



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN  
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CERT



NASSAU COUNTY



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**May 2025**

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# The Carrington Event: Understanding the 1859 Solar Storm and Preparing for a Modern-Day Equivalent

In September 1859, Earth experienced the most intense geomagnetic storm on record, known as the Carrington Event. Named after British astronomer Richard Carrington, who observed the associated solar flare, this event disrupted telegraph systems worldwide and produced auroras visible near the equator. If a similar solar storm occurred today, the consequences could be catastrophic, given our reliance on electricity and satellite-based technologies.

## The 1859 Carrington Event: A Historical Overview

On September 1, 1859, Carrington observed a massive solar flare, followed by a coronal mass ejection (CME) that reached Earth in about 17.6 hours—a remarkably short transit time. The resulting geomagnetic storm caused widespread auroras and severely disrupted telegraph systems, with some operators receiving electric shocks and telegraph pylons sparking. In some cases, telegraph systems continued to operate without power, energized solely by the geomagnetic currents induced by the storm.

## Potential Impacts of a Modern-Day Carrington-Level Event

A contemporary Carrington-class event could have devastating effects on modern infrastructure:

- **Power Grids:** High-voltage transformers could overheat and fail, leading to widespread blackouts. Recovery could take months or even years, depending on the extent of the damage.
- **Satellites and GPS:** Satellites could be damaged or destroyed by increased radiation, disrupting communications, navigation, and weather forecasting. GPS systems could become unreliable or inoperative.
- **Communication Systems:** Radio communications, especially high-frequency bands, could be severely disrupted, affecting aviation, maritime operations, and emergency services.

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**COUNTY, STATE  
&  
FEDERAL  
ONE TEAM**

Economic Impact: Estimates suggest that a severe geomagnetic storm could result in economic losses ranging from \$600 billion to \$2.6 trillion in the United States alone, with global impacts being even more substantial.

**Preparedness Measures for Individuals and Communities**

While preventing a solar storm is impossible, preparedness can mitigate its impacts:

- **Emergency Supplies:** Maintain a stockpile of essential items, including non-perishable food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, and a first aid kit.
- **Faraday Cages:** Store critical electronic devices in Faraday cages to protect them from electromagnetic pulses. This includes radios, backup hard drives, and essential medical equipment. WIRED
- **Alternative Power Sources:** Invest in generators or solar-powered chargers to maintain power for essential devices during prolonged outages.
- **Communication Plans:** Develop a family communication plan that doesn't rely solely on electronic devices. Know how to reach each other if traditional communication methods fail.
- **Vehicle Preparedness:** Keep vehicles fueled, as gas stations may be inoperative during power outages. Be aware that modern vehicles with electronic systems could be vulnerable to EMP effects.
- **Stay Informed:** Monitor space weather forecasts from reliable sources like NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center to receive advance warnings of solar storms.

The Carrington Event serves as a stark reminder of our vulnerability to solar storms. Given our increased dependence on technology, a similar event today could have far-reaching consequences. By understanding the risks and taking proactive steps to prepare, individuals and communities can enhance their resilience against such natural phenomena.



**Building a Homemade Faraday Cage for Small Electronic Devices**

One of the most effective ways to protect critical small electronics—such as two-way radios, backup hard drives, flashlights, or solar battery banks—from the effects of a solar storm or electromagnetic pulse (EMP) is by storing them in a Faraday cage. A Faraday cage is a container that blocks electromagnetic fields by redistributing electrical charge around its exterior, preventing harmful radiation from reaching the contents inside.

