

ACTIVATION STATUS: NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IS ACTIVATED.
PLEASE NOTE: Program staff will respond to inquiries and requests as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience and support.



NYC Emergency Management is requesting that NYC CERT members check catch basins in their area. Use [NYCDEP Citywide Catch Basins Map](#) to find the catch basins by entering your home address or using your current location. NYC CERT members can assist the Department of Environmental

Protection to help avoid flooding and backups.

Operational Role:

- Safely clearing catch basins in your area using a broom or rake
- If the basin is clogged below the grate, file a report by calling 311
- DO NOT attempt to lift or remove the grate

Report any actions taken by completing the form found in the following link:

<https://on.nyc.gov/CERTcatchbasin>



In Response to:

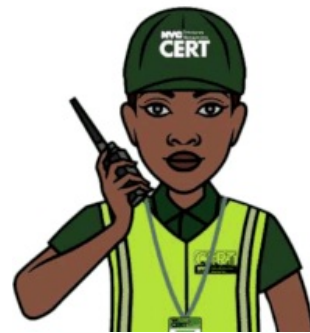


Sunday Morning to Monday Morning

- Periods of moderate to heavy rainfall

Monday Afternoon to Wednesday Morning

- Periods of light rain with a low chance for a wintry mix



MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL

Borough Channel:

CERT SI

12/18 Responding Borough:

Queens

Call scenario:

Report the unit #'s of the radios your Team possesses.

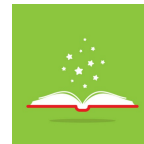
Documents to Review:

[Citywide Radio Drill Refresher](#)

[Call signs per Radio](#)



outlines policies and procedures for you and your team to follow.



[View and Download the Complete NYC CERT Basic Training Student Manual](#)

QUIZ

Each week we will propose a quiz question that relates back to lessons learned during NYC CERT training or from your experience as an active member. The answer will be revealed in the following week's newsletter.

[CLICK HERE FOR THIS WEEK'S QUIZ](#)

The previous question was:

Can a NYC CERT volunteer submit volunteer hours for attending a CERT Division gathering for the holidays?

Correct Answer(s): Yes, of course!

The holiday season is the perfect time to gather with your fellow CERT members and build lasting relationships. Not only will you strengthen your team dynamic, but you'll also build trust and a sense of camaraderie that will serve you well during emergencies. So don't wait - start planning your get-togethers today!

To submit your volunteer hours, your event must be listed on the [NYC CERT Event Calendar](#). For that to happen, your CERT leadership must submit an event request here: <https://on.nyc.gov/CERTevent>

Dear CERT Members,

We hope this message finds you well. On behalf of NYC Emergency Management, we wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for your ongoing support and dedication to our volunteer initiatives including the ongoing Asylum Seekers operation.

We want to kindly emphasize the impact of canceling last minute. When this occurs, it not only affects the operational plan but also deprives another volunteer who eagerly wants to support during these critical times.

Although we understand that unforeseen circumstances can arise, leading to unexpected changes in your availability for any deployment, each volunteer shift during an emergency deployment is a valuable opportunity to make a significant difference. We ask that you do your best to notify NYC CERT by emailing cert@oem.nyc.gov as soon as possible, if you are unable to attend a scheduled shift. Please remember your commitment to effectively provide the necessary support for those in need.

Thank you again for your understanding and ongoing dedication. Your contribution is invaluable in our collective effort to make a positive impact in our community.

Kind Regards,

CERT Staff



Volunteer Hours

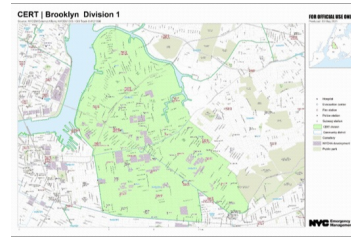
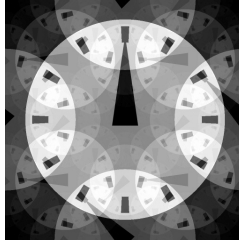
How to report your volunteer hours?

What accounts for your volunteer hours?

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

**Deadline for
submitting 2023**

volunteer hours is January 24th



Winter Storm Preparedness

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 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 and search for **winter storm**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **winter storm**.



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

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



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](#).

