

# Border Community SERVICE

DECEMBER 2013

**Page 2:** Scouting Information; Buffalo Updates

**Page 3:** Niagara County Updates; Donating responsibly

**Page 4:** Thank you CERT volunteers

**Page 5:** December SMART calendar; SKYWARN training - December 2

**Page 6 & 7:** Winter driving & car tips

**Page 8:** Boy & Girl Scout Preparedness Flyer - Saturday, January 25, 2014 - [Register Now!](#)



## Border Community SERVICE of NU

A program of the  
Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.  
Institute for Civic  
Engagement

### Director of BCS

#### City of Buffalo

Dana Estrada  
dle@niagara.edu  
716.205.0075

### Niagara County

#### Valerie Haseley

vhaseley@niagara.edu  
716.205.0076

### BCS Coordinator

#### Gail Struzik

gstruzik@niagara.edu  
716.205.0077

### Executive Director

#### Levesque Institute

David B. Taylor, PhD

### Office Information

Phone: 716.286.8010  
FAX: 716.205.0072

### Office Location:

443 Roosevelt Avenue  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

### Mailing Addresses:

PO Box 2040  
Niagara University, NY  
14109-2040

City of Buffalo PD  
74 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202



## Cert Class in Buffalo beginning February 2014

CERT training is a **FREE** Citizen Preparedness course that includes academic and hands-on instruction. It is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Because emergency personnel may not be able to help everyone immediately, you can make a difference by using CERT Training to save lives and protect property.

**The course will begin on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and run seven (7) additional consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. The course will culminate in a disaster simulation on April 2nd. Each class will be held at the Buffalo Fire Department Training Center located at 20 Elmwood Avenue (corner of Virginia Avenue) in the City of Buffalo.**

CERT Training is a FREE Citizen Preparedness course that includes academic and hands-on instruction. Topics covered include:

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Disasters and Disaster Workers, Community Preparedness
- **Fire Safety:** Fire Chemistry, Hazards, Safety and Suppression
- **Emergency Medical Operations I & II:** Triage and Treating Life Threatening Injuries, Public Health
- **Light Search and Rescue:** Search and Rescue Size-up and Operations
- **CERT Team Organization & ICS 100: Incident Command System**
- **Disaster Psychology:** Impact of Disaster on Rescuers and Victims and its Mitigation
- **Terrorism and CERT:** Terrorism and its Goals – CERT Protocols for Terrorism Incidents
- **Course Review and Simulated Disaster Exercise**

Through personal education, training and volunteer service, every individual can help make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to the various threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds. CERT, developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is one of the primary programs offered to the American public to meet this challenge. Participants must be at least 16 years of age, attend all 8 sessions. Best of all, **CERT training is fun and FREE!**

***For more information or to enroll please contact:***  
Dana Estrada, Director, Border Community SERVICE  
of Niagara University  
at (716) 205-0075 or e-mail: [dle@niagara.edu](mailto:dle@niagara.edu)

You can also register online at: <http://www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment/>



## Free Emergency Preparedness Workshop for all Western New York Scouts



Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University is offering a **FREE Emergency Preparedness Workshop** for all Western New York Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The workshop is taking place at Niagara University on Saturday, January 25, 2014. Registration is at 8:30 am and the program is from 9 am – 3:30 pm.

This program is open to all Western New York Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts ages 11-18 and includes education and information to complete the requirements of the and the Girl Scout Emergency Preparedness Patch and the Boy Scout Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge, excluding the practical exercise (disaster drill). A complimentary lunch will be provided to all participants.

If your troop is interested in participating please register online at <http://www.niagara.edu/emergency-preparedness-workshop-registration>. Please note that there is limited space available.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Valerie Haseley,  
Niagara County Project Coordinator, at 716.205.0076 or  
[vhaseley@niagara.edu](mailto:vhaseley@niagara.edu)

### City of Buffalo

**Dana Estrada**

**716-205-0075**

The end of November marks an anniversary of sorts – does anyone remember the massive snowfall on November 20, 2000? Something to the tune of 35 inches over a 24 hour period? It was then that thousands of Western New Yorkers spent the night stranded on our city streets, our highways and in buildings without their comfy beds. Please don't let an event like that make you realize you are unprepared in your home, your workplace and your car. And remember, emergency kits make great gifts!

As we enter December, it's still hard to believe the year is almost over and we'll be wrapping up another productive year in the City of Buffalo in a few short weeks. This month we were pleased to assist at School #44's Health and Safety Fair. The school is located at 1369 Broadway. They have already scheduled BCS to take part in next year's event – in November 2014! That may rank as the farthest out we've ever been booked!

We also were able to present at the Old First Ward Center, for the Advisory Board for the Elderly and Children in Lovejoy and at the Edison Street Community Church. All presentations went exceedingly well and we're glad for the chance to outreach to some of these "new" great groups.

Please know that we still have openings for presentations for December and January. As always, if you know of a group that would benefit from a presentation, please let me know! Until then,

**Happy Holidays!**

November began with presenting "Preparing Makes Sense: Get Ready Now" at the monthly meeting for the Grandparents Advocate and Support Group (GASP) at the John Duke Center. The same presentation was also conducted at the three National Church Residences located in Wheatfield. The residents at each site attended the presentation and received valuable information in case of an emergency.

