

A message from:

NYCEM STAFF

We're Here to Help

We are dedicated to supporting NYC CERT volunteer members and leaders. We're here to assist you and provide guidance. As a leader, it's crucial to be well-versed in policies

and procedures to effectively guide your team members. If you're unsure about something, well-structured meetings provide an opportunity to receive clarification.

Remember, volunteer leaders play a vital role in fostering a positive and professional environment. It's important to address concerns directly rather than engaging in gossip, as this can create a toxic atmosphere. Experience has shown that most issues can be resolved through open and honest communication.

25-hours Policy Takes Effect in 2025

We want to again provide some clarity for one of the notable updates to the NYC CERT SOPs, specifically: *To remain Active, volunteers must complete and report a minimum of 25 approved volunteer service hours annually.*

**25 hours
in 2025**

Because this policy was just added to the latest edition of the NYC CERT SOPs, we are not putting into effect until we tally up your total hours for 2025. With that said, you should continue to do your best to submit your volunteer hours for 2024 as soon as possible, as it will better help you understand what it will take to fulfill this new requirement going forward. Submit your NYC CERT Volunteer Service Hours no later than Friday, January 17, 2024. If you have any issues or concerns, please connect with your leadership for support.

Why 25 hours?

This new standard was introduced in response to numerous volunteer requests for clearer guidelines on activity status. We understand that volunteer commitments vary across boroughs, divisions, and individuals. The 25-hour annual minimum is a reasonable benchmark, aligning with common volunteer practices and providing a clear framework for maintaining active status.

You can meet the 25-hour minimum by making sure to submit your volunteer hours for: Time spent on training, drills, deployments, community outreach, and other CERT-related activities. By meeting this simple requirement, you'll ensure your continued participation in the program and help maintain the readiness of NYC CERT membership.

Water Preservation



MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL

Radio Channel
CERT QN



New York City is currently experiencing a drought, which means it's important for all New Yorkers to do their part and conserve water. Please review and share DEP's [Water Saving Tips](#) webpage.

Notify NYC



New York has issued a statewide Burn Ban in effect until Saturday, 11/30. Due to a continuing period of dry weather conditions expected statewide in the coming days and an increasing potential for wildfires, there is great concern that wildfires could

unexpectedly and rapidly increase, thereby endangering the health, safety, and property of New Yorkers.

This burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires statewide for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as camp fires and open fires used for cooking.

NYCEM's Annual Toys for Tots and Coat Drive is Here!

11/18/2024

Responding Borough: Manhattan

Scenario: Have you updated your go bag for the winter season? If so, name a unique item in your bag.

Documents to Review:

[Citywide Radio Drill Refresher](#)

[Call signs per Radio](#)



Download the NYC CERT SOPs

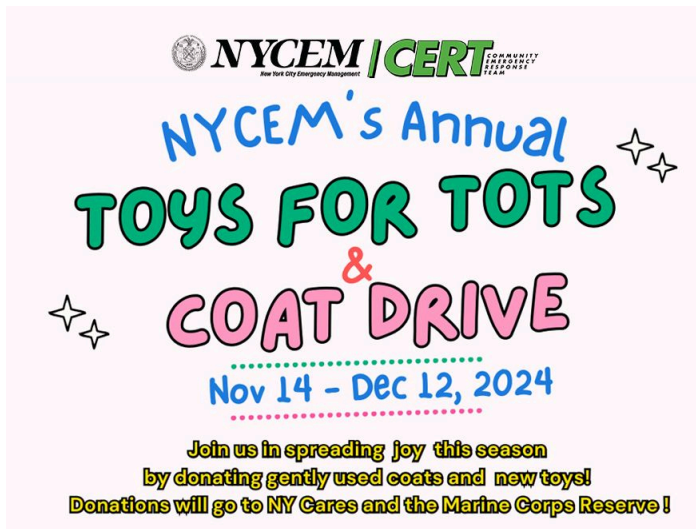
New York City Emergency Management Staff is excited to announce the release of the updated [NYC CERT Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#)! All volunteers are encouraged to review the latest iteration of expectations and guidance.

For any questions, please reach out to your volunteer leadership or email CERT@oem.nyc.gov.



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





As the colder weather approaches and the holiday spirit starts ramping up, NYCEM's Annual Toys for Tots and Coat Drive is back. From November 14th through December 12th, NYC CERT volunteers can help spread joy by donating gently used coats and new toys. Donations will go to NY Cares (coats) and the Marine Corps Reserve (toys).

What to Bring:

Gently used or in good condition coats for all ages. New unwrapped toys, crafts, books and games suitable for ages 0-12.

NYC CERT members can drop off their items from **9 AM-5 PM, Monday through Friday** at NYCEM headquarters (165 Cadman Pl, Brooklyn, NY 11201).

Members will not be permitted into the building outside of these hours.

