

Gabrien Zervos

From: NYC Emergency Management <cert@oem.nyc.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Gabrien Zervos
Subject: [BULK] [EXTERNAL] NYC CERT Newsletter

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NYC CERT Newsletter | Issue 111 | 02/11/2023

NYC Emergency Management CERT NEWSLETTER

NEW YORK CITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

This weekly newsletter should provide you with helpful information that you can share and discuss with your community members.

[\(Click here to view as a webpage\)](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Becomes Optional for City Workers and NYC CERT



Due to the City's COVID-19 vaccination mandate, over 331,000 City workers, more than 96 percent, are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

On February 6, 2023, Mayor Eric Adams announced that the city will make vaccination optional for current city and DOE employees, prospective city



MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL
Borough Channel: CERT SI (Staten Island)

02/13 Responding Borough: Bronx
Call Scenario: How often do you conduct team meetings?

Documents to Review:
[Citywide Radio Drill Refresher](#)
[Call signs per Radio](#)

employees and DOE visitors. With NYC CERT volunteers falling under the jurisdiction of NYC Emergency Management they must also follow the same guidelines and therefore as part of this policy change, NYC CERT volunteers are also no longer required to be vaccinated.

As you know, since the original mandate was put in place, a number of NYC CERT volunteers had stepped away from the program for a number of reasons. At this time we are asking that if you know of any members that are interested in returning to an active member status following no more than two years of inactivity (as per NYC CERT SOPs), please ask them to contact NYC CERT program staff. If a former member has been inactive for more than two years, they must reapply.

Form those

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact NYC CERT program staff by emailing cert@oem.nyc.gov.

Join Us As We Celebrate



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans in the 1920s. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

Harvard-educated historian, Carter G. Woodson, who believed that reason would prevail over prejudice, founded the Association of the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). The organization created Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

By the time of Carter G. Woodson’s death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week. The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of Black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all colors on the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

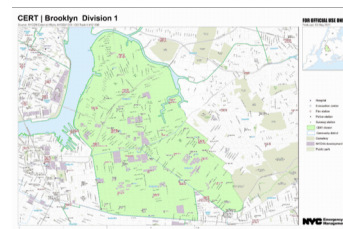
QUIZ OF THE WEEK



We are still hoping to have all of our members complete this volunteer survey. There is no right or wrong answer. NYC CERT volunteers wear many hats in the community. We are interested in what other organizations you also support. [Click Here](#) to participate in this survey.



The [NYC CERT Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#) provides guidance and outlines policies and procedures for you and your team to follow.



NYC CERT Division maps are available (pdf format) to support recruitment and preparedness planning in your community.

[Brooklyn](#) - [Bronx](#) - [Manhattan](#) - [Queens](#) - [Staten Island](#)

The theme of this year's Black History Month is "Black Resistance," and explores how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all its forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings since the nation's earliest days.

Throughout the month, NPR will compile a list of stories, music performances, podcasts and other content that chronicles the Black American experience. If you want to learn more, please [click here](#).

John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service



The John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service is a student fellowship devoted specifically to emergency management.

The John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service is a student fellowship devoted specifically to emergency management. The program provides ten graduate students in the New York City area with the opportunity to complete a nine-month, paid fellowship in a New York City government agency or non-profit organization. The 2023-24 participating agencies are:

- NYC Emergency Management Department
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- NYC Police Department
- NYC Department of Education
- NYC Fire Department
- The American Red Cross of Greater New York

Sponsored by the New York City Emergency Management Department, the program was established by the family and friends of the late John D. Solomon, an accomplished journalist who focused on homeland security and other public policy issues.

- Who are Fellows?

The fellows are current graduate students residing in the NYC metro area who are pursuing degrees in Public Administration, Public Health, Emergency Management, Public Safety, Public Policy, or other related fields.

- What do Fellows do?

Fellows engage in a wide variety of activities including representing their agency at community and local government meetings, undertaking various individual and agency-directed projects, organizing and participating in community service projects, and overall working toward enhancing the preparedness and resilience of New York City.



View the [NYC CERT Event Calendar](#) to see upcoming training, meetings, and planned deployments.

After you participate, be sure to [Submit Your Volunteer Hours!](#)

For more questions on how to submit your service hours you can view the [Hours Submission FAQs](#).

READY NEW YORK

If your division is hosting or participating in an upcoming event, please complete the [Event Request form](#) to have your opportunity published through Eventbrite.com for members to register.



