Register Now for “Empowering Volunteers” Conference at Niagara University on Saturday, June 12, 2010

A free day-long conference for volunteers and community leaders will be held from 9AM to 4PM on Saturday, June 12, 2010. Detailed information is available at the Border Community SERVICE website (www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice) with an online registration link.

Keynote Speaker David Bissonnette, Emergency Coordinator for the Town of Clarence, was charged with the responsibility for overall incident coordination of the response to the tragic crash on February 12, 2009 of Flight #3407.

Volunteers and community members will participate in strategic planning activities, including CERT leadership, and information sharing. Please join us!

Keynote Address: **David Bissonnette**, Town of Clarence Emergency Manager

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introducing Map Your Neighborhood</th>
<th>CERT Review: Emergency Medical Operations 1 &amp; 2</th>
<th>Helping Children Cope with Disaster</th>
<th>United States Border Patrol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dana Estrada</td>
<td>Robert Lutz</td>
<td>Dr. Morgan Brooks</td>
<td>USBP Niagara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lunch Provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earthquakes UB Earthquake Center</th>
<th>CERT Review: Fire Safety and Light Search &amp; Rescue</th>
<th>EMPact America</th>
<th>Preparing for International and Domestic Travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Afternoon Break

Overview of Buffalo-Erie-Niagara Region Activities

CERT Leadership Presentation

Small Group Activity and Reports

Conclusion
City of Buffalo

Dana Estrada 716.851.4299

BCS’s Community Preparedness & Participation project in the City of Buffalo is ramping up for an exciting summer. We are putting the finishing touches on the “Empowering Volunteers” conference which will take place on June 12th. I encourage all City of Buffalo CERT members to come out to this free event. Last year was a great experience with wonderful speakers and great networking. Let’s make this year even better! Conference Information and online registration is available at www.niagara.edu/border_community_service.

I am working on several exciting programs including the Promise Neighborhood initiative led by the Buffalo and Erie Board of Block Clubs. The Promise Neighborhood initiative looks at serving an inner-city neighborhoods comprehensively while building community between residents and programmatic partners.

This summer we will also partner with the Buffalo Bisons for an emergency preparedness initiative that brings information to people who attend one of Buffalo’s best summertime attractions – a baseball game! This initiative was developed by the Minor League Baseball Association and the Department of Homeland Security and will take place at baseball stadiums nationwide.

April came to a busy end as I presented to the Schofield Adult Day Program’s twice for both their morning and afternoon attendees, to the Days Park Block Club in Allentown, and at the April program of West Side Neighborhood Housing Services’ homebuyer education class. I also was invited to take part in the Asarese Center’s Community Family Day organized by Michele Graves of Buffalo State’s Community Partnership Program. It was a great day filled with information, giveaways and a drum circle comprised of Buffalo State students as well as all children who wished to participate.

I am still looking for block clubs to complete the “Map Your Neighborhood” program. The program offers a planned approach to getting neighbors to organize and plan together before the next catastrophic disaster...or even another October storm! The program takes an hour and a half to complete and each participant will leave with a personalized workbook of neighborhood assets. To participate, please call me at 851-4299 or email me at destrada@bpdny.org to set up a meeting time!

Town of Tonawanda

Jess Martin 716.286.8306

April was a busy month! I want to thank Robert Lutz, Town of Tonawanda Paramedic, for presenting "A History of EMS in the Town of Tonawanda" at the fire tower classroom. The presentation was informative, entertaining, and well attended. CERT members learned several intriguing facts about the Town of Tonawanda Paramedic Unit including that it is the longest continuously serving paramedic unit in Western New York and is believed to be the oldest in New York State. When the group was created, the original vehicle used for medical purposes was a hearse due to its capacity to transport sick and injured individuals. Since that time, the unit has gone from an average of 1,700 calls a year to an average of 7,000. The current staff includes 15 full-time Paramedics and a Medical Director. Bob’s presentation also included a brief refresher on first aid skills.

Congratulations to Town of Tonawanda members who successfully completed the recent American Red Cross Shelter Management training! A primary factor for success within any organization is continued training in tools, processes, and procedures. It is great to see that Town of Tonawanda CERT has such dedicated members.

Special thanks to Town of Tonawanda CERT volunteers Floyd Curtis, Linda Coniglio, Rachel Deyell, Michelle Fittrey, Marge & Bill Fleck, Tom Fraterrigo, Sally & Roy Holtz, John Kasupski, John Moffat, and Beth Peacock who represented their organization at the Ken-Ton Show Case on May 1 and 2.

We expect to present an Animal Safety advanced CERT training during the month of May. Watch your email for more information. **A reminder: Register now for the “Empowering Volunteers” conference on June 12.**
Border Community SERVICE

Erie County's Department of Emergency Services and the National Weather Service will host

**SkyWARN Spotter Training**

at the Fire Training Academy, 3359 Broadway Ave., Cheektowaga, on **Thursday May 13, 2010** at 7PM.