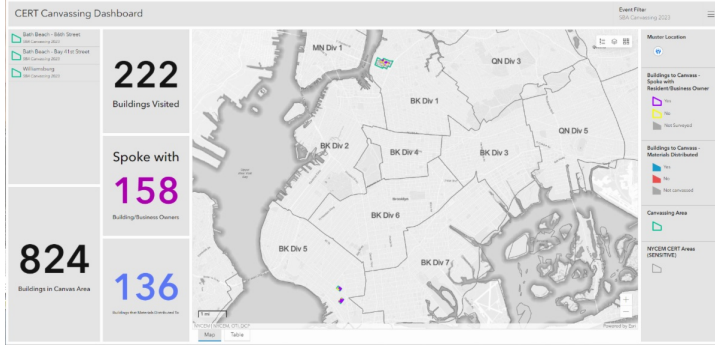
SBA
U.S. Small Business
Administration
DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM
WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO APPLY?

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.

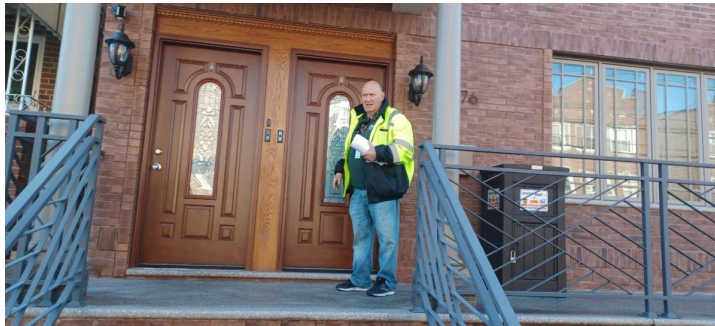
C/anvassing results



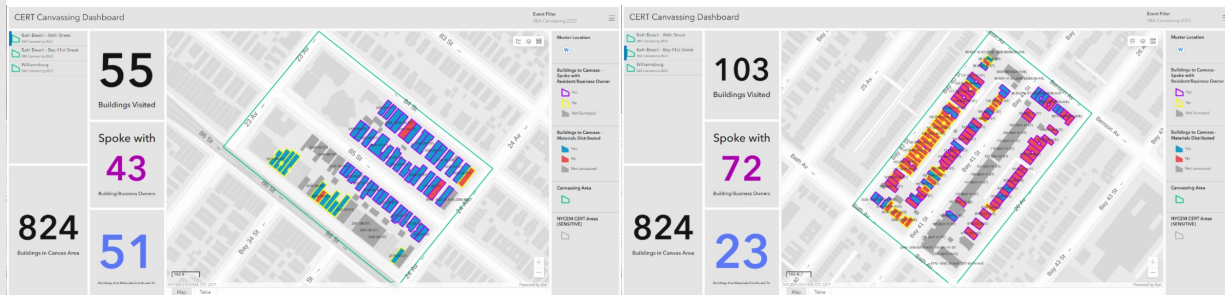
NYC CERT volunteers were requested to support a planned canvassing operation this past summer. This past week, we amplified an emergency deployment request for an SBA Declaration canvassing in the hardest-hit sections of Brooklyn. Six volunteers went into these areas, canvassing residential and businesses in the community that were affected by recent flooding. These volunteers collectively reached out to 222 buildings in three separate blocks totaling six hours of canvassing.

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](#).

Please see below the results of this great outreach performed by NYC CERT from the past week. Thank you all!

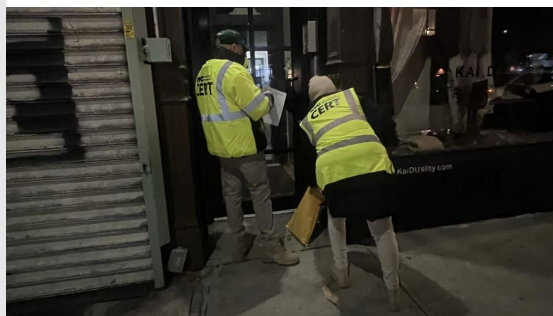


Sal D'Alessio, Brooklyn Division 5 CERT



Bath Beach 86th Results

Bath Beach 41st Results



Jonathan Castro and Tania Melenciano, NYC CERT



Williamsburg Results

Send Us Your Photos!



As 2023 comes to a close and we move into our 21st year, help us to celebrate CERT in New York City by sending us your photos and videos from your event at on.nyc.gov/CERTupload

Please note **Date (including year), Borough, Division (or team), Event, members included (if available).**

If you have any questions, please contact us at cert@oem.nyc.gov. Thank you!

