

# **CERT ALL MEMBER WEEKLY BRIEF OCTOBER 29, 2009**

**CERT is what you make it!**

**The weekly CERT Brief is available on our webpage at:**

<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/OEM/CC/CERT/brief.html>

**If you have any suggestions including training or comments on how to make CERT better, please send an email to [oemcert@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:oemcert@nassaucountyny.gov). Or call us at 573-0648 and leave a message.**

**All responses are kept strictly confidential unless otherwise expressed.**

## **A MESSAGE FROM BOB**

On behalf of County Executive Tom Suozzi and Commissioner James J Callahan III thank you for your dedication and commitment to CERT and Citizen Preparedness.

### **Safe Halloween**

Halloween plans typically include frightful activities, and paying attention to a few safety tips can make the difference between having a frightfully-fun experience versus a frightfully-tragic one. Decorations were the first item ignited in an estimated average of more than 1,000 home structure fires per year during 2002-2005...Go to: [NFPA Reminds You to Stay Safe on Halloween and Avoid Frightful Fire Hazards](#)

### **PLEASE SEE THE MISSIONS LISTED BELOW**

We will be posting more missions as they develop! The H1N1 Call Center will be open INDEFINATLY and need coverage INDEFINATLY! If you can spare the time please sign up for a shift!

### **2010 Approaching Fast!**

We have posted a tentative 2010 calendar to give you an idea of the areas we are working to bring CERT to in 2010! None of the locations have been confirmed however we are definite on the dates! Please check it out! When we confirm locations and open registration we will post the sign up information in the Training section of this brief. Please wait till the sign up is posted to officially sign up for a class!

### **Are you a licensed Amateur Radio operator**

**Please submit your information again- we have been having email issues and we do not want to miss anyone!** Would you like to be? Are you interested in emergency communications? Are you a member of ARES or RACES? Do you have communications skills from work or the Military? If you answered yes to any of these questions then we need your help. We are creating a new CERT team to help support Radio Communications. Please respond to [oemcert@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:oemcert@nassaucountyny.gov) subject: "**CERT Comms Team**". We look forward to hearing from you. A ham radio license is not required to join the team but if you have one please include your call sign.

## **A MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COMMISSIONER**

**Maria Torroella Carney, MD, FACP**

*October 28, 2009*

**Dear Community Emergency Response Team Volunteer,**

I am writing to thank you for your continued support and willingness to volunteer especially during these past few months. The Community Emergency Response Team volunteers have been assisting the

Department of Health in two current projects but will have more opportunities to help in the weeks to come.

Since April, the Nassau County Department of Health has been holding regular communication sessions with local hospitals, physicians, schools and community leaders. As a result of these discussions, an Influenza Call Center was requested to assist with providing information to residents. This past month the Nassau County Department of Health opened the H1N1/Influenza Call Center (1-888-684-4271). Currently, the Call Center is staffed by Department of Health personnel as well as MRC and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers. Residents are calling this number and asking questions about the illness, availability of vaccines, information on safety of vaccines and updates on the current situation in Nassau County. Calm, caring individuals have been needed and fortunately, have been available to assist in this effort. We will need your continued support in the coming weeks to continue staffing the call center, to distribute vaccines to physicians, as well as to provide vaccination clinics and Point of Dispensing clinics (PODs) to residents. We will inform you of the schedule of these PODs and the need for assistance when the vaccines become available. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your volunteerism.

Sincerely,  
 Maria Torroella Carney, MD, FACP  
 Commissioner Nassau County Department of Health

### TRAINING

**In service training is open to all active CERT members on a first come first served basis.**

ICS training is open to other groups, agencies, friends, colleagues, businesses, etc., who may have a need to operate in a disaster or emergency. OEM is inviting all with a need for this information to join the training! (Some restrictions apply!) Please forward this announcement for ICS to any school, business or agency that would benefit from the training. **Don't forget that for EVERY CERT Training and activation YOU NEED to be prepared! Bring your CERT Gear! Have appropriate clothing and footwear on! Have your CERT uniform! Be prepared!**

## Nassau County CERT November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  Daylight Savings ends	2  Basic 5** Class II 6:30-10:00pm CW Post	3	4	5	6	7
8	9  Basic 5** Class III 6:30-10:00pm CW Post  5 Towns	10	11  Veteran's Day	12	13	14

15	16 Basic 5** Class IV 6:30-10:00pm CW Post	17 Planning Meeting 7:00-9:00pm  SE Sector	18	19	20	21
22	23 Basic 5** Class V 6:30-10:00pm CW Post	24 General Staff Meeting 7:00-9:00pm	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30 Basic 5** Class VI 6:30-10:00pm CW Post					

Note: Yellow dates denote Nassau County holidays.

