – time New York State peace officer status after completing peace officer academy.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BE A VOLUNTEER.
For more information about the requirements to join, call 716-438-3171 or go to www.niagaracountyauxiliarpolice.com or open the two attached documents.