

For Immediate Release

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NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOSTS DISASTER EXERCISE FOR COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) VOLUNTEERS IN THE BRONX

February 2, 2017 – The New York City Emergency Management Department hosted a disaster simulation exercise for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers at the Rafael Hernandez Dual Language Magnet School in The Bronx Thursday evening. Instructors from NYC Emergency Management, FDNY, and NYPD tested and reviewed the volunteers’ emergency preparedness and response skills in fire suppression, search and rescue, medical operations, and traffic management.

“CERT volunteers can be an important asset to first responders, and I encourage New Yorkers to sign up for this training that can equip them to assist their communities during an emergency,” said **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**. “Today’s exercise caps off the volunteers’ training and is the practical component to what they’ve learned in the class. It sharpens their knowledge of how they can effectively assist their friends and families when called upon.”

The disaster simulation exercise culminated the latest 10-week training cycle designed to prepare members of the community to assist first responders during an emergency. The CERT volunteers practiced their roles in several simulated disaster scenarios including extinguishing live fires, light search and rescue, and aiding and triaging “trapped victims”. Participants worked closely with instructors from NYPD, FDNY, and NYC Emergency Management, who provided professional training and evaluation during the training cycle. After the training cycle is completed, these participants will graduate to join more than 2,000 volunteers representing more than 50 teams throughout New York City. These CERT volunteers support their local communities by assisting City agencies that prepare for and respond to emergencies.

For more information about the CERT program, or if you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/emergencymanagement.

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