## What You'll Need:

- A **metal container** with a conductive lid (e.g., an ammo can, metal trash can, or cookie tin)
- **Insulating material** (cardboard, Styrofoam, or thick plastic) to line the interior
- **Heavy-duty aluminum foil** (if using a cardboard box as a cage)
- Optional: **Faraday bags** for an additional layer of protection

## How to Build a Simple Faraday Cage:

### Option 1: Metal Trash Can Method

1. **Line the Can:** Line the inside of the metal trash can (and the underside of the lid) with cardboard, rubber, or foam so that no electronic devices touch the metal.
2. **Seal the Lid:** Place your devices inside the insulated can and close the lid tightly. For added protection, use conductive aluminum tape around the seam of the lid to enhance the seal.
3. **Test the Seal:** Try placing a phone inside and calling it—if it doesn't ring, that's a good sign the electromagnetic signals are being blocked (note: some leakage may still occur depending on your construction).

### Option 2: Ammo Can or Cookie Tin Method

1. **Ensure Contact:** These smaller metal containers often come with rubber gaskets. Remove the gasket if necessary to ensure full metal-to-metal contact.
2. **Insulate Inside:** Line the interior with cardboard or foam.
3. **Add Devices:** Place your radios or devices inside, then securely close the lid.

### Option 3: DIY Foil-Wrapped Box

1. **Cardboard Box Base:** Use a small, rigid cardboard box as the base.
2. **Wrap in Foil:** Wrap the entire box in several layers of heavy-duty aluminum foil, ensuring no gaps or tears.
3. **Insulate Inside:** Before placing devices inside, line the inside with another layer of cardboard or bubble wrap.
4. **Final Seal:** Wrap the entire sealed box again in foil. More layers improve effectiveness.

## What Devices Should You Store?

- Two-way radios (GMRS, HAM, FRS)
- Flash drives and portable SSDs with critical documents
- Emergency radios (battery-powered or hand crank)
- LED flashlights and battery packs
- Solar power bank or charging kits
- Spare batteries (unattached from devices)

**Important Tips:**

- **Isolation is Key:** Make sure no electronic device touches the metal surface of the cage.
- **Layering Helps:** Nesting multiple layers—such as using a Faraday bag inside a cage—adds protection.
- **Periodic Checks:** Regularly inspect stored devices to ensure batteries haven't leaked and the cage is intact.

In the event of a geomagnetic storm or EMP, even basic Faraday protection could mean the difference between staying connected and being left in the dark. A homemade Faraday cage is an affordable and practical way to protect vital electronic devices and ensure you remain prepared during a widespread power or communication outage.



A simple metal trash can can be used.



Line with cardboard to prevent item from touching metal sides

There are many sites online if you want more detail in building a Faraday cage. Earths weakening magnetic field combined with the Sun being at solar maximum leads to a much higher chance of the planet being hit by a geomagnetic storm. If a storm with the intensity of the 1859 Carrington Event hit us today, the damage would be much more extensive due to our reliance on electronics and technology. Better to be safe than sorry.



# Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)



## May 2025

The April 3rd RACES / CERT Communications meeting was held in the lecture hall at OEM. After the general portion of the meeting a training on Damage Assessment was conducted. At the end of the presentation the participants were presented with a number of scenarios which they had to assess and give their reasons why they believe it fell into the category they chose. It was an opportunity to use the what they learned into practical use.

### New meeting schedule:

We have decided to the following schedule consisting of Zoom and In-person meetings. All meetings are held at 1930 hours on the first Thursday of the month except for holidays. When meetings are on Holidays they will be scheduled on the second Thursday of the month.

June 5th (In-Person) August - No Meeting October 9th (ZOOM)  
July 10th (ZOOM) September 4th (In-Person) November 6th (ZOOM)  
December - No Meeting

### ARRL:

The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) is conducting a sweepstakes for all new and renewing members in 2025. To renew or join go to <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-sweepstakes/>

### Events:

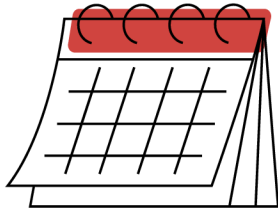
We are entering event season. Here is a listing of events in the metro area that you maybe interested in attending as communicators. We can connect you with the sponsoring agency by emailing us at [nassaucountyny.races@gmail.com](mailto:nassaucountyny.races@gmail.com)