Download Photos from the Gracie Mansion Anniversary Event

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Asylum Seeker Reticketing Center Support



NYC CERT volunteers have been requested to support the Reticketing Center at St. Bridget with line management and redirecting clients within the building to provide the appropriate services. For those NYC CERT volunteers who are multilingual, we are also requesting support with language interpretation.

Future volunteer support requests for the Reticketing Center will be released on a week-by-week basis determined by the need.

New Shifts for Food Distribution on Sundays please see below for more information!

Choose from the following days:

[Registration | Sun, Dec 17th, 12 PM | 3 PM](#)

[Registration | Wed, Dec 20, 3 PM](#)

[Registration | Mon, Dec 18, 3 PM](#)

[Registration | Thurs, Dec 21, 3 PM](#)

[Registration | Tues, Dec 19, 3 PM](#)

[Registration | Fri, Dec 22, 3 PM](#)

Continue to monitor your emails as dates and times are subject to change.

Dyker Heights Lights last night to support!

NYC CERT continues to assist the 68th Precinct with pedestrian and traffic management for the annual Dyker Heights Holiday Lights the next few Saturday evenings.

[Registration | Sat, Dec 16, 2023, at 6 PM](#)



Let's Feed Harlem Inc. Food Distribution

CERT will be assisting with crowd control and pedestrian management.

[Registration | Mon, Dec 18, 2023 1:30PM](#)



Coney Island New Year's Day 121st Polar Bear Plunge 2024

CERT will assist the Coney Island Polar Bears with line management for participant registration, be positioned on the Boardwalk to assist with crowd control and on the beach with keeping the waterfront clear to allow the plungers to enter and exit the water safely, and to assist in observing swimmers emerging from the water, watching for plungers who might be in distress and getting them to emergency aid.

[Registration | Mon, Jan 1, 2024 8:30AM](#)



Cyber Ready Community Game Night

FEMA's National Exercise Division (NED) and DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) have developed the Cyber Ready Community Game to promote cyber preparedness. Team up and compete in the game that puts your sector in emergency cyber-scenarios and tested on how well you planned, mitigated, responded and recovered from the cyber-scenario.

[Registration | Wed, Jan 10, 2024 6:30PM](#)



**No prior knowledge, nor experience required to join in on the fun.*

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



MENTOR PROGRAM

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.

[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.

ADVANCED TRAINING

Active Shooter Training

CISA instructs on how to better prepare you to deal with an active shooter situation, focusing on behaviors that represent pre-incident indicators and characteristics of active shooters, potential attack methods, how to develop emergency action plans, and the

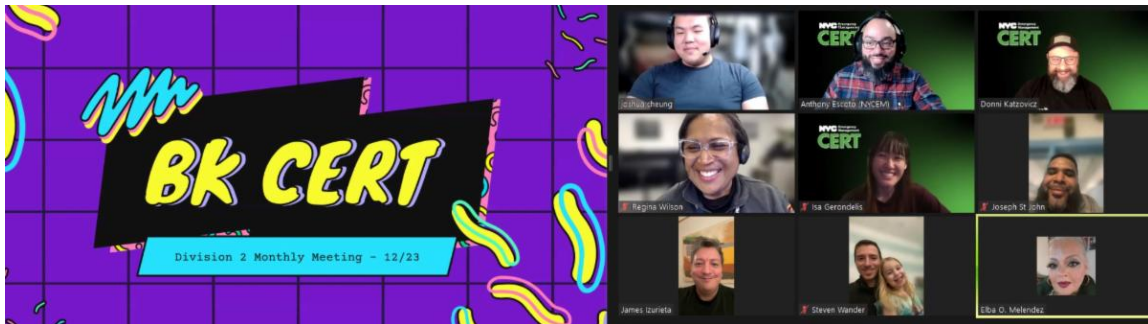


actions that may be taken during an incident.

[Registration](#) | [Wed, Jan 24, 2023 at 6:30PM](#)

NYC CERT VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

Brooklyn Division 2 Monthly Team Meeting



On Monday, December 11, 2023, Brooklyn Division 2 held their monthly team meeting virtually. Donni Kotzovicz, the newly appointed Division Chief, gave a great visual presentation. There was a request for volunteers to fill vacant leadership positions.

