September is National Preparedness Month

The Buffalo, Erie and Niagara Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Community Preparedness Workgroup kicked-off FEMA’s Ready Campaign 7th annual National Preparedness Month (NPM) on Monday, August 30th at the American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter.

Delegates from both Niagara and Erie Counties spoke about the importance of emergency preparedness in our community including Erie County Executive Chris Collins, Chairman of the Niagara County Legislature William Ross and City of Buffalo Fire Commissioner Garnell W. Whitfield, Jr.


Town of Tonawanda Sponsored CERT Training Course

Spread the Word! Tonawanda is hosting a CERT Training Course. The course will meet at the Town of Tonawanda Fire Training Tower Classroom, (70 Fire Tower Drive), located off of Two Mile Creek Road in the Town of Tonawanda.

The nine (9) class course starts on Monday, September 13, 2010 and continues on Monday evenings (6:00-9:00 PM) followed by a Saturday course review and simulated disaster training exercise on November 13th. Participants should plan to attend all sessions.

CERT Training prepares you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster.

To register, please contact Jess Martin, Citizen Corps Coordinator, at 286-8306 or jmartin@niagara.edu.
How often do you think about emergencies or disasters? Probably not very often. Maybe after it happens to someone else. However, taking just a few steps can give you the tools to ensure you and your family’s safety in an emergency.

According to the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey, only 36% of individuals believed there was a high likelihood of a natural disaster to EVER happen in their community. But disasters happen every day in many different forms – from hurricanes to snowstorms, even localized events such as floods and power outages.

Many people think it will be easy to grab items from your pantry if disaster strikes. What if you are not at home? What if your family is separated? What if you have to leave quickly? What about your elderly neighbor? The Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps encourage you to take a few extra minutes this month to plan for any emergency.

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM) and a good reminder that we all have a responsibility to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. Emergencies will happen, but taking action now can help us minimize the impact they will have on our lives.

This year, NPM focuses on encouraging you and other Americans to take active steps toward getting involved and becoming prepared. Preparedness is everyone’s responsibility. We have to work together, as a team, to ensure individuals, families, and communities are ready. Make a plan. Put together an emergency supply kit. Stay Informed. Work as a team to keep everyone safe.

For more information on NPM or for help getting your family, business or community prepared, call 1-800-BE-READY, TTY 1-800-462-7585 or visit www.ready.gov, www.listo.gov or www.citizencorps.gov, where you'll find free preparedness resources such as Family Emergency Plan templates, Emergency Supply Kit Checklists, and much more. The Ready Web site also has a special section for kids, ages 8-12, (Ready Kids) and for small-to-medium sized businesses (Ready Business). Emergencies can happen at any time and to anyone. Are you Ready?

### 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 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.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 20</td>
<td>6:00 pm - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Animals in Disasters - Helen Robert</td>
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<td>Saturday, October 23</td>
<td>9:00 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Animals in Disasters - Helen Robert</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 15</td>
<td>6:00 pm - 8:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
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My first presentation went well at Newfane ABCD with 13 families attending who learned about Emergency Preparedness. Thank you to Wendy Vega for arranging the presentation and Francisco Meza Agüero for translating the presentation. It was also a good turnout at the Independent Health Good for the Neighborhood event at the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building in Niagara Falls on August 19.

**Upcoming Niagara County Events:**

- A CERT Member Skills Enhancement Training focusing on Fire Safety and Light Search & Rescue review is scheduled for September 22 at 6:30 pm at the "Tuscarora Community Building" located at 1924 Mount Hope Road in Lewiston.

- We will have a booth at the Freedom Trail Festival on Saturday, September 18 from 12-6 pm outside the Niagara Falls Public Library. We will also be represented with a booth at the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce Annual Harvest Festival Craft Show on Saturday, September, 25 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm in Lewiston. Volunteers are needed to help man both booths for 3 hour shifts.

- I have a presentation scheduled in September at the Master’s Vineyard Mission Academy Christian School which will be geared towards the students that I am looking forward to.

- As a reminder, keep your eyes open around the County as there will be community billboards and signs promoting Emergency Preparedness. Currently, The Hartland Fire Co. will promote National Preparedness Month in September on their new electronic sign and the Village of Lewiston’s Academy Park sign will promote Ready.gov the second week in October.

Please contact Valerie Haseley at (716) 286-8023 or vhaseley@niagara.edu if you are interested in attending a training or volunteering.

**City of Buffalo**

It’s hard to believe summer is winding down already. As many people prepare for final vacations of the fleeting summer, Hurricane Earl is threatening many of the beach destinations on the East Coast. Always remember that family preparedness should never stop at home. Always prepare for the unexpected when at the office, at school or even on the vacations you planned so diligently for.

As a reminder, BCS offers the Map Your Neighborhood Program (MYN) in the City of Buffalo. Do you know any neighbors who have an emergency generator? A chainsaw for debris removal? Is there safe place where the elderly of the neighborhood could gather? The MYN program takes under two hours and aims to get neighbors working together to organize should they ever be affected by disaster. Remember a neighborhood working together makes sense! I would like to thank Sterling Avenue Block Club for being among the first city neighborhoods to utilize this important program.

In addition, we also offer a general emergency preparedness presentation for interested block clubs, community agencies/centers, religious organizations, schools, and businesses in the City of Buffalo. Each adult receives a free “Grab & Go” Safety Kit as a gift. Interested organizations can contact me at 716 286-8304 or via email at dle@niagara.edu to schedule a free emergency preparedness training or the MYN program. What a perfect way to celebrate September as National Preparedness Month!
Town of Tonawanda  Jess Martin  716.286.8306

All Town of Tonawanda CERT and CPA members are invited to attend the Citizen Corps Picnic on Friday, September 17, 2010 at the Noco Pavilion (450 Ensminger Rd). This is a fun social event for CERT and CPA members to get together and have a good time. Doors open at 6 pm where a chicken dinner with dessert and a beverage are included. The cost per person is $5.50. All monies must be in by September 6, 2010. No money is being accepted the day of the picnic. Please send checks or money order to:

C.E.R.T.
c/o Marge Fleck
132 East Monmouth Ave, Tonawanda, NY 14150

Any CERT members interested in assisting with the Citizen Corps Picnic are welcome to join the Citizen Corp Picnic committee, which will meet on Monday, September 13, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Tonawanda Fire Tower (70 Fire Tower Drive).

Please contact Marge at 716-833-3429 or Sally at 716-837-2290 if you have any questions. Come join the fun and celebrate the beautiful change of seasons!

Check Out the Border Community SERVICE Facebook Page

We created a page on Facebook and this is your official invitation to “Like Us.” Check out our page by searching for “Border Community Service of Niagara University.” Here, you will be able to find current information and events, discussions and photos of past events. You can also visit our Facebook page by going to our website at www.niagara.edu/border-community-service and clicking the link on our homepage.

Buffalo Bisons Game

On Monday, August 30th the Border Community SERVICE (BCS) Staff attended the Buffalo Bisons Game vs. Syracuse Chiefs as Minor League Baseball celebrates the kickoff of National Preparedness Month.

Ready Rex threw the ceremonial first pitch, which went a little high, but was well received by the fans. Ready Rex visited with children at the booth and volunteers passed out Ready Rex activity books to the children, Grab & Go Safety Kits and emergency blankets to the adults. It was a wonderful event with thousands of baseball fans in attendance.

Ready Rex preparing to throw out the first pitch at the Buffalo Bisons Game.

Ready Rex poses with Buster Bison and Chip at the Buffalo Bisons game.