### 2025 Events

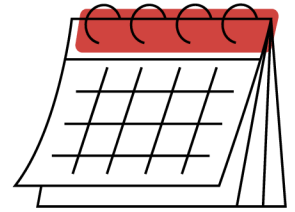
- Sunday, May 4th Long Island Marathon
- Saturday, May 17th RBC Brooklyn Half Marathon
- Saturday, May 17th MS Walk at Jones Beach
- Saturday, May 17th The American Airpower Museum
- Saturday, May 31st ADA Bike Ride in Port Washington
- Friday, July 11th Maggie Fischer Cross Bay Swim
- Sunday, July 13th Gold Coast Bike Tour
- Saturday, August 16th -17th Fire Island Lighthouse
- Sunday, September 7th Babylon Village Fair
- Sunday, October 19th ACS Walk at Jones Beach
- Sunday, October 19th Suffolk County Marathon
- Sunday, November 2nd TCS New York City Marathon



If you SEE Something SAY Something



# Planned Events & Trainings



FEMA offers a large variety of online courses that are free of charge and will help to further your preparedness education. If you do not have a FEMA ID, you can register for one here.  
: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>



**Emergency Management Institute -  
Independent Study (IS) | Course List**

FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI)  
Independent Study Course List

[fema.gov](https://fema.gov)

## **IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100**

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c&lang=en>

## **IS-317.A: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team (CERTs)**

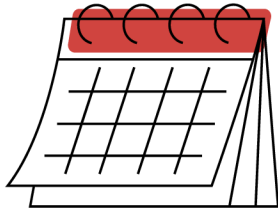
As a pre-requisite for CERT Basic classroom training or just to learn more about the program, check out EMI's Independent Study (IS) course IS-317.A.

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-317.a&lang=en>

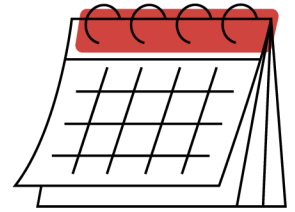
## **IS-315.A: CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS)**

IS-315.A educates CERT program managers, trainers, or emergency responders on CERT's relationship to the Incident Command System (ICS) and potential roles CERTs play in a disaster or emergency situation.

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-315.a&lang=en>



# Planned Events & Trainings



To register for Narcan training visit:  
<https://toh311.net/Narcan-signup/#/>



**BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN**  
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Text to 911 NOW LIVE

*Response just as quick as a 911 call!*



## Mande un Texto al 911 ¡YA DISPONIBLE!

*Response just as quick as a 911 call!*





# Nassau County

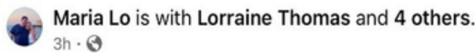


## Weather, News & Events

**This is Petros Krommidas, a Nassau County employee and co-worker who has been reported missing since last Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Please see attached information. Since this information was sent, On Thursday, April 24, 2025, the Police found his towel, clothes and his phone left on the beach. His family is asking for assistance walking the beaches primarily between LIDO BEACH to RIIS PARK during the times of high tide.**



PLEASE READ THE FULL POST, PLEASE SHARE THIS POST AND PLEASE WALK THE BEACH ANYWHERE FROM LONG BEACH THROUGH THE ROCKAWAYS. <https://www.facebook.com/share/15mWdkNiah/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



PLEASE SHARE

Please Help Bring Our Petey Home

On Wednesday, April 23, Petey parked his car by the Allegria Hotel in Long Beach, New York. He locked his car, took a towel, and around 10:30 PM walked onto the beach to exercise, just as he had done many times before. He has always been in great shape and, has many future plans including participating in a triathlon. He was not a stranger to cold water training. His family reported him missing the next day, as it is completely out of character for him not to respond.

On Thursday, April 24, the police found his towel, clothes, and phone left on the beach. Since then, search efforts have been ongoing, but we need the public's help.

Specifically, we need people to walk the beaches — focused between from Lido Beach to Riis Park— particularly during times of high tide.