Brooklyn Division 1 Holiday Party



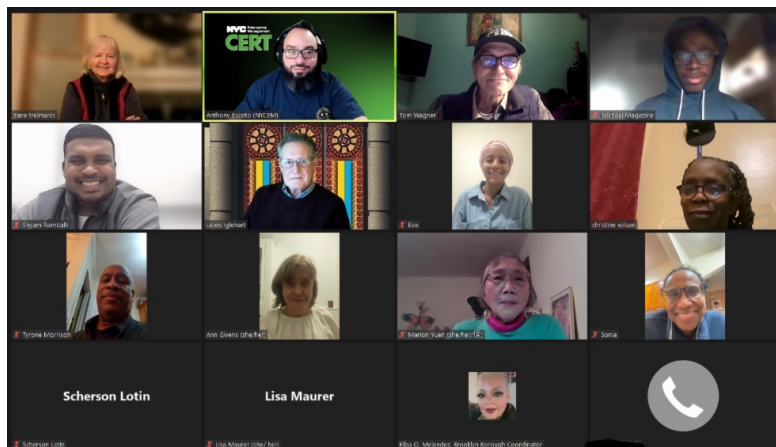
Brooklyn Division 1 Chief Lisa Maurer coordinated an amazing holiday event for the Division and other special guests: Program Staff Regina Wilson and Borough Coordinator Elba Melendez. Lisa has done an amazing job engaging the division, which did not have leadership for many years, and is now one of the most active in supporting, coordinating, and leading preparedness. Awesome way to celebrate a year of hard work!

Community Mayor: Operation Santa



Our CERT volunteers from across the city came out to support the annual event coordinated by Brooklyn Division 5 in support of the Community Mayors of Children with Special Needs Inc. Macy's and Delta Airlines to ensure proper flow of all participating children. Thank you for coming out to support!

Brooklyn Division 6 Monthly Meeting



Brooklyn Division 6 gathered to recap the year of awesome progress of Division activity. With Special guest: Brooklyn Borough Coordinator Elba Melendez and Brooklyn Division 1 Chief Lisa Maurer. Members announced upcoming Division local training upcoming in January. Happy to see more activity and planning from the members. Till next month or next year!



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

THINGS TO KNOW



How To Request NYC CERT

If approached to support an event in your community, the following steps must be taken:

- Event organizer submits an official request using the [NYC CERT External Request Form](#).
- NYC CERT Leadership *should not* submit form on behalf of the event organizer.
- For events lead by a NYC CERT Division, volunteer leadership (Ready New York Liaison, if a preparedness event) should submit this [Event Request form](#)

NYC CERT program staff will review all requests. If approved, program staff will add the volunteer opportunity to the [NYC CERT Event Calendar](#)

with a registration link. If more details are required for approval, program staff will use the contact information provided in the request form to connect with the organizer.

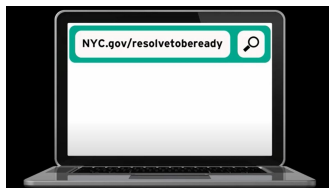
NYC CERT External Request Form: <https://on.nyc.gov/CERTrequest>

Find the NYC CERT Protocols here: [NYC CERT SOPs](#)

Schedule a meeting with NYCEM staff: [NYC CERT Volunteer Support](#)



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



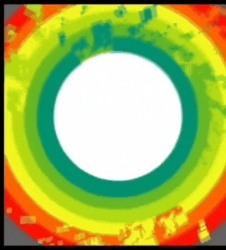
[Resolve to Be Ready Calendar](#)
Regular reminders in simple steps that can help you work preparedness into your busy schedule.



Listen to the NEW episodes of NYCEM's two podcasts, Prep Talk ([SoundCloud](#), [iTunes](#) & [Spreaker](#)) 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.



JOSEPH PUPPELLO
Director
Volunteer Programs



ANTHONY ESCOTO
Program Manager
Training & Exercises



DENISE ESPOSITO
Specialist
Recruitment & Retention



REGINA WILSON
Specialist
CERT Leadership



GABRIEN ZERVOS
Specialist
Operations & Engagement



AMY JOY ROBATEAU
AmeriCorps
Member



Schedule a meeting with NYC CERT Staff:
<https://on.nyc.gov/bookCERT>

Choose a Topic:

CERT Pick-up
(In-Person)

NYC CERT
Operations

Advanced
Training

Exercises
& Tabletops

General
Questions

CERT ID
Questions

Leadership
Interest

Borough
Discussion

Division
Discussion



NYC Emergency Management | nyc.gov/emergencymanagement
[\(Click here to view as a webpage\)](#)



NYC Emergency Management Communications Network | 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY 11201

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[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

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