

NEIGHBORHOOD PREPAREDNESS NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR NASSAU COUNTY CERT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CERT DATABASE	2
POD ORIENTATION	2
WEATHER RADIOS	3
FLORIDA CONFERENCE 2006	3
TRAINING & EVENT SCHEDULE	4
TRAINING COURSES	5
DEFENSIVE DRIVING	6

What Nassau County Learned From Hurricane Katrina

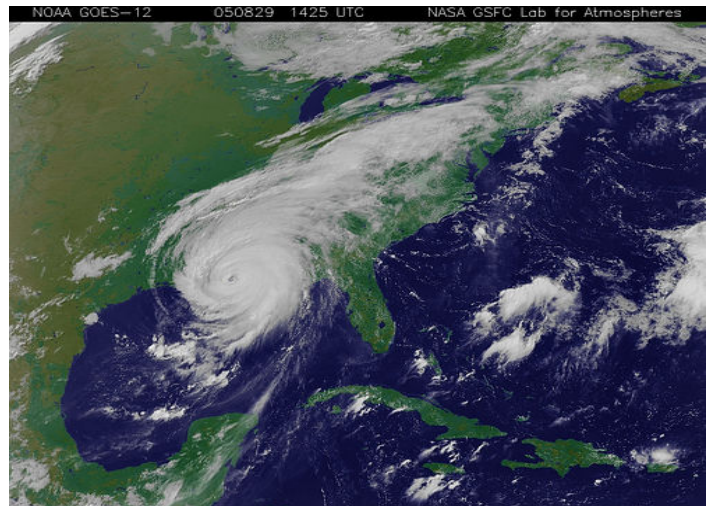
After one of the worst natural disasters to hit the U.S. mainland, we have all seen and heard about what went wrong. There is enough blame to be handed out at every level. But if the residents of New Orleans had CERT training, they would have learned that help would take a minimum of three days. Here on Long Island, if everything went according to plan, we would be lucky to have help in five days.

With snow and ice storms in the winter and the chance of a major hurricane in the summer and fall, we in Nassau County have to be ready 365 days a year. Yet when the news tells us of a major storm headed towards us, the supermarkets become jammed with people buying everything they can. Worse, they buy products that will need refrigeration which may not be available if power is lost. As CERT members, we all

must be ready for all types of problems. Five days of food that will not go bad, a hand can opener, flashlights, batteries, pet food, baby food, water, etc should already be stocked in your home and be in a location that you can take it to high ground for flooding, low ground

for hurricanes, etc.

Remember that we as CERT must be ready to help ourselves first in order to be able to help our neighbors during what could be a long time until help arrives. *(Submitted by Mitchell Ostrover, Lake Success Team coordinator)*



Message From Bob Beckmann Nassau County CERT Coordinator

As we move forward into 2006, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for taking the time out of your busy lives to become members of the Nassau County Community Emergency Response Team. Learning how to take care of yourselves and your families before, during, and after a disaster is imperative and no matter how prepared the

government might be they may not be able to provide help immediately after a disaster. CERT started in Los Angeles, California twenty years ago for just that reason.

As members of CERT you volunteered to help others prepare for, and recover from disasters. Some of you help by becoming Team Coordinators (TC's), Deputy TC's, or are part of a group

of extremely dedicated volunteers who assist with the daily administration of CERT. I must extend a very special thank you to Maria Gallo, our Volunteer CERT Administrator. As everyone knows, CERT would be in a shambles without her!! This is a group effort and we are always in need of any assistance you can give us at OEM. Also, if you are inter-

(Continued on page 2)

CERT Coordinator Message (cont'd)

ested in volunteering on one of the many committees that keep CERT on top as one of the most successful teams in the country, please let us know!

CERT has grown to over 340 dedicated volunteers since Nassau County OEM started CERT three years ago and we believe that by the end of 2006 membership will reach 600. We

are planning many basic and advanced training sessions for 2006 and encourage you to attend. We work hard to provide different and exciting hands-on trainings and activities at every session. Remember that to maintain your position as a member of the Nassau County CERT team you must attend at least one refresher course a year.