\*\*Location: C.W. Post Campus- Long Island University 720 Northern Blvd. Brookville, New York 11548

**Nassau County CERT December 2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 CE Sector	3 SW Sector	4	5
6	7 Basic 5** Class VII 6:30-10:00pm CW Post  5 Towns	8 CPR/AED/FA Fall Class I 6:00-9:30pm Freeport FD*	9 CPR/AED/FA Fall Class II 6:00-9:30pm Freeport FD*	10	11	12 Hanukkah begins
13	14 Basic 5** Class VIII 6:30-10:00pm CW Post	15 Planning Meeting 7:00-9:00pm	16	17	18	19
20	21 Winter begins	22 General Staff Meeting 7:00-9:00pm	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa

27	28	29	30	31		
				New Year's Eve		

Note: Yellow dates denote Nassau County holidays.

\*Location: Freeport Fire Department 15 Broadway, Freeport, 11520

\*\*Location: C.W. Post Campus- Long Island University 720 Northern Blvd. Brookville, New York 11548

### **NEW CPR AED and First Aid Course**

**December 8 & 9, 2009, 6:00 – 9:30 PM** (8 hours-MUST attend both classes)

**Freeport Fire House 15 Broadway Freeport NY 11520**

This course is a Red Cross Certification class for adult & infant CPR only. (If you would like a Red Cross Certification Card the Red Cross Fee is **\$8.00 CASH** This is not a requirement to participate) 24 students Maximum. First come first served basis. We will be offering this course in other locations when volunteer instructors are available.

**Sign up by email to [oe-cert@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:oe-cert@nassaucountyny.gov) with “CPR-1208” in subject.**

## **ACTIVATIONS AND MISSION REQUESTS**

Missions that have not been posted before will be marked NEW and missions that have been completed or missions such as table events with positions that have been filled by volunteers will be removed from this section. The calendar above will have the events posted in it.

### **Ongoing Mission Request 20091022A H1N1callcenter**

**Mission:** H1N1 Call Center staffing

**Skills:** Staff call center and answer calls regarding H1N1

**Personnel:** 4 CERT volunteers needed each day (2 for each shift)

**Location:** Department of Health Building Located at: 106 Charles Lindbergh Blvd Uniondale 11553

**(Enter through South entrance and then call the hotline # 1-888-684-4271 to be admitted. Report to Anna for assistance and training)**

**Date:** **(updated 20091029)** October 26, 2009 Weekdays only, through **indefinitely**

**Times:** Between the hours of 9:00AM - 4:00PM

First shift: 9:00AM - 1:00 PM

Second shift: 12:30PM - Approx 4:00PM

**Method:** You will be provided: Job Action Sheet describing your function and details of how to respond to calls and how to refer callers. You will bring: Something to occupy you when the phones are not busy such as a book to read

**Attire:** Office Attire- cert shirt **or** green or white shirt, casual business attire such as black or kaki slack. No jeans or BDU's

**Refreshments:** Unknown if available please be prepared

**Due Date:** **Please respond ASAP!**

**Reason:** Commissioner of OEM and DOH request for CERT

**Sign Up Contact:** Send Email to [oe-cert@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:oe-cert@nassaucountyny.gov) subject "Mission Call Center"

**Please include: Days, dates, and times you are available for in the email.**

**Team Leader:** Morty Press

**Additional Information:** We also need a member who can receive redirected emails from me over the weekend and set up the shifts as well as respond to members with their assignments. This part of the mission can be done via internet. If you are interested in this please email [oeccert@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:oeccert@nassaucountyny.gov) subject: "Call Center Resource Unit Leader"

### **NEW Mission Request 20091030A OEM CERT DESK Staffing and Clerical Assistance**

**Mission:** To check email, voice mail, fill in forms on computer using excel, word, and outlook programs. We would like to have a member at the CERT Desk every day to assist with the daily operation of CERT.

**Skills:** Must be able to use computer, word, outlook, and excel basic knowledge, make follow-up calls to members, answer emails as directed, follow directions and develop Job Action Sheets. You must be independent and motivated to help out!

**Personnel:** 1 CERT volunteer needed 4 hours each day

**Location:** OEM CERT Desk at 100 Carman Ave East Meadow, NY 11554

**Date:** Ongoing – Must be able to commit to a day of the week for multiple weeks. *Such as: Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM for the month of June (except for holidays)*

**Times:** Between the hours of 8:00AM - 2:00PM

**Method:** You will be provided: samples and templates of forms and data, instruction from Bob, Job Action Sheets and instructions for email and voice mail

You will bring: Something to occupy you when it is slow such as a book to read

**Attire:** Office Attire- cert shirt or green or white polo type shirt, casual business attire such as black or kaki slacks. No jeans or BDU's. **A CERT shirt will be issued** (providing we have your size) after a steady show of support and commitment to continue.

**Refreshments:** Unknown if available please be prepared

**Due Date:** Ongoing

**Reason:** The CERT program has grown considerably and is in need of dedicated knowledgeable volunteer members to support the ongoing clerical issues related to the proper administration of the program.

**Sign Up Contact:**

Send Email to [oeccert@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:oeccert@nassaucountyny.gov) subject "CERT Desk Help"

**Team Leader:** Bob

## **EXERCISES**

None scheduled

## **OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **NEW NWS Aware Newsletter**

The latest edition of Aware has been posted at the following link.

<http://www.weather.gov/os/Aware/pdfs/09fall-aware.pdf>

### **The Citizen Corps News Digest**

Provided by FEMA's Community Preparedness Division to highlight community preparedness and resilience resources and activities recently announced by federal agencies and Citizen Corps partners.

### **FEMA and DHS Updates**

**Cybersecurity Awareness Month Updates**

Tips that computer users can adopt to improve their "cyber hygiene"...

### [Cybersecurity Awareness Month Part III](#)

[Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Attacks](#) In a social engineering attack, an attacker uses human interaction (social skills) to obtain or compromise information about an organization or its computer systems. An attacker may seem unassuming and respectable, possibly claiming to be a new employee, repair person, or researcher and even offering credentials to support that identity... [Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano Speaks on Securing America Against the Threat of Cyber Attack](#) On October 20th, DHS Secretary Napolitano spoke about the threat of a cyber attack in the U.S. Click [here](#) for the transcript.

### **Partner and Affiliate Updates**

H1N1 and Flu Updates

#### [FDA, FTC Issue Joint Warning Letter to Web Site Offering Fraudulent H1N1 Flu Supplements](#)

On October 15, 2009, the U.S. FDA and the FTC issued a joint warning letter to a Web site marketing fraudulent supplements that claim to help prevent the spread of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus...

#### [Red Cross Strives to Help Disaster's Vulnerable Population](#)

In testimony to a U.S. House of Representatives Committee, the American Red Cross offered recommendations on ways to better meet the needs of every community member affected by disaster, especially those with special requirements.

#### [Medical Reserve Corps News Updates](#)

See how MRC units from across the country have been answering the call to address threats such as natural disasters and H1N1.

### **U.S. Fire Administration Kicks off Public Fire Safety Campaign On Home Smoke Alarms and Residential Fire Sprinklers**

*Washington, D.C.* – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) today launched an effort to encourage everyone to install and maintain home smoke alarms and, if possible, sprinklers. More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year, and the majority of them have no working smoke alarm. To prevent these deaths, the USFA, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sponsoring the nationwide ***Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign***, which emphasizes that “Smoke Alarms Save Lives.”

The ***Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign*** is promoting fire safety through a free Campaign Toolkit DVD; featuring English and Spanish educational materials; print, radio and television PSAs; children’s materials, a video demonstration of how quickly a home fire spreads, and on the USFA’s consumer-friendly Web site at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms).

#### **The USFA offers a few helpful tips on smoke alarms and sprinklers:**

- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.
- The U.S. Fire Administration recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and change alkaline batteries at least once every year, or as instructed by the manufacturer. You can use a date you already know, like your birthday or when you change your clocks as a reminder.
- If possible, install residential fire sprinklers in your home.

- Avoid painting or covering the fire sprinkler, because that will affect the sensitivity to heat.
- Organizations in partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration’s ***Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign*** include the American Fire Sprinkler Association, Burn Institute, Everyone Goes Home, Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association, Fire Department Safety Officers Association, Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, Home Safety Council, International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services, National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) , NASFM Fire Research and Education Foundation, National Association of Hispanic Firefighters, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, National Fire Protection Association, National Fire Sprinkler Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, and Safe Kids Worldwide.

Materials can be downloaded at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms) (English) or [www.usfa.dhs.gov/detectoresdehumo](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/detectoresdehumo) (Spanish). The Campaign Toolkit disc with all campaign materials is available from the USFA Publications Center at [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov) or by calling (800)561-3356.

**Inform the Public**

HHS needs your help in informing the public about valuable resources on Flu.gov. With new content, tools, and resources added daily, Flu.gov provides information on H1N1 and seasonal flu, including symptoms and treatments, vaccines, tips for prevention, and live briefings. For more on this: [Flu.gov](http://Flu.gov) [Needs You](#)

**Volunteer America**

Calling service an integral part of how we meet the challenges of our time, President Obama renewed his appeal for all Americans to make service a part of their daily lives in an address to service leaders gathered at the Points of Light Institute's “Presidential Forum on Service”. For More: [President Obama Joins President Bush in Call to Service](#)  
 And: [Transcript of President Obama's Speech at Points of Light’s 20th Anniversary](#)

**BASIC CLASSES:**

**Please check the website training page for the updated CERT Calendar:**  
<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/OEM/CC/CERT/training.html>

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR IF YOU ARE AN INSTRUCTOR! We have updated the 2009 calendar and need you to volunteer for your segment!**

Help out or just attend at CERT Basic Class and renew your interest as well!

**If you can assist our program- even if you haven’t done anything like this before, come on out and help us make the program the best in the country! Helping is fun and exciting! AND you even get to practice what you learned in training!**

**C W Post Basic Class**

**October 2009 Class Schedule and Location**

**Updated 10/28/2009**

<b>Class Times</b>	Doors open at 6:30pm, class starts promptly at 7:00pm and ends at 10:00pm
<b>Class Location</b>	C.W. Post Campus- Long Island University 720 Northern Blvd. Brookville, New York 11548
<b>Refreshments</b>	Water will be supplied for classes 1 through 8.

<b>Course Listing</b>	Course Incident Commander (IC) <b>Kathy Cowden</b> Classes are run using ICS and an IC needs to attend every class. You may have a Deputy who can split the classes with you. The IC is responsible for directing the class and for ALL ASPECTS OF COURSE administrative paperwork and equipment. The IC must get each class attendance to OEM (in person or via email) within two days of each class. This position can be shared by two members.
-----------------------	--

**Class Details      MONDAYS**

<b>Class 1</b>	October 26	<b>What is CERT?, Intro to ICS and CERT Organization,</b>
<b>Class 2</b>	November 2	<b>Disaster Medical Operations I</b>
<b>Class 3</b>	November 9	<b>Light Search and Rescue</b>
<b>Class 4</b>	November 16	<b>Disaster Psychology and Terrorism</b>
<b>Class 5</b>	November 23	<b>Fire Suppression and Part I Table Top Exercise</b>
<b>Class 6</b>	November 30	<b>Sheltering Operations Part II Table top Exercise</b>
<b>Class 7</b>	December 7	<b>Disaster Medical Operations II</b>
<b>Class 8</b>	December 14	<b>Radio Operations, Community Outreach and Graduation</b>

**Class 2, 1/2/2009: Medical I**

2 VEEB instructors will teach this class  
 Volunteers will assist with practical  
**Debbie Donovan** Volunteer Instructor Assistant  
**Rosemarie Amato** Admin Assistant

**Class 3, 11/9/2009: Light Search and Rescue**

2 VEEB instructors will teach this class  
 Volunteers will assist with practical  
**Debbie Donovan** Volunteer Assistant  
**Rosemarie Amato** Admin Assistant

**Class 4, 11/16/2009: Terrorism and Disaster Psychology**

Volunteers will teach this class  
**Rich Egan** Volunteer Instructor – Terrorism  
**Mike Arcari** Volunteer Instructor – Disaster Psychology and Disabled Persons  
**Rosemarie Amato** Admin Assistant

**Class 5, 11/23/2009: Fire Suppression and Part I Table Top Exercise**

2 VEEB instructors will teach the firefighting part of this class and  
 Volunteers will concurrently teach the exercise part of this class  
 Volunteers will conduct table top and send one team out at a time for fire suppression as directed by VEEB  
**Kenny English** Volunteer Instructor Table Top  
**Rosemarie Amato** Volunteer Assistant Table Top

**Class 6, 11/30/2009: Shelter Introduction and Part II Table Top Exercise**

Volunteers will teach this class  
**Tom Vaughn** Volunteer Instructor- Sheltering and Organization  
**Kenny English** Volunteer Instructor Assistant  
**Rosemarie Amato** Admin Assistant

**Class 7, 12/7/2009: Disaster Medical Operations II**

2 VEEB instructors will teach this class

Volunteers will assist with hands on exercise

\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Instructor Assistant

**Rosemarie Amato** Admin Assistant

**Class 8, 12/14/2009: Outreach and Education, Radio Operation,  
Graduation, and Meet the TULs.**

**Bob B** Graduation

**Debbie B** Outreach and Education

**Rob Yenis** Volunteer Instructor Radio

**Rosemarie Amato** Admin Assistant

Local Area TULs, DTULs and Other VIP's