



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CERT



NASSAU COUNTY



NEWSLETTER

December 2025

WINTER STORM SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS: HOW CERT MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITIES

Understanding Winter Storm Risks in Nassau County

Winter storms pose serious threats across Nassau County and the surrounding areas. While Long Island often escapes the brutal blizzards that strike upstate New York, we are still vulnerable to heavy snowfall, ice storms, freezing rain, coastal flooding, and extended power outages. These conditions can paralyze transportation, overwhelm utility services, and endanger lives—especially among vulnerable populations such as seniors, young children, and people with disabilities.

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues various alerts for winter weather:

- Winter Storm Watch – Conditions may become hazardous
- Winter Weather Advisory – Expect winter conditions that may cause inconveniences
- Winter Storm Warning – Severe weather expected; take action now
- Blizzard Warning – Sustained winds and heavy snow creating whiteout conditions

Awareness of these terms is the first step toward safety, and CERT members play an important role in helping neighbors understand and respond to such warnings.

Visit the CERT Facebook Page for updates:
<https://www.facebook.com/NassauCountyCERT>

Continued on next page



COUNTY, STATE
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM



How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

Emergency Supplies and Home Preparedness

Every household should prepare a **Winter Emergency Kit** with at least a 3-day supply of essentials:

- Non-perishable food and manual can opener
- One gallon of water per person per day
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Blankets, sleeping bags, and warm clothing
- A battery-operated NOAA weather radio
- First aid kit and medications
- Snow shovels and ice melt
- Extra pet food and supplies
- Cell phone power banks or solar chargers

Home Heating Safety

Heating-related emergencies are common during storms:

- **NEVER** use ovens or charcoal grills to heat your home.
- Space heaters should be **UL-listed**, placed **at least 3 feet away** from flammable materials, and never left unattended.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors near sleeping areas and on every floor.
- Ensure fireplaces and wood stoves are clean and properly vented.

Vehicle Preparedness

- Winterize vehicles in advance:
- Maintain full fuel tanks
- Keep windshield washer fluid full
- Store a winter car kit: ice scraper, blankets, flares, food, water, flashlight, jumper cables, and sand or kitty litter for traction
- Check tire tread and battery health
- Clear snow from exhaust to prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the cabin.

CERT's Role in Winter Emergencies

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members serve as critical links between residents and emergency services. While CERT is a non-response organization during storms (meaning members don't respond in unsafe conditions), the work you do before and after the storm can have tremendous impact.

Before the Storm: Outreach and Education

- Help neighbors review their emergency kits and plans.
- Assist elderly or disabled residents in obtaining supplies.
- Share weather alerts via social media or word-of-mouth in your neighborhood.
- Offer preparedness tips at local meetings, places of worship, and libraries.

During the Storm: Stay Safe and Informed

- Stay home and remain off roads unless absolutely necessary.
- Monitor NOAA alerts and updates from Nassau County OEM.
- Participate in virtual check-ins with your CERT Division leaders or team.
- Monitor local CERT radio nets if applicable.

After the Storm: Recovery and Support

Once roads are cleared and conditions improve, CERT members may:

- Conduct door-to-door wellness checks
- Assist with warming center operations
- Help clear walkways for elderly or disabled neighbors
- Distribute food, water, or blankets as directed by OEM
- Support shelter operations or community information booths

CERT members should **always work under the direction of local emergency management**, follow their training, and prioritize **safety first**.



Helping Neighbors Stay Safe During Winter

Check on Vulnerable Individuals

In cold conditions, the following populations face increased risk:

- Seniors living alone
- People with limited mobility
- Infants and small children
- People who rely on electricity-dependent medical devices

Make a list of neighbors in your area who may need extra help and conduct safe check-ins when possible.

Community Warming Centers

Nassau County opens warming centers during extended power outages and severe cold. CERT members can:

- Assist with non-medical shelter operations
- Distribute blankets and supplies
- Translate or assist non-English-speaking residents
- Provide situational awareness updates to OEM

Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

This is a major concern during snowstorms. Remind your community:

- NEVER run a generator indoors or in a garage.
- Clear snow from dryer vents, furnace intakes, and chimneys.
- If your CO alarm sounds, evacuate immediately and call 911.

Use of Fire Extinguishers and Smoke Alarms

- Have ABC fire extinguishers in your kitchen, garage, and near space heaters.
- Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are tested monthly.
- Consider 10-year sealed battery detectors for low-maintenance safety.

Preparedness Is the Best Protection

Winter storms can happen with little warning, and their impact can be life-threatening. By taking the time to prepare our homes, vehicles, and families—and by engaging with neighbors in need—CERT members can make a difference when it matters most.

Your role as a CERT volunteer goes beyond personal preparedness. You are a beacon of calm, information, and resilience in your neighborhood. Continue to train, stay informed, and lead by example.

Stay warm. Stay ready. Stay CERT strong.



BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.



FEMA
FEMA V-1014/June 2018

<p>Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds.</p>	 <p>Greater risk</p>	 <p>Can last a few hours or several days</p>	 <p>Can knock out heat, power, and communication services</p>
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IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Stay off roads.			Use generators outside only.
Stay indoors and dress warmly.			Pay attention to emergency information and alerts.
Prepare for power outages.			Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
		Check on neighbors.	