On the subject of weather, the Spring 2010 edition of "The Lake Breeze", the newsletter of the National Weather Service in Buffalo, has been published. Articles in this issue include: Severe Weather Awareness Week 2010, The new NWS Eastern Region Director, A new Climate Web Portal, New Satellite sends its first image, Severe Weather Safety...just to list a few topics. The newsletter index page is available at: [http://www.weather.gov/buf/newsletter.html](http://www.weather.gov/buf/newsletter.html)

---

Sign Language for Emergency Situations

On Monday, June 7, 7-9pm in the auditorium at the Erie County Fire Training Academy (3359 Broadway Ave., Cheektowaga), Christine Shiah and Nancy Brennan Blundell will teach “Sign Language for Emergency Situations.”

Following a brief introduction to American Sign Language, participants will learn the American Manual Alphabet and signed numbers, as well as other signs that may prove valuable during an emergency.

Please contact Pati Aine Guzinski at patiaine.guzinski@erie.gov or (716) 961-6898 if you wish to attend.

---

SMART Training in Erie County welcomes Regional CERT Members

CERT members are welcome to attend the SMART (Specialized Medical Assistance Response Team) trainings listed below. The May, September and November trainings have been planned for SMART members only.

Please contact Pati Aine Guzinski at patiaine.guzinski@erie.gov or (716) 961-6898 if you wish to attend. All SMART classes are held at the Erie County Fire Training Academy, 3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date, Time</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 16, 6:00p - 9:30p</td>
<td>CPR/Blood Borne Pathogens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 19, 9:00a - 12:30p</td>
<td>CPR/Blood Borne Pathogens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 21, 6:00p - 8:30p</td>
<td>Emergency Response to Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, July 24, 9:00a - 11:30a</td>
<td>Emergency Response to Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 18, 6:00p - 8:30p</td>
<td>Mass Fatalities - Erie County Medical Examiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, August 18, 9:00a - 11:30a</td>
<td>Mass Fatalities - Erie County Medical Examiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 20, 6:00p - 8:30p</td>
<td>Animals in Disasters - Helen Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 23, 9:00a - 11:30a</td>
<td>Animals in Disasters - Helen Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 15, 6:00p - 8:30p</td>
<td>Challenges of Special Populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 18, 9:00a - 11:30a</td>
<td>Challenges of Special Populations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Border Community SERVICE

Spotlight on our Community Partner:

Niagara County Department of Health

Long time Border Community SERVICE members are familiar with May’s community partner, the Niagara County Department of Health. After an initial Point of Dispensing (POD) at Niagara University a few years ago, we have continued to support their mission through volunteer service at numerous Point of Dispensing (POD) clinics. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this valuable community service. Faced with the challenge and threat of 2009 H1N1 Influenza, NCHD offered 16 PODs between October 15, 2009 and April 15, 2010 where, with the assistance of BCS CERT volunteers, they provided H1N1 vaccinations to 10,397 individuals and seasonal flu vaccinations to 14, 177 individuals. Congratulations to NCHD for successfully meeting this challenge!

NCDH staff members Elaine Roman, Jayne Ferguson and Elise Stevenson provide essential communication and support services to the Niagara County Medical Reserve Corps, another Citizen Corps service organization. They also actively support regional Citizen/ Community Preparedness efforts in many ways including their participation in the Citizen Preparedness subcommittee of the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara Urban Area Security Initiative. We’re honored to partner with the Niagara County Department of Health.

BE A PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF
THE OLDEST STATE PARK IN THE NATION

Join your neighbors for a day in the Park:
Saturday May 8, 2010 9 am-12 noon

In honor of the 125th Anniversary of Niagara Falls State Park, Petticoat Park on the corner of Main and the Robert Moses Parkway (Across from the Red Coach Inn) will receive a make over and, when completed, this park will be a wonderful connection between the City of Niagara Falls and our State Park.

Historical plaques will be placed here that will highlight the history and importance of our community and as a result, the park will be re-dedicated as Heritage Park. New York State Parks will provide the material but help is needed to plant flowers and spruce up this special park. To sign up to help or for more information, call 278-1764 or email angela.berti@oprhp.state.ny.us

Senior companions available to help older adults at no cost

Thanks to a recent influx of volunteers, the Volunteer Center at HANCI in Niagara Falls is looking for people who need help from senior companion volunteers. This free service is available to adults over age 60 who are homebound or in need of friendly visitors. The program can also help family caregivers by staying with frail elders in their homes while their caregivers take a break. Specifically, senior companions are currently available in Niagara Falls, including the LaSalle area, and just outside the city in the Williams Road area of Wheatfield.

Senior companions offer friendly visiting, conversation and support to help clients remain living at home. They are not home care aides, so they are not able to help with bathing, hygiene or medical care.

Eligible senior companions age 55 and older receive a tax-free stipend for their service. More senior companions are still needed to assist people in need throughout Niagara County.

To learn more about receiving help or volunteering, contact Senior Companion Program Coordinator Debra Harden at 285-8224, ext. 217, or volunteercenter@hanci.com.

Funded largely by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Senior Companion Program also receives support from the Niagara County Office for the Aging, local United Way agencies, and individual donors. The program is sponsored locally by the Health Association of Niagara County Inc.