We are planning a full scale CERT drill that will include fire, electrical wires, a collapse, and victims with moulage wounds needing triage and care. Please take advantage of these free advanced courses to better serve yourselves and your communities! Thank you again for your dedication to CERT and your community.

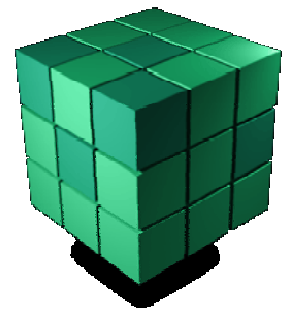
“As members of CERT you volunteered to help others prepare for, and recover from disasters.”

OEM Has Upgraded the CERT Database!

With the help and expertise of one of our members, Ken Guarino, the Westbury Team Coordinator the CERT database is user friendly and more advanced. Ken has a background in Information Technology and has taken upon himself the task of

giving CERT a new database system to track our membership, training, and activations. The initial database used a flat ACCESS database. Any time a new item was added to the system such as trainings, refreshers, activations, etc, the database

and the screen forms had to be modified. Ken kept the ACCESS database but expanded it to a relational database, and used Visual Basic to give us a user friendly front end and the ability to change and add data without any database or software changes.



CERT Teams Receive POD Orientation

The Glen Cove CERT Team held its second quarterly team meeting at the Glen Cove Firehouse on 7 February. Glen Cove Team Coordinator Karen Luciano Bartolotto coordinated with the Nassau County Dept. of Health to provide an orientation on the Point of Distribution (POD) plan for mass distribution to the public of vaccines or other medicines. This presentation covered the structure of a POD, personnel roles, abilities, and responsibilities, and how clients are moved through the various stations expeditiously to de-

liver the vaccines or medicines quickly to a large population.

In order to obtain the most benefit from this informative presentation, the meeting was called as a joint meeting with the Locust Valley CERT Team led by Team Coordinator Debbie Baum.

Following the POD orientation, coffee and cake provided by OEM was available while the Glen Cove Team covered the rest of the meeting agenda, which included a report by Vic Bartolotto on his



(Continued on page 6)

"SAME" Technology Weather Radios

Specific Area Message Encoding [SAME] by Mitchell Ostrover, Lake Success Team coordinator

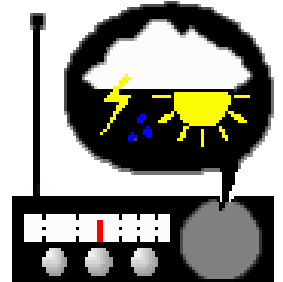
In the event of a weather problem, the first you will hear about it is with a weather radio that picks up NOAA broadcasts. NOAA is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This is basically the weatherman for the weatherman, local weather for you 24 hours a day seven days a week. When you have a

weather radio at home that has "SAME" technology built in, you also get a system that will alert you to any weather WARNINGS, WATCHES, or STATEMENTS in your immediate area. That means if any type of bad weather is coming toward Nassau County, your radio will give off a loud warning tone and display and broadcast what the problem is. It can be a winter storm, hurricane, tornado, heavy winds, thunder storm, marine advisory, and even an AM-

BER alert.

Plus, in the event of an emergency that will affect Nassau County, OEM will be able to broadcast warnings and information over the system. It could also broadcast a CERT call-out.

The "SAME" NOAA radio is a great item to have in your home as a means of being warned of a problem and then as a way of getting information that is related to our situation in Nassau County.



Florida Conference 2006

by Debbie Baum Locust Valley Team Coordinator, Volunteer Public Information Officer

It was a chilly few days in Florida January 5-8th, 2006 but the mood was warm, welcoming and exciting at the Marriot Hotel in Palm Beach Gardens. It was an awesome experience being surrounded by 200+ fellow CERT-A-HOLICS! This was the case at the 2006 Florida CERT Conference. With six representatives from Nassau County CERT and Firefighter Rescue Inc. as well as CERT members from areas as far west as Los Angeles and Sacramento, the exchange of experiences, information, and advice was enlightening and inspiring! (Comparing gadgets and gizmos within CERT backpacks was also hysterical!) Most importantly, being among fellow volunteers that personify commitment to community was the most incredible part

of the experience.

