September is National Preparedness Month


Now is the time to be sure you can communicate during emergencies by having up-to-date contact information for those you may need to get in touch with during a disaster. Establish alternate methods of communication in case traditional means are not available.

Making a family emergency communication plan is a great way to prepare for disasters, but testing your plan is even better so you’ll be familiar with how to respond. It’s also one of the 10 Ways to Participate in America’s PrepareAthon!

In addition to the overall theme, each week of National Preparedness Month will also promote the following hazard focused themes:

- September 1 - 5: Flood
- September 6 - 12: Wildfire
- September 13 - 19: Hurricane
- September 20 - 26: Power Outage
- September 27: Lead up to National PrepareAthon! Day

National PrepareAthon! Day culminates NPM on September 30, 2015. Individuals, families, organizations and businesses are encouraged to use America’s PrepareAthon! materials, available at www.ready.gov/prepare as you plan, host and support preparedness actions such as discussions, drills, exercises and training sessions, throughout the month and on September 30.

Information provided by an email sent using GovDelivery, on behalf of FEMA · U.S. Department of Homeland Security · Washington, DC 20472
August was a busy month for Border Community SERVICE in the City of Buffalo! The month started with a visit to the Cazenovia Resource Center for their annual “National Night Out” event. The building was busy with presentations and lots of informational booths. BCS also visited a few food pantries in the area – we were lucky enough to make two visits to the Seneca Babcock Community Center and then two visits to the St. Patrick’s Friary Food Pantry located just north of Larkinville. In all, over 100 people were able to benefit from emergency preparedness information and small first aid kits.

On August 8th BCS visited the first “Bailey Green Day” hosted by Harmac Medical Products for the people living in the Bailey/Genesee area. It was a wonderful event that had many, many vendors – including food trucks, dj’s, and of course, informational tables. Over 150 people received first aid kits and information. The event was so successful that they are already making plans for next summer!

The end of August also leads to the start of school so BCS was invited to participate in the Ready Freddy events at local elementary schools! We visited School #59, School #30, School #72, and School #18. The events are a lively time to welcome new Pre-K and Kindergarten students to school and make sure their families are prepared for the upcoming year. Over 200 first aid kits were given out during these events. I was also fortunate to have a helper at one of the Ready Freddy events – my daughter, Claire! She’s going into 1st Grade this year so she thought she could help the students prepare!

Of course, we also spent our Wednesdays (and an extra Friday!) doing the Clean Sweeps in the City of Buffalo. We visited Lemon, Orange, Mulberry, Locust, Winslow, Glenwood, Courtland, Hazelwood, Gold, Davey, and Benzinger Streets. We also made a visit back to BMHA’s Kenfield-Langfield property.

We’re looking forward to a wonderful September in honor of National Preparedness Month! It’s a good time to make sure that you’re family is prepared and ready!
Niagara County Fair was a huge success for Border Community SERVICE! We presented a table in the Sheriff’s Tent that included a pamphlet display organizer (thank you to Dave Taylor of Levesque Institute for thinking of us) and interacted with over 2,600 people during our four day stay. The Plinko game was a big hit and enabled us to have more time raising awareness about Emergency Preparedness in our community. We feel that this event is important since our funding is through Niagara County and this way we can give back to many more of our residents, even in the few minutes we may engage them on this important topic. Thank you to our volunteers Deb Clouser, Linda Hardy, Leonard Hoffman, Paul Leader, Mary LoStracco, Marti Moritz, Justin Printup and Rob Stalker. Without your valuable help we could not table such a lengthy event. We totally enjoyed the number of people who came up to our table and told us that they remembered us from last year and were happy to see us at the fair again.

Terri also tabled the WIC Breastfeeding Walk and Healthy Baby Festival in Hyde Park. BCS provided first aid kits to many young families and discussed the value of being prepared before an emergency situation arises.

Terri has begun speaking to community organizations and attended one at Niagara Towers and two at Complete Senior Care in Niagara Falls. Both events were well attended and we facilitated a kick off for Complete Senior Care’s distribution of emergency supplies and conversation between staff and clients as to what is in place to help them in case of an emergency, as well as what they can do for themselves. BCS provided first aid kits for both organizations, to help support their own emergency preparedness kits.

On August 23rd, Taylor set up an emergency preparedness table at the Wheatfield Family Picnic. We ran the Plinko game again (so well received by the community and so much fun!) and the winnings included first aid kits, survival wraps, hand sanitizers, and large band-aids; all great items to add to one's own emergency kit. It was a beautiful day with a great turn out. We would like to personally thank Don Dee for getting us involved in the event and Mike Zarbo for advertising BCS at the picnic.