Many parent organizations at the local schools invited our program to speak to their families about their emergency preparedness plans. This time of year serves as a good reminder to families to make sure they have the proper supplies in their emergency kit and their family communication plan is up to date in case of bad weather. Presentations were held at the Head Start programs in North Tonawanda and at the DiFrancisco Center and Donovan Center in Niagara Falls, the Focus on Family sites at the Community Education Center and Harry F. Abate School in Niagara Falls, and for the Niagara Charter School's Parent Group at the Niagara Falls Public Library.

In November, Border Community SERVICE participated in the Tuscarora Nation Health Center's Healthy Harvest Health Fair where many families were in attendance who received valuable information about preparing for disasters.

A presentation was also conducted at the Church of the Nazarene for their church members and people from the community. This was a joint venture with Al Hornung, Life Safety Educator with the Niagara Falls Fire Department, who spoke about fire safety. It was a wonderful opportunity to provide those in attendance both of our very important information.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy spending time with your families and be safe.

### **Donating Responsibly**

With the onslaught of many recent disasters, here are some tips for donating smartly:

**Cash is the most efficient method of donating** – Cash offers voluntary agencies the most flexibility in obtaining the most-needed resources and pumps money into the local economy to help businesses recover. Remember, unsolicited donated goods such as used clothing, miscellaneous household items, and mixed or perishable foodstuffs require helping agencies to redirect valuable resources away from providing services to sort, package, transport, warehouse, and distribute items that may not meet the needs of disaster survivors.

**Donate through a trusted organization** – At the national level, many voluntary-, faith- and community-based organizations are active in disasters, and are trusted ways to donate to disaster survivors. In addition to the national members, each state has its own list of voluntary organizations active in disasters. If you'd like to donate, these organizations are often the best place to start.

**Affiliate with existing non-profit organizations before coming to the disaster area.** Immediately following a disaster, a community can become easily overwhelmed by the amount of generous people who want to help. Contacting and affiliating with an established organization will help to ensure that you are appropriately trained to respond in the most effective way.

**Be patient.** Recovery lasts a lot longer than the media attention. There will be volunteer needs for many months, often years, after the disaster - especially when the community enters the long-term recovery period.

For more info: <http://www.fema.gov/volunteer-donate-responsibly>

## CERT Members Helped Homebound Elderly this Holiday Season

The Niagara County's Eat Well. Stay Well Home Delivered Meal Program approached Border Community SERVICE and asked if CERT members would be able to help deliver their emergency food boxes to their clients, also known as "Blizzard Boxes." These boxes contain two shelf stable meals and two drinks. The purpose of the boxes is to provide their clients with a nutritious meal in the event they are unable to deliver meals due to weather or an emergency situation.

Twenty CERT members answered the call and volunteered their time to pick-up and deliver the Blizzard Boxes on a Thursday evening in November. Although it was chilly, the Niagara County Home Delivered Meal Program provided pizza and beverages to the volunteers. The CERT members were able to get an understanding of their program and how important getting the shelf stable meals to their clients are this time of year and I was able to provide their volunteers with an overview of our program and the purpose of CERT members in our County.

This is a wonderful partnership that we formed and hopefully something we can participate in annually. In addition to the Blizzard Box, the 310 clients also received *FEMA's Preparing Makes Sense* brochure and a 34 piece first aid kit provided by Border Community SERVICE.

I would like to thank the following CERT members for volunteering their time. Some even volunteered a friend or family member to help them with the deliveries. Thank you to them as well!

Renee Atwater  
Jeanne Binner  
Ruth Camann  
Sophia Eddy  
Dan Guariglia  
Neil Haseley  
Valerie Haseley  
Dan Hunter  
Cathy Kaiser  
Marsha Koerner

Jacquelyn Langdon  
Mary Lostracco  
Austin Pawley  
Lauren Pawley  
Stephen Pawley  
Justin Printup  
Angela Sampman  
Gail Struzik  
Kelly Tooley  
Ann Marie Weinheimer

The Niagara County Home Delivered Meal Program provides lunch, dinner, and weekend meals to the homebound elderly throughout Niagara County. Their clients are 60 years or older, fragile, lack the support of friends and family, and unable to drive.

The program is in need of volunteers to deliver their meals on a regular basis. If this is something you are interested in doing, please contact me at [vhaseley@niagara.edu](mailto:vhaseley@niagara.edu) and I will provide you with the coordinator's information.

## SMART Training/Meeting Calendar - December 2013

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:

Wednesday	December 4	6:00 - 8:30 pm	Pet Preparedness & First Aid
Saturday	December 7	9:00 - 11:30 am	Pet Preparedness & First Aid

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, including the pre-registration form, 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



*We were able to reschedule the Winter **SKYWARN** class that was cancelled due to the government shutdown. Class will fill up quickly so please pass this along and encourage folks to register. Thanks everyone and Happy Thanksgiving... early. I am thankful for each and every one of you and the work you do for Western NY. - Pati Aine Guzinski*

### WINTER SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING SESSION

The Buffalo office of the National Weather Service will be conducting a Winter **SKYWARN** spotter training seminar in Cheektowaga, at the Erie County Fire Training Academy, 3359 Broadway, on December 2, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The training session is sponsored by Erie County Emergency Services and SMART. There is no cost for the training.