Your NYC CERT Ready New York Liaison can submit a [Ready New York Material Request](#) for upcoming events.

Get Notified with New York City's official source for information about emergency alerts and important city services. Download the free [Notify NYC](#) mobile app, available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

The 2023-24 academic year marks the 12th year of the fellowship program. In total, the program has welcomed 90 fellows into 14 different agencies and organizations. Over 50% of fellowship alumni have moved on to careers in New York City government. Many have also found exciting professions with nonprofit organizations, and in emergency management and public service-related fields around the world.

To Apply

The application, eligibility requirements, and selection details can be found online beginning February 9 at

<http://www.nyc.gov/johnsolomonfellowship>

Applications must be received by midnight on March 26, 2023

To Learn More Visit: <http://www.nyc.gov/johnsolomonfellowship>

Keeping Homes Fire Safe

Whether you're a tenant or property owner, make sure you're aware of these six safety rules:



Close the Door

When escaping a fire in your home, always close the door. All residential buildings with 3 or more apartments must have self-closing doors.



Smoke & CO Alarms

Property owners must provide & install smoke detectors. Detectors should be maintained by the tenant, including testing and replacing batteries.



Fire Escape Plan

Property owners must post plans on the inside of every apartment door, common area, and distribute them to each unit, to new tenants & annually.



Clear Exits

Help your family escape from fire, and help first responders quickly access your home, by keeping exits free and clear of clutter or storage on fire escapes, hallways, and entrance doors including roof doors.



Kitchen Safety

Keep the area around your stove clear of towels, papers, and potholders. Stand by your pan and never leave cooking food unattended, and enforce a kid-free zone around your stove.



Heating Safety

When using an electric space heater, never use an extension cord. Give space heaters at least 3 feet of space from combustible material such as bedding and furniture.

Contact the property owner of your building if your front door doesn't self-close, you don't have a functional smoke alarm, obstacles block your exits that aren't your own, or you don't have the stove knob covers you need. If the issue is not corrected, you can register a complaint with 311.



CERT SPOTLIGHT

Throwback Edition

This, now six-year-old video, was a promotional video showcasing the roles and functions of what a being CERT volunteer entails. The content that is delineated consists of what is a CERT, what exactly a CERT does, and importantly how to become a CERT.

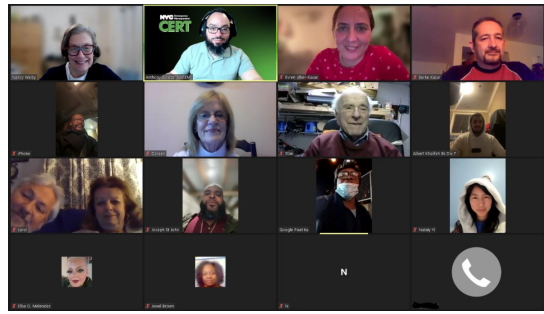


VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

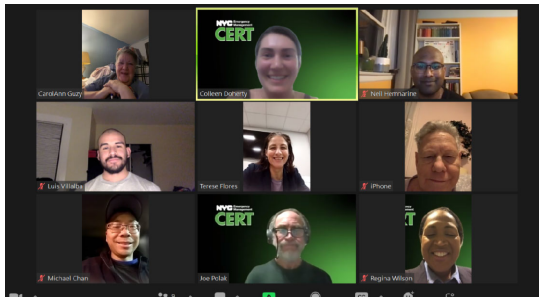
Monthly Meetings

Brooklyn Division 7

Last week on Feb. 2nd Brooklyn Division 7 held their monthly team meeting. The team reviewed upcoming events and also discussed potential team building exercises to strengthen their division.



Queens Division 1



This past week Queens Division 1 held their monthly team meeting. Throughout their team meeting, topics such as upcoming preparedness events, trainings, and other volunteer opportunities were discussed.

[Download NYC CERT Background](#) for use during CERT meetings and training in a virtual environment (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Individual Preparedness for Older Adults



Please join the Administration for Community Living and the Region 2 National Preparedness Division for a webinar on Individual Preparedness for Older Adults taking place on Feb.15th from 12:30pm-1:30pm.

We know from experience that disasters can affect older people more disproportionately and frequently than in comparison to younger individuals. First responders' and other vital community support organizations' assistance may be delayed in the event of a disaster; therefore, it is critical that seniors and caregivers prepare for emergencies in advance.

[Please click here to join us for this webinar](#), which will concentrate on a variety of aspects of disaster preparedness for seniors and caregivers.

