CERT Training Courses Scheduled

Newfane location:
A free CERT training course is being offered at the Newfane Community Center, 2737 Main Street in Newfane beginning on January 11, 2011. The classes will run eight consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and culminate in a disaster simulation on Saturday, March 5th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. CERT training prepares you to help yourself, family, and neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Participants must be at least 16 years of age and plan to attend all sessions.

For more information or to enroll in the training, please contact Valerie Haseley, Niagara County Project Coordinator at (716) 286-8023. To register online, please visit www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment.

Lancaster location:
Border Community SERVICE will host a CERT course on Thursday evenings (6:30 to 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. Participants must be at least 16 years of age and plan to attend all sessions.

All interested community members should visit www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment to enroll in this training or call Dana Estrada at 286-8304 for more information.

~ You are invited ~

BCS is pleased to announce a partnership with the graduate program in the Department of Criminal Justice at NU. This spring semester, Dr. David Taylor is teaching a graduate course on Homeland Security. As part of the course, he is developing a speaker series on various issues and topics pertinent to Homeland Security. Topics may include border security, critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, immigration, disaster response and recovery and more. Dr. Taylor is inviting all CERT members and BCS volunteers to attend the speaker series portion of the class. The schedule of topics and speakers will be announced in the next newsletter, but please mark your calendars if you might be interested. The course will be held on campus (room TBD) on Monday evenings from 7:15 pm until approximately 8:30 pm beginning on March 7th. These presentations will also serve as the monthly BCS skills enhancements for March – May.
Did the New Year sneak up on you like it did for me? December was over in a flash, but I was able to do seven presentations in Niagara County reaching more than 100 individuals. I finished conducting presentations with the Office of Aging sites and visited Niagara County’s Head Start Programs in Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda and Newfane. I spoke at the monthly parent meetings and gave tips on how to better prepare their families for emergencies. I was also invited to the North Tonawanda Human Service Coalition to speak about our program and the presentations we have available. I met representatives from wonderful organizations that I hope to partner with in the near future.

December also provided me the opportunity to visit NIACAP (Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.) sites in Niagara Falls and Lockport and distribute mini first aid kits to their clients and educate them on the importance of preparing for emergencies.

I am looking forward to January where we will be having more than 100 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts converge on Niagara University for a Saturday all-day workshop to earn their Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge or Patch. I am also gearing up for the CERT class taking place in Newfane as well as continuing to schedule presentations throughout the County.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and especially safe 2011!

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

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World Junior Hockey Games

Thank you to all the CERT members who volunteered for the World Junior Hockey Games taking place at Dwyer Arena at Niagara University. On behalf of the University, Campus Safety, and the World Junior Hockey Organization, thank you for your time and efforts to help have the visitors enjoy the games. Having the opportunity to host such a prestigious tournament was truly possible in part by your assistance.

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Town of Tonawanda CERT members are invited to nominate fellow members for the upcoming elections. Nominations for the Town of Tonawanda CERT Board positions of Chairperson and Secretary are being accepted until **January 24, 2010**. Anyone wishing to make a nomination for the new Chairperson and Secretary positions -**OR**- anyone who wants to run for office must contact Peter Darrigo at peterpj5@netscape.net. No nominations will be accepted after January 24, 2010.

A brief CERT board meeting will start at 7:15pm on January 24, 2010 at the Phillips Sheridan Building in room 123 directly across from community room. Elections will immediately follow the board meeting in the same location.

The ICS 100 link has been changed. To complete ICS 100, go to [http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp)
To start off the month of December, a “Ready America” presentation was given to the Newburgh Elementary Parent’s Association, with the Principal, Dr. Maryellen Royce, also in attendance. This was a very active and engaging evening. Thank you to Doreen Whitfield, President of the Parent-Teacher Association for inviting Border Community SERVICE to help make her school and community a safer place. We will work to keep this group engaged and hold larger events in the future, both for the parents and the students.

A Skills Enhancement Training was conducted for area CERT members at Medaille College on December 14th. I arranged for guests Ed Kasperak and Gwen Macool from the Niagara Frontier Search and Rescue Team to share their expertise and give wilderness training to our CERT members in attendance. Though there was inclement weather that evening, the members who were able to attend found the evening to be useful, entertaining, and interesting. A BIG thanks goes out to Ed and Gwen for sharing their skills, stories, and photos with us. We hope to partner with this team again to reach more members. See what was said about this event below:

- “Very good information. A must for any CERT member.” - Ray Lloyd
- “The backpack demonstration and examination of items was very useful and informative.” - Robert Janik
- “Wow! I’m always cold so knowing how to keep warm is really helpful!” - Martine Vas

The end of December was concluded with a presentation for youths, an at-risk girls group of nine members sponsored by the City of Buffalo’s Director of Youth Services, Kathy Isch. We watched the documentary “Katrina’s Children” and then took time to process the material - the thoughts, feelings, and changes experienced by those affected and by the girls who viewed the movie.

In January and the coming months, Border Community SERVICE of Buffalo will be partnering with The Buffalo Museum of Science and Tift Nature Preserve, Niagara Lutheran Church, the International Institute, city block clubs, religious institutions, refugee centers, and after-school programs arranged through Child and Family Services, in order to give presentations and distribute disaster related material. Stay tuned for information regarding January’s CERT Skills Enhancement Training offering.

Happy New Year! Let’s hope it is a safe and healthy one!

January can be a very ‘long’ month - unless you are involved in winter sports and/or enjoy the brisk, cold air that normally comes along with this wintry month. Did you know that January is also noted for: Eye Care Month, Hot Tea Month, National Braille Literacy Month, National Blood Donor Month, Soup Month, Staying Healthy Month, Thank You Month, and Oatmeal Month.

**Travel Tips:**

- Brake early. It takes more time and distance to stop in wintry conditions.
- A four-wheel drive vehicle might get you going quicker, but it won’t stop any quicker.
- Look further ahead in traffic then you normally do. Even a split-second of extra reaction time can make the difference.
- Get the latest weather forecast **before** you leave - check www.weather.gov,buf