**SKYWARN** is a national effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies with an expanding network of trained volunteer weather spotters. **SKYWARN** spotters support their local community and government by providing reports of weather directly to the National Weather Service in Buffalo through amateur radio or the NWS spotter hotline. The services performed by **SKYWARN** spotters have saved many lives.

Topics to be discussed include: the National Weather Service Organization and our responsibilities; winter weather hazards and their formation; winter weather terminology; and reporting criteria and methodology. Storm spotters are, and always will be, an indispensable part of the NWS local warning program.

Anyone can become a weather spotter for the National Weather Service. **SKYWARN** training is free and open to the public.

**Registration to: ECMRC@erie.gov or call 858-7101 or 858-7109. Please leave your name, the name of your organization and a contact phone number.**

# Winter Tips

## Winter Driving Tips:

**Get the latest weather forecast before you leave** - check [weather.gov/buf](http://weather.gov/buf)

**Keep a full tank of gas at all times**; this time of year, it's even better for your car not to allow the gas tank to get below 1/4 full but for your safety, keep it full!

Be sure you **have fresh antifreeze** in your car

**Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights** - even the hood and roof - before driving

**Brake early. Brake correctly.** It takes more time and distance to stop in wintry conditions.

Be aware that **exit ramps usually have less anti-icing material** than the main line and take care when exiting the thruway.

**Don't use 'cruise control'**. The slightest touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

**Don't get over-confident in a four-wheel drive vehicle.** It may help you get going quicker, but it won't help you stop any quicker.

**Look further ahead in traffic** than you normally do. Even a split-second of extra reaction can make a difference.

**Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows.** Stay back at least 200 feet and don't pass on the right.

## If You Become Stranded:

**Stay in your vehicle.** Walking in a storm can be very dangerous. You can lose your way, wander out of reach, become exhausted, collapse and risk your life - your car can be a good shelter.

**Avoid overexertion.** Attempting to push your car, trying to jack it into a new position, or shoveling snow takes great effort in storm conditions and can cause injury.

**Calm down and think.** Stay calm and don't work enough to get hot and sweaty. Wet clothing loses insulation quality making you more susceptible to the effects of hypothermia.

**Keep fresh air in your vehicle.** It is much better to be chilly or cold and awake than to become comfortably warm and slip into unconsciousness. Freezing-wet and wind-driven snow can plug your vehicle's exhaust system causing deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter your vehicle.

**Don't run the engine.** Unless you are certain the exhaust pipe is free of snow and other objects, keep your car off. Keep the radiator free from snow to prevent the engine from overheating. Run the engine at 10 minute intervals each hour for heat.

**Turn on the dome light at night, but only when running the engine.**

**Keep your blood circulating freely.** Loosen any tight clothing, change positions frequently and move your arms and legs. Huddle close to one another. Rub your hands together or put them under your armpits or between your legs. Remove your shoes occasionally and rub your feet.

**Don't expect to be comfortable.** The challenge is to survive until you're found.

**Make yourself visible to rescuers.** Tie a bright cloth to your antenna or door handle.

## How to Prepare your Car:

Have the ignition, brakes, wiring, hoses and fan belts checked.

Change and adjust spark plugs.

Check the air, fuel and emission filters and the PCV valve.

Check the battery.

Check the tires for air, sidewall wear and tread depth.

Check the antifreeze level and freeze line.

Your care should also have a tune up to ensure your best gas mileage, a quick start and fast response. The better shape your car is in, the safer you are.

## Keep in your Trunk:

Spare tire, properly inflated, a wheel wrench and jack

Shovel

Jumper cables

Tow and tire chains

Salt or cat litter

Took Kit

Working flashlight and batteries

Brightly-colored cloth

First aid kit

Ice scraper and snow brush

Mittens, socks, a hat and blankets

Wooden stick matches in waterproof container

Non-perishable, high energy foods like unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits and hard candy

A case of water, which also adds weight to the car

12 volt charger for cell phone or electronic devises



from all of us at  
**Border Community SERVICE**  
Enjoy! Stay safe!

# Emergency Preparedness Workshop for WNY Scouts



This event includes education and information to complete the requirements of the **Boy Scout Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge** and the **Girl Scout Emergency Preparedness Patch**, excluding the practical exercise (disaster drill).

Open to all Western New York Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

- Saturday, January 25, 2014
- Registration at 8:30 am and Workshop is from 9 am-3:30 pm
- Niagara University Campus
- Lunch is provided
- Cost is Free!
- For Ages 11-18

Limited space is available so Register Online early at [www.niagara.edu/border-community-service](http://www.niagara.edu/border-community-service) or contact Valerie Haseley, Niagara County Project Coordinator, at 716-205-0076 or [vhaseley@niagara.edu](mailto:vhaseley@niagara.edu)