The days were filled with various training sessions ranging in topic from "Utilizing Moulage during an Exercise," "Keeping your Volunteers Involved and Interested," and "Educating the Community on CERT." The conference culminated in a full-scale exercise that began on a sojourn on public buses to an undisclosed location. First stop was Palm Beach Gardens Town Hall for breakfast and a briefing where we were assigned tasks and formed our teams. Then it was off to the site of the "Disaster."

The scenario was a theatre complex being used to shelter community members during a hurricane sustained a roof collapse. Our mission was to conduct a search and rescue, triage and treat victims and call for transport to

the hospital. What made the scenario so realistic was the surroundings. The theatre complex had actually sustained major damage and was condemned a couple of years ago during a hurricane. Also, the victims were local high school students decorated in moulage wounds. The whole exercise took approximately 2 hours and was phenomenal! We learned so much about what we DO know and what we NEED to learn. Upon completion of the exercise, the buses took us back to Town Hall for a debriefing and then just a short distance to the Palm Beach Gardens Firehouse for a wonderful BBQ.

The whole experience was so incredible and positive that we are committed to hosting a Regional CERT CONFERENCE here in Nassau County in 2007! We are in the planning process and will get this

"It was an awesome experience being surrounded by 200+ fellow CERT-A-HOLICS!"



TRAINING & EVENT SCHEDULE

Class	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Location Name	Location Address	Lead Instructor
Ref.#	day1	Day2	Day3	Day4	Day5					
Basic	A	15-Feb	8-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar	5-Apr		Floral Park Village Hall	1 Floral Blvd. Floral Park, NY 11002	FFR
Study	1	13-Mar						Massapequa Park Senior Center	1000 Lake Shore Dr. Massapequa Park, NY 11762	JBD
Study	2	14-Mar						Freeport Fire HQ	15 Broadway, Freeport, NY 11520	JBD
Study	3	20-Mar						5 Towns Temple Beth Shalom	Washington Av & Broadway, Lawrence, NY 11559	
Shelter	M	21-Mar						Jericho Middle School Library	99 Cedar Swamp Rd (Route107), Jericho, NY 11753	ARC
Study	4	23-Mar						Glen Cove Fire House	10 Glen Cove Av. Glen Cove, NY 11542	JBD
Study	5	27-Mar						Jericho Middle School Faculty Cafetria	99 Cedar Swamp Rd (Route107), Jericho, NY 11753	JBD
Study	6	28-Mar						Floral Park Village Hall	1 Floral Blvd. Floral Park, NY 11002	JBD
Refresher	F	29-Mar						Lake Success Village Hall	Lakeville Av. Lake Success NY 11020	FFR
Study	7	30-Mar						Westbury Village Senior Center	360 Post Av. Westbury, NY 11590	JBD
Basic	B	20-Apr	27-Apr	4-May	11-May	18-May		Massapequa	99 New York Avenue, Massapequa, NY 11762	FFR
Smoke Hs	K	29-Apr						Glen Cove Fire House	10 Glen Cove Av. Glen Cove, NY 11542	FFR
Smoke Hs	L	7-May						Freeport Fire HQ	15 Broadway, Freeport, NY 11520	FFR
Shelter	N	17-May						Lake Success Village Hall	Lakeville Av. Lake Success NY 11020	ARC
DFA & Adv. Triage	T	21-May						TBA		Matt Berman
Recognition Dinner	Z	27-Jun						Millridge Inn Cottage		
Basic First Aid & CPR	V	7-Jun	14-Jun	21-Jun				TBA		Brian McEvoy
Basic	C	8-Jun	15-Jun	22-Jun	29-Jun	6-Jul		TBA		FFR
Basic	J	31-Jul	7-Aug	14-Aug	21-Aug	28-Aug		TBA		FFR
Shelter	P	20-Jul						Freeport		ARC
Refresher	G	11-Sep						TBA		FFR
Shelter	Q	12-Sep						Massapequa		ARC
Exercise	H	17-Sep						TBA		FFR
Basic	D	15-Oct	22-Oct	29-Oct	Sundays 8 hrs,8 hrs,4 hrs			TBA		FFR
Basic	E	1-Nov	8-Nov	15-Nov	29-Nov	6-Dec		TBA		FFR
USAR	R	TBA						TBA		Matt Berman
USAR	S	TBA						TBA		Matt Berman
DFA & Adv. Triage	U	9-Nov	16-Nov					TBA		Matt Berman
Basic First Aid & CPR	W	12-Nov	19-Nov	26-Nov				TBA		Brian McEvoy
Adv Woodland								Storybrook		DEC