Drones As a Tool for Damage Assessment & Flood Mitigation Webinar

On Tuesday Feb. 21st from 1pm-2:30pm, FEMA Region 2 National Preparedness Division will be hosting a webinar partnering with the State of California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and the National CERT Association (NCA) to host a webinar highlighting a case study about Drone use for Flood Mitigation.

This presentation will detail how drones were used during spring flooding in Eastern Nebraska for 2 years as a tool to conduct reconnaissance of rivers identifying ice jams and potential high-risk areas. This information was used by FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop strategies for flood mitigation. The drones were also used to conduct damage assessment in areas that were difficult to reach safely on the ground and to map potential hazardous materials.



[Register Here Tuesday, February 21 | 1:00PM - 2:30PM](#)

Americares: Self Care for Responders



On Wednesday Feb. 22nd from 12pm-1pm, FEMA Region 2 National Preparedness Division will be hosting a webinar in partnership with AmeriCares for a webinar focusing on selfcare for disaster responders and healthcare workers.

Responders to the COVID-19 pandemic and healthcare professionals who treat and test COVID 19 patients were and are still more likely than the general public to contract the virus. A lot of stress and anxiety comes from the possibility of spreading the disease and even bringing it home with you.


In the face of major disasters, we bear the double burden of stress from work and home. Health professionals run the risk of suffering from compassion fatigue, burnout, and indirect trauma if they are forced to deal with the difficult situation of caring for themselves and others during an emergency. The specific stressors that first responders, mental and psychosocial health professionals, and healthcare providers face, including secondary traumatic stress, will be discussed in this webinar. Additionally, the AmeriCares team will provide resources for self-care and self-evaluation.

[Register Here](#) | **Wednesday, February 22 | 12:00PM - 1:00PM**


FEMA Needs Young Leaders!

Spread the news! FEMA wants to hear from teens ready to lead in emergency management by applying to the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC)! The Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) encourages teens to bring their unique skills and experiences to help their community. The application period is open January 23 through March 6.


If you or anyone you know that might be interested want to apply, [please click here](#)




Young Leaders – Apply to FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council Today!



Represent Your Community




Learn & Grow



Create Change Now!

**Applications Due
March 6, 2023**



FEMA

11th ANNUAL COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS SYMPOSIUM AT BARUCH COLLEGE

Join us at the 11TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS SYMPOSIUM

A New Standard: Communities Ahead of Emergencies

TUESDAY, MARCH 7 FROM 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION



BIT.LY/NYCEMSYMPIUM



VIRTUAL REGISTRATION



BIT.LY/VIRTUAL_NYCEMSYMPIUM

For help registering or requests regarding accessibility please email communityprep@oem.nyc.gov or call 718 422-4654 by February 28th.



The 2023 Community Preparedness Symposium will focus on how community organizers, leaders, youth, advocates and/or government can better prepare, respond, and recover from emergencies. The 2023 theme is "A New Standard: Communities Ahead of Emergencies."

The symposium will be held on Tuesday, March 7th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Baruch College's Vertical Campus on the 14th Floor and the virtual experience will be via WorkCast.

You can register [here](#) for in-person or [here](#) for the virtual option.

You Don't Need Them Until You Do: Effective CERT Mutual Aid



On March 7th from 1pm-2:30pm, A webinar on creating a CERT Mutual Aid plan will be held by the FEMA Region 2 National Preparedness Division in collaboration with the State of California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the National CERT Association (NCA).

During disaster recovery and training, CERT Mutual Aid can be a force multiplier for your CERT Program. Not only does it open up opportunities to fully staff requests from your Sponsoring Agency for disaster response, but it also establishes depth in training and revitalizes your CERT Program.

Right now, is an ideal opportunity to foster a composed CERT Shared Help Plan so when "you truly do require them" during that next large debacle there is association, responsibility and experience with the CERT Projects helping under common guide.

[Please click here to register.](#)

Communicating With People with Disabilities as First Responders



On March 21st from 1pm - 2:30pm, a webinar will be held by the National CERT Association (NCA) and the State of California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) in collaboration with the FEMA Region 2 National Preparedness Division to assist CERTs in better communicating with people who have disabilities.

According to disaster reports, 70 percent of disaster victims were people with disabilities or from other vulnerable groups. When disaster planning was examined, it was discovered that many emergency organizations lacked a plan for people with disabilities or only a small one. CERTS will gain a better understanding of how to better communicate with people with a variety of disabilities, how to recruit people with disabilities to your teams, and how to develop inclusive plans to assist disabled people in remaining safe in their homes from harm.