[OEM | Nassau County, NY - Official Website](#)
[Click above and follow to Know Your Zone to see if you live in a flood zone.](#)

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A WINTER STORM THREATENS



Know your area's risk for winter storms. Extreme winter weather can leave communities without utilities or other services for long periods of time.

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.

Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full.

Learn to identify the signs of and basic treatments for frostbite and hypothermia. For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/index.html.



Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, stay inside.

Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.

Reduce the risk of a heart attack. Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.

Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia and begin treatment right away.

Check on neighbors. Older adults and young children are more at risk in extreme cold.



Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers, and toes.

- **Signs:** Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, and firm or waxy skin
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

- **Signs:** Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.



Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to Ready.gov/winter-weather. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **winter storm**.

OEM | Nassau County, NY - Official Website
Click above and follow to Know Your Zone to see if you live in a flood zone.



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)



December 2025

The November RACES / CERT Communications meeting was held as a joint meeting with ARES in the lecture hall. The meeting was also on Zoom for those members and presenters who were unable to physically join us at OEM.

Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

“This legislation is about restoring equal rights to licensed Amateur Radio operators,” said ARRL President Rick Roderick. “These restrictions hinder not only the enjoyment of Amateur Radio, but also its vital role in emergency communication during disasters.”

ARRL has a dedicated online tool at <https://www.arrl.org/HOA>, hams can easily generate and submit pre-drafted letters with a few clicks.

Ham Radio University

The Amateur Radio Relay League’s (ARRL) Ham Radio University is being held on Saturday January 10, 2026 from 0800 hours - 1600 hours at LIU-Post Hillwood Commons Student Center, 720 Northern Blvd, Brookville NY 11548. This is a day of education to share ideas, experiences, knowledge and fellowship among Amateur Radio operators” Forums are the heart of HRU. There will be over 20 forums about different aspects of Amateur Radio. Topics will range from Introduction to Amateur Radio, how to get started setting up your station, the basics of operating, to the latest in digital communications and everything in between.

For more information go to <https://hamradiouniversity.org/>

Government Shut Down:

Even though the shutdown has ended it will take the FCC time for them to catch up and return to normal business. We ask for your patients.

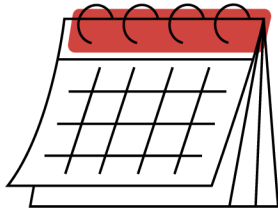
Meeting schedule:

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.

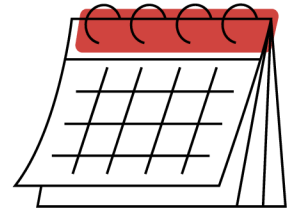
2026 meeting Schedule

<i>January 8th (In Person)</i>	<i>February 5th (Zoom)</i>	<i>March 5th (Zoom)</i>
<i>April TBD</i>	<i>May 7th (Zoom)</i>	<i>June 4th (In Person)</i>
<i>July 2nd (Zoom)</i>	<i>August (No meeting)</i>	<i>September 3rd (In Person)</i>
<i>October 1st (In Person)</i>	<i>November 5th (Zoom)</i>	<i>December 10th (In Person)</i>





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

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)

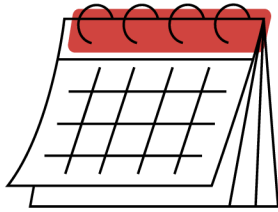
As a pre-requisite for CERT Basic classroom training or just to learn more about the program, check out EMI's Independent Study (IS) course IS-317.A.

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

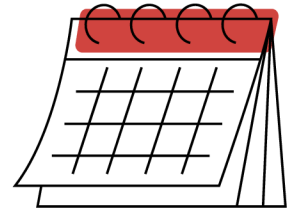
IS-315.A: CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS)

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



Be on the lookout for upcoming

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

December 2025						DAILY →
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
48° 32°	44° 27°	45° 30°	41° 28°	43° 25°	33° 19°	43° 31°
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
43° 27°	38° 23°	38° 18°	46° 32°	35° 24°	35° 25°	37° 25°
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30° 21°	30° 22°	35° 28°	43° 36°	48° 42°	51° 36°	46° 36°
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
47° 34°	43° 35°	44° 35°	53° 33°	51° 29°	40° 33°	43° 32°
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
39° 36°	48° 37°	49° 35°	45° 30°	39° 30°	40° 33°	45° 35°

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

Calendar of Events

December

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

January

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



CERT Division Meetings



CERT Events



RACES Meetings



All County Meetings (Div1, Div2 & RACES)

Upcoming Meetings

RACES MEETING - DATE: Thursday December 11, 2025

TIME: 7:30 pm

Location: Lecture Hall, 510 Grumman Rd. West



NASSAU COUNTY CERT COORDINATOR

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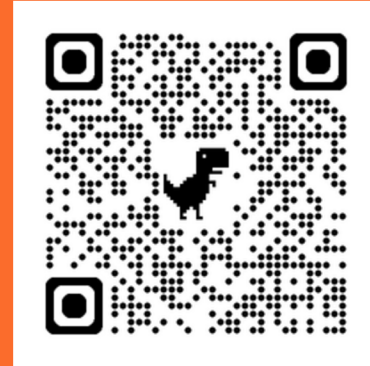
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KNOW YOUR ZONE



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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