All dates and locations are subject to change without notice

You must preregister for the courses by email to: oeimcert@nassaucounty.ny.gov or calling 573-6635

Please reference the Course Letter, and date

Yellow indicates BASIC CERT CERTIFICATION

TRAINING COURSES

Disaster First Aid (DFA) and Advanced Triage:

When a disaster strikes the first minutes and hours are critical. Large numbers of people are injured and there are may not be enough ambulances immediately available. In Disaster First Aid you learn the most essential knowledge and skills that can save lives and limbs. Simple but important things any ordinary citizen can do. Another key element in this course is the innovative use of commonly found items in the home or office. You don't need expensive First Aid kits and supplies, and you need not feel helpless or intimidated by the lack of them. It encourages "outside the box" thinking. "Learn to use whatever you have, and you will always find what you need wherever you are."... Though this course you will also be more aware of how to properly triage a patient in the most proficient matter. This class includes both a lecture and hands on training.

USAR Class:

This lecture course provides specialized training in the realm of building collapse rescue, a viable threat in every community. This will include, warning signs, collapse causes, void identification, safety precautions, search techniques, team operations, building construction awareness, and initial operations. Several case studies will be discussed. A table top exercise is also included. This class covers the basics necessary for the beginner to be familiar with the many facets of structural collapse.

Refresher Class:

The refresher class is a review of Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials Safety, and Light Search and Rescue. There is a short lecture and mostly hands on activities including bandaging, cribbing, and identifying hazardous materials.

Basic First Aid, CPR and AED:

This 12-hour class is a Certification (CPR and First Aid) course by the American Heart Association. The certification is good for two years. The course includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic life support (BLS) and automated external defibrillator (AED) training. The First Aid segment teaches rescuers to effectively recognize and treat emergencies in the critical first minutes.

Smoke House:

This one day class will include a lecture and hands on training. The participant will learn proper techniques for escaping a smoke filled room. Artificial smoke conditions are created within the smoke "house" to allow participants to practice techniques taught for escaping a smoke filled room.

Shelter Management Workshop:

This one night course will prepare the attendee to open an Emergency Evacuation Site, work in an evacuation shelter, and operate a long term disaster shelter. The Nassau Chapter of the American Red Cross will provide the recipient with in depth knowledge of operations and management of a shelter.

Nassau County Office of Emergency Management
100 Carman Avenue
East Meadow, NY 11554

We are on the web:
[http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/
agencies/OEM/CC/CERT/](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/OEM/CC/CERT/)

Defensive Driving Class

Are you looking for a program to offer your CERT team members? Would you be interested in something that could get your team together, would not cost you anything, and would save the team members some money? Ken Guarino has

been teaching the National Safety Council's Defensive Driver class since 1993. Upon completion up to 4 points will be reduced from your driving record and your collision and liability premiums will be reduced by 10% for three years. Note that the

class can be run as a fundraiser. Why not hold a class and use the proceeds for items needed for your CERT team? E-mail Ken at kguarino@pobox.com for details.



Mission

The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness...Using the training learned in classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. ***CERT members ...are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.***

POD Orientation (cont'd)

contacts with other established CERT teams in the southern states to see what kinds of training they were undertaking. Dave Nieri reported on the productive meeting held with the Chiefs of the Glen Cove Fire Department and Glen Cove's Emergency Man-

ager to discuss the potential support that CERT could provide in the community in an actual incident response and for emergency planning and preparedness training.

The team members' contact information was updated to maintain an accurate activation phone tree, and Team

Coordinator Karen Luciano Bartolotto presented the upcoming training schedule. Our second team meeting proved to be both informative and productive.