

Border Community SERVICE

JANUARY 2012



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CERT classes to begin in Wheatfield

On Tuesday, January 17th a CERT class will begin at St. Johnsburg Fire Department at 7165 Ward Road in North Tonawanda (Wheatfield). The course will run from 6:30 to 9:30 pm and continue for 8 consecutive weeks and will culminate in a disaster simulation on March 10th.

To enroll online for the course, please visit <http://www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment/>. When you enroll, please state that you are interested in attending the Wheatfield class. For information on the Wheatfield course contact Valerie Haseley at vhaseley@niagara.edu. Valerie will be contacting everyone who registered online via email as the date nears.



CERT classes to begin in Town of Lancaster

On Thursday, January 19th a CERT class will begin at the Lancaster Office of Emergency Management located at 321 Columbia Avenue in the Village of Depew. The course will run from 6:30 to 9:30 pm and continue for 8 consecutive weeks and will culminate in a disaster simulation on March 10th.

To enroll online for the course, please visit <http://www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment/>. When you enroll, please state that you are interested in attending the Lancaster class. For information on the Lancaster class, please contact Dana Estrada at dle@niagara.edu. Dana will be contacting everyone who registered online via email as the date approaches.



CERT classes to begin in Amherst

A CERT class is tentative to begin on Monday, February 6th at an Amherst location - information to follow.

To enroll online for the course please visit <http://www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment/>. When you enroll, please state that you are interested in attending the Amherst class. When arrangements have been finalized, you will be notified. Thank you.



Niagara County

Valerie Haseley

716-205-0076

December proved to be a busy month. Along with holiday celebrations and preparations, I was able to meet with many groups in the community and encourage them to be better prepared for any type of emergency or disaster. I met with local churches including the Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in North Tonawanda and the Men's Group at First United Methodist Church. I partnered with Niagara County's Head Start program and presented at three of their sites in North Tonawanda and Niagara Falls. I was also lucky enough to have the *Ready America* presentation be incorporated with Curves Survival Boot Camp in Lockport and Newfane, both owned by Sally Reid.

I am looking forward to January where we will be having more than 75 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts converge on Niagara University for a Saturday all-day workshop to earn their Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge or Patch. I am also gearing up for the CERT class taking place in Wheatfield as well as continuing to schedule presentations throughout the County.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and especially safe New Years!

Please contact Valerie Haseley at 716.205.0076 or vhaseley@niagara.edu if you would like to have a presentation scheduled with your group.

City of Buffalo

Dana Estrada

716-205-0075

The Border Community SERVICE Program was delighted to be a part of two fantastic health and wellness events in the City of Buffalo that were organized by the New York State Department of Health in the month of December. The first was a Holiday Wellness event at the Broadway Market. Over 100 individuals stopped by our booth to receive information on emergency preparedness while they shopped for holiday goodies. On December 20th, Border Community SERVICE was at an event at the Matt Urban Hope Center (if you're unfamiliar, the building sits in the shadows of the Central Terminal). Over 200 families were present to receive holiday gift baskets but also were able to stop and get information on important topics. In addition, BCS was able to reconnect with the Homeless Coalition at the event and provided info for their clients as well as cold weather blankets. Definitely needed as we enter January! We were very pleased to be asked to participate in both events.

BCS also participated in two days of preparedness education at East High School. The first day we took the students through a preparedness presentation. They had insightful questions and shared many stories. We then had a follow up visit where we showed the students a video, "Katrina's Children," which is a documentary on children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

City of Buffalo CERT was also busy. Members were invited to join SMART team members at a presentation by Jim Zymanek, Amherst Emergency Manager, entitled, "How Disaster Develops." It was interesting to learn the steps of disaster declarations, memorandums of understandings between municipalities and how emergency management offices operate during times of disaster.

As always, if you would like a presentation in the City of Buffalo please let us know! The BCS office can be reached at 205-0077.

Niagara County CERT Committee Meeting

If you are a CERT member from Niagara County, please join us for our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Cambria Fire Hall**, 4631 Cambria-Wilson Road, Lockport, NY 14094. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to seek input on how to better serve Niagara County, conduct outreach initiatives throughout the community and develop training for members. If you are interested in attending or have additional questions, please contact Valerie Haseley, Niagara County Project Coordinator, at 716.205.0076 or vhaseley@niagara.edu.

Make "Resolve to be Ready in 2012" your New Year's Resolution

As 2011 - one of the most active years for disasters in recent history - comes to a close and Americans get ready to ring in a new year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is encouraging all Americans to *Resolve to be Ready* as their new year's resolution.

As a recent report by the National Climatic Data Center highlights, 2011 has seen more billion-dollar natural disasters than any year on record. This year alone, the U.S. experienced its first hurricane landfall since 2008, the most deadly series of tornadoes since the 1950s, significant earthquakes and severe flooding - hazards that impacted every region of the country. All of these events have served as important reminders that disasters can strike anytime, anywhere, and being prepared is one of the most effective things we can do to protect our homes, businesses and loved ones.

In December, FEMA kicked off its annual campaign, *Resolve to be Ready in 2012*, which urges Americans to make preparedness a priority during the holiday season by making a new year's resolution to be ready for disasters.

"One of the most important lessons we can take away from this year is that disasters can impact all of us, no matter what part of the country we live in," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "While we can't control where or when they might hit, we can take steps in advance to prepare for them - efforts that can go a long way toward protecting our families, homes and business. Resolving to be Ready in 2012 could be the most important pledge you make this year."

By making a resolution to take a few simple steps in advance, Americans can minimize the impact of an emergency on their families, homes or businesses. To take the pledge, visit www.ready.gov/resolve, which includes free information, checklists, and guidelines about how to put together a kit, make a plan, and stay informed. You can also contact Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University at 716.205.0076 for more information or to schedule a presentation.

Resolve to be Ready in 2012 is a nationwide effort to increase awareness and encourage individuals, families, businesses, and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies in the New Year. This effort is led by FEMA's Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council. For more information, visit Ready.gov and CitizenCorps.gov or follow the campaign on Twitter using the hashtags [#ready2012](https://twitter.com/ready2012) and [#resolve](https://twitter.com/resolve).

FEMA's mission is to support citizens and first responders to ensure that the nation works together to build, sustain, and improve their capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Adapted from email from FEMA News Desk, HQ-11-236, December 14, 2011.