[Please click here to register.](#)

Bringing CERT Into The 21st Century



Taking place on April 4th from 1pm -2:30pm, a webinar highlighting new technology and its potential applications for CERTs is being hosted by the FEMA Region 2 National Preparedness Division in collaboration with the State of California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the National CERT Association (NCA).

ICS4S leverages mobile technology with their patented design to enhance and transform emergency communications with a simple tap on a phone. It's more important than ever to be able to report, record and document information and share that information in a concise and effective way.

To register, [please click here](#)

NYC CERT CALENDAR



Buddy Check

As we close out a long year of volunteering to support your community and head into a new year with new challenges, please take some time to support one another. The best way to do that is by performing buddy checks.

What is a buddy check?

Taking the time to check on family and friends, especially those unable to leave their home for any reason. You might be surprised by the impact you'll have on those who you connect with.

[Report your Volunteer Hours](#)

Search for *Buddy Check* Event



Are you interested in becoming a mentor to new NYC CERT members?

All Volunteer leadership should be encouraging active members to serve in a mentor role in order to support both their growth as leaders and provide new opportunities for newer members to become more engaged.

Complete the [NYC CERT Mentor Program form](#) to let us know if you'd like to be a mentor or mentee.

Complete the [Matching Questionnaire](#) to help pair the mentor to a mentee. Both forms must be filled out to participate in the program.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New CERT Graduate Orientation

On February 15th from 6:30-8pm, NYCEM will be hosting a virtual orientation providing an overview of the NYC CERT calendar, event sign-ups, along with answering any questions new volunteers may have regarding the submission of hours.

If you would like to attend, [please click here](#).



Citizen Preparedness Training

Another Citizen Preparedness Training has been scheduled in the Bronx at the following location:

PS 111 Seton Falls Elementary School Gym - 3740 Baychester Ave, Bronx, NY 10466 on Thursday, February 16, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)
[Thursday, February 16 | 4:00PM](#)

Advanced Training: Citywide Radio Training

On Tuesday Feb. 21st from 6:30pm-9pm, NYCEM will be hosting a virtual training regarding the use of citywide radios/ 700MHZ. The topics throughout the training will revolve around the review of radio terminology & functionality, the operability of the 700 MHz radios, along with the calling protocol and your role and responsibility as a Citywide radio operator.

If you are interested in participating in this training, [please register by clicking here](#).



Emergency Operations Center & NYCEM Watch Command overview



On Wednesday March 1st, NYCEM and Watch Command staff invite you to NYCEM HQ to learn more about NYCEM's Emergency Operation Center & Watch Command. Topics that will be covered include:

- NYCEM 101
- Operations Division
- CERT Roles in the EOC
- Tour of the EOC

If you are interested in attending, [please click here](#)

[NYC CERT online platform](#) includes online courses to support volunteer growth.

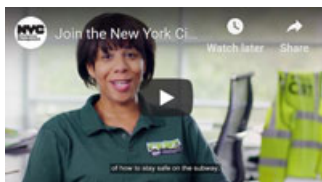
Schedule free training for your Division here : [FDNY Smart Fire Safety](#).

[FEMA Region 2 \(R2\) Webinar Catalogue](#) includes all recorded webinars.

COVID-19 Community Conversations: Mental Health, Equity and Resilience

DOHMH is offering free virtual training to community groups. There are two options, a [1-hour informational virtual presentation](#) and a [3-hour interactive training](#) (available in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin).

THINGS TO KNOW



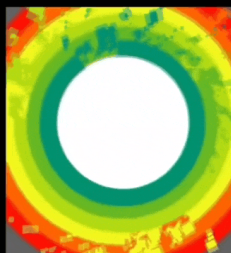
[NYCEM's YouTube page](#)
[NYC CERT recruitment video](#)
[2021 National Volunteer Week video](#)



[Resolve to Be Ready Calendar](#)
 Regular reminders in simple steps that can help you work preparedness into your busy schedule.



Listen to the NEW episodes of NYCEM's two podcasts, Prep Talk ([SoundCloud](#), [iTunes](#) & [Spreker](#)) and ¡Prepárate! on [SoundCloud](#).



[KNOW YOUR ZONE](#) is your destination for everything you need to know about hurricanes in New York City.

You'll find information about the city's hurricane evacuation zones, the hazards you may face from a hurricane, and what to do to prepare.

NYC Emergency Management



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CERT



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