Thank you as well to the people who have volunteered to work for the Wildlife Festival at the Power Vista on September 26th and 27th. Please stop and visit our booth if you attend.

And as always, if there is an organization or event that would benefit by our attendance, please call the office at 205-0076 and let us know!
School is back in session!

Where did that summer go to? With September’s arrival, that means we all had better be on the look-out for children gathering at bus stops, school buses out and drivers learning their routes, parents in a hurry to get to work…. So be alert! Also, as a parent or caregiver of a school aged child, we must know that disasters can strike at any time, even during school hours. Make sure your child is ‘prepared’ by talking with them beforehand should something occur.

All children should know their full name, address and their parents’ or guardians’ names as well. Knowing the cell phone number of their parent/guardian is an added bonus! If you child is old enough, show them various routes and methods of getting home should they need an alternative. Most students are bused to school so this might not be relevant. And if you can, include a mini-emergency kit in your child’s backpack - water, snacks, a small first aid kit, contact information, and information on the child’s allergies, medical conditions and medications. If they have a locker, find an area where you can put this kit and it can stay there (update as necessary so that the perishables and medication are current).

Know how your child’s school is prepared to handle emergencies as well. The Ready Campaign suggests asking the following questions about your child’s school emergency plan:

• How does the school plan on communicating with you in the event of a disaster?
• Does the school store adequate water, food and other basic supplies?
• Does the school have a plan for students to shelter in place? If not, where will students go if they must evacuate?

You can never be too informed when it comes to school safety plans. And you and your child can never be too prepared for the unexpected. Knowing ahead of time that you have discussed a number of possible ‘out of the ordinary things’ that could happen when they are at school and away from you, will elevate some of the fears that will surface if a crisis does occur.

“Don’t wait. Communicate. Make your emergency plan today”!

September is National Preparedness Month. Be school prepared!
Thank you goes out to the City/Town of Tonawanda CERT team members who were of great service during the recent eight-day canal fest:

They were on patrol in the campus area, giving us (police) an extra set of eyes and ears; manning the lost child tent and were very swift and thorough with two lost children the last day of the event; as well as assisting in handing out flyers door-to-door to residents who lived on the canal fest parade route to give them a heads-up of what to expect. It was great having them assist us during the fest!

~ Captain Fred Foels/Operations
City of Tonawanda Police Department

This year’s canal fest was assisted by CERT members, organized into teams and equipped with two-way radios and dressed in their high-visibility vests, who received instruction on how to patrol and what to look for. They assisted by watching for criminal and suspicious activities, inspecting for blocked fire lanes, and providing information to the many attendees. As many as 15 members were assigned during the parade that lasted more than two hours! They also staffed a lost children tent. The utilization of CERT at the Canal Fest was a great success in that they provided extra vigilance on top of what regular first responders could do and they did so in a very professional and courteous manner. We are very grateful for their help and look forward to continuing the working relationship that has developed between us and the CERT group. Thanks to Beth Peacock, Deputy Director with the City of Tonawanda Office of Emergency Management who suggested the use of CERT members and to the Bob Lutz, who put it all together to make it happen.

~ Charles B. Stuart - Fire Chief
City of Tonawanda Fire Department
SMART Training/Meeting Calendar - September 2015

The following information has been provided by Pati Aine Guzinski and if you are interested in attending any of these upcoming sessions, please contact Pati Aine as listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 12</td>
<td>8:00 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Basic Disaster Life Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 16</td>
<td>6:00 pm - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 19</td>
<td>9:00 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 22</td>
<td>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</td>
<td>ORIENTATION (NEW MEMBERS ONLY)</td>
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Dates may change due to participation in community events / drills / exercises.
All classes will be held at the Erie County Fire Training Academy
3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY 14227.
In an effort to facilitate an optimum training environment and experience, class size may be limited. Pre-registration is required for all sessions. Every effort will be made to send out session specific information at least 2 weeks before each session.

Pati Aine Guzinski
Training Coordinator PH Emergency Preparedness for Erie County
Phone: (716) 858-7109
PatiAine.Guzinski@erie.gov

REMINDER:
If you’ve moved, changed your email address, added a cell phone to your contact information, etc. - please send a quick email to Gail at gstruzik@niagara.edu so that we can update your record. It’s important that we keep as accurate records as possible should we need to contact our CERT people quickly.

MANY THANKS!