Upon arriving, NYC CERT volunteers MUST have their NYC CERT ID and note to security that they are there dropping off items for the toy and coat drive.

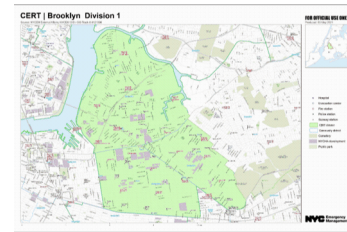
Strengthening Communities

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

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

****Only events submitted and approved through the Event Request form will be available to volunteers to submit service hours. If you don't see your event listed, please connect with your division leadership. ****

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



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

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

NYCEM 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.

2024 APPLICATION

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

APPLICATION IS OPEN

NYC Emergency Management is looking for local coalitions interested in developing emergency plans for their communities. The program provides up to \$40,000 of funding to each participating coalition.

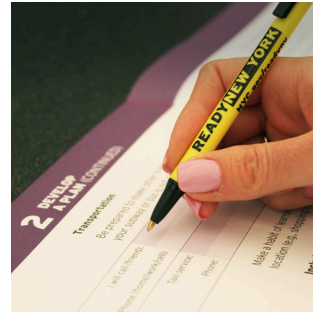
Eligibility

- Be a coalition
- be able to demonstrate connections with a community within the five boroughs.
- Be committed to establishing formal community emergency plan
- Begin Programming Wednesday, January 15, if selected.

Apply Now!

Learn more and apply at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024SCApplication>



Update on Material requests

All requests will contain the following:

- My Emergency Plan - 50
- Hurricane Map - 50
- Notify NYC card - 50
- NYC CERT card - 50
- Give-a-ways will depend on availability

Note: Ready New York plastic bags and tablecloths are no longer available.

DEADLINE EXTENDED to 11/22

The Strengthening Communities Program Application is now open for Cohort 4! NYC Emergency Management is seeking up to 20 local coalitions who serve and lead within the five boroughs of New York City to apply to the Strengthening Communities program. This program provides up to \$40,000 to each participating coalition during their first year of programming to create a community emergency plan. Application deadline is Friday, November 22, 2024! You may also share the following recordings for both the Information and FAQ sessions available on YouTube:

[Strengthening Communities Information Session](#)

[Strengthening Communities FAQ for the Application](#)

Strengthening Communities Application

Queens CERT Shines at Boroughwide Holiday Gathering

All Division IDs are Ready



Membership:

Credentials for probationary members, who graduated last cycle (April), expired on September 30th. All members should reach out to their division leadership to exchange expired credentials for updated ones.

Leadership:

Please remember to schedule a pick-up, or permit your members to schedule a pick-up for their updated IDs using this link: <https://on.nyc.gov/CERTpickup>

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](#).



A big thank you to all Queens CERT members who participated in the recent Toys for Tots drive! Your generosity truly embodies the holiday spirit. Queens leadership decided to have this drive as a focal point of their holiday gathering.



The Queens leadership team hosted a great boroughwide meeting that brought together members from all Divisions. It was a great opportunity to reflect on why you joined CERT and to discuss future engagement opportunities. NYCEM staff also provided updates and answered questions.



We're grateful for the dedication of our past and present leaders. Congratulations to all who received certificates for their outstanding contributions to the NYC CERT program by serving as a member of volunteer leadership, including cabinet, district, and division positions. Here's to a bright future for Queens CERT!

NOAA Announces more languages for National Weather Services



To better serve communities with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), the National Weather Service (NWS) is now using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to translate weather information into several languages. Translated forecasts from NWS New York, NY are available to the public on an experimental website, <https://www.weather.gov/translate>.

As NYC CERT volunteers, you're in the position to spread the word about this service and share a link to the NWS Translation website to you friends, family, and community partners.

You may download and share the flyer we made to advertise this new functionality in any of the languages listed:

[English](#)
[Spanish](#)
[Chinese](#)
[French](#)

For more information on current weather translations please visit: <https://www.weather.gov/translate/>



Send Us Your Photos!

Please continue to share an and all photos and videos from your NYC CERT events 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!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you ready for the challenges winter can bring?

WINTER READY

A Preparedness Webinar for Older Adults

Learn essential emergency preparedness tips to stay safe this season, including building a support network, connecting with local services and fire safety.

NYCEM

NYC Department for the Aging

Nov 19 at 1:00 PM

Winter Ready Webinar

Enhance your knowledge and empower the older adult community as we approach the winter season. Our dedicated city partners and responders are eager to share invaluable insights and strategies tailored specifically for the unique challenges this season may bring. Together, we can create a supportive environment that prioritizes safety, well-being, and connection for our cherished seniors. Join us in this inspiring journey of learning and community engagement, and let's make this winter a season of resilience and warmth for all.