Thank you all for reaching out, for your support, and for your prayers. We are beyond grateful.

Let's bring our Petey home.



High Tide Times for April 28 – May 1, 2025  
 Date Location High Tide Times (EDT)  
 Apr 28 Long Beach 9:00 AM / 9:30 PM  
 Lido Beach 8:45 AM / 9:15 PM  
 Jacob Riis Park 8:30 AM / 9:00 PM  
 Apr 29 Long Beach 9:45 AM / 10:15 PM  
 Lido Beach 9:30 AM / 10:00 PM  
 Jacob Riis Park 9:15 AM / 9:45 PM  
 Apr 30 Long Beach 10:30 AM / 11:00 PM  
 Lido Beach 10:15 AM / 10:45 PM  
 Jacob Riis Park 10:00 AM / 10:30 PM  
 May 1 Long Beach 11:15 AM / 11:45 PM  
 Lido Beach 11:00 AM / 11:30 PM  
 Jacob Riis Park 10:45 AM / 11:15 PM  
 Times are approximate — please check official tide charts for the latest updates.)

Map of the Search Area

Click here for the map from Lido Beach to Jacob Riis Park

(Please zoom in to focus on beaches, entrances, and known access points.)

- Additional Resources
- NOAA Tide Predictions
  - US Harbors Tide Charts

Every pair of eyes helps. Every step along the beach matters. Thank you for being part of bringing Petey home.

Please send in any photos you have taken of news worthy items or from any CERT events that you have attended and I will select some to be used in the newsletter. Send images to:  
 rdelucia@nassaucountyny.gov



# Nassau County



## Weather, News & Events

May 2025 DAILY →

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
61° 50°	73° 56°	80° 68°	76° 53°	68° 49°	65° 54°	67° 53°
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
65° 55°	67° 53°	69° 54°	66° 54°	70° 55°	71° 54°	66° 52°
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
64° 52°	64° 53°	65° 51°	67° 51°	71° 59°	75° 61°	76° 61°
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
77° 62°	76° 60°	75° 60°	75° 61°	74° 60°	71° 55°	68° 53°
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
69° 61°	78° 62°	76° 62°	75° 56°	70° 55°	69° 55°	71° 63°

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[rdelucia@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:rdelucia@nassaucountyny.gov)

# Calendar of Events

## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 RACES	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4 Div 1	5 RACES	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Field
29 Day	30	1	2	3	4	5



**CERT Division Meetings**



**CERT Events**



**RACES Meetings**



**All County Meetings  
(Div1, Div2 & RACES)**

### Upcoming Meetings

**RACES Meeting-**

**Date:** Thursday May 1st, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Location:** 510 Grumman Rd Lecture Hall

**CERT Division 1 Meeting -**

**Date:** June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** 510 Grumman Rd. Lecture Hall



**NASSAU COUNTY CERT COORDINATOR**

**RICK DELUCIA**  
**OEMCERT@NASSAUCOUNTYNY.GOV**

**DIVISION 1**

**DIVISION SUPERVISOR**  
**BILL PAVONE**  
**NASSAUCERTDIV1@YAHOO.COM**

**DIVISION 2**

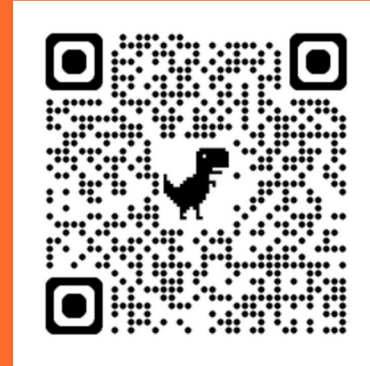
**DIVISION SUPERVISOR**  
**MARVIN STEIN**  
**CERTDIV2NASSAU@GMAIL.COM**

**KNOW YOUR ZONE**



Scan this code or click here  
to see flood zone map.

**EMERGENCY ALERTS**



Scan this code or click here  
to sign up for Emergency Alerts.

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



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