Register here: <https://on.nyc.gov/Winter24>



Basic Training Disaster Simulation Support

As always, NYCEM is requesting that our current NYC CERT volunteers show their support for our newest members as they complete the NYC CERT Basic Training. Current members can help by role playing as victims during the disaster simulation, which may involve them sitting or lying on the ground and acting in distress.

Registration:

[Monday, December 9 | 6 PM -9:30 PM](#)

[Tuesday, December 10 | 6 PM -9:30 PM](#)



Thanksgiving Day Parade Deployments

NYC CERT Volunteers have been requested to support both the Balloon inflation and the Thanksgiving Day parade. Volunteers will be supporting the local NYPD Manhattan North command with crowd management to ensure proper flow of spectators for both events. See below for event details and registrations:

[Balloon Inflation](#) | [Wednesday, November 26](#)

[Parade](#) | [Thursday, November 27](#)



Dyker Heights Light Deployments

This holiday season, NYC CERT will again assist the 68th NYPD Precinct with crowd and traffic management at the famous Dyker Heights Holiday Lights display in Brooklyn. With large crowds and buses of tourists expected, CERT volunteers will help manage the flow of visitors along 10th to 12th Avenue, between 85th and 82nd Street. Volunteers are needed on Saturday evenings—December 7th, 14th, and 21st.

Registration:

[Saturday, December 7](#)

[Saturday, December 14](#)

[Saturday, December 21](#)

NYC CERT CALENDAR



What is a Buddy Check?

A simple check-in can mean the world. Reach out to family and friends, especially those who might be isolated. Your call, text, or visit could brighten their day and provide essential support. Don't underestimate the power of human connection. Be a good neighbor, be a good friend. Check in today!

[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.

NYC CERT ADVANCED TRAINING



Cybersecurity Awareness Training for CERT Volunteers Now Available

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. Volunteers who participate in CERT training have a better understanding of potential threats to the community, along with actionable steps they can take to mitigate risk and improve outcomes.

To provide additional support to CERT volunteers and the important role they play in their communities, FEMA partnered with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) to provide a list of cybersecurity awareness training courses CERT volunteers can take to improve their ability to prepare for and respond to cybersecurity threats. The courses are self-paced and publicly available at no cost from the Federal Virtual Training Environment and the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium (NCPC). Course topics range from cyber essentials and fundamentals of cyber risk management to cyber ethics and mobile device security. To access these courses, visit the [Cybersecurity Awareness Training website](#).

[Read More](#)

Recent Activity



NYC Veterans Day Parade

Last Monday, 22 dedicated CERT members from across the city – Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx – came together to support the Veterans Day Parade. From 10 AM to 4 PM, our volunteers worked tirelessly at the Parade Dispersal Area, ensuring the smooth flow of marchers and vehicles. Their efforts helped to create a well-organized and respectful environment for participants and spectators alike.

Thank you to all our CERT volunteers for their hard work and commitment to honoring our veterans!



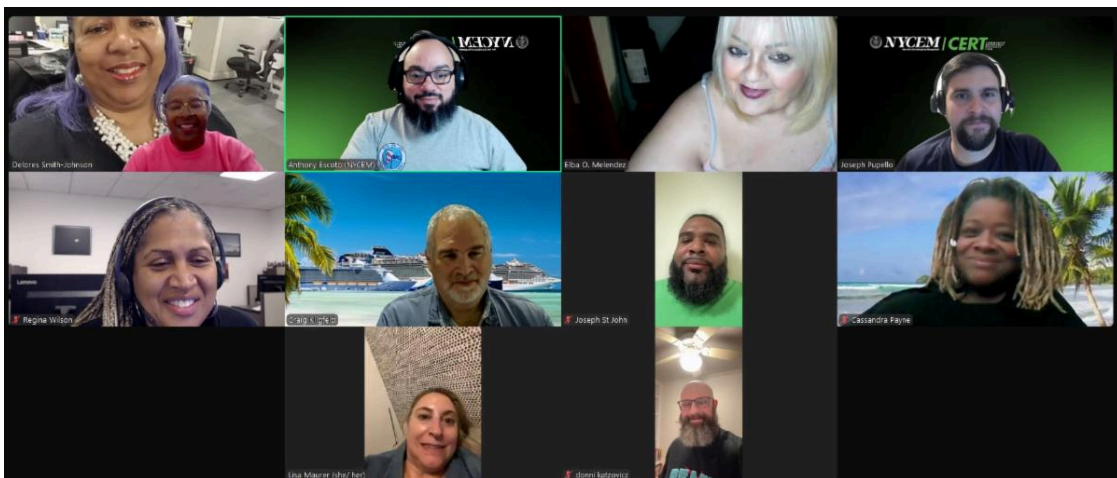
Brighton Neighborhood Association Turkey Distribution Support



This past Wednesday, NYC CERT members from Brooklyn Divisions 5 and 7 joined forces with the Brighton Neighborhood Association to distribute free turkeys to local residents. CERT volunteers were instrumental in making the event a success, assisting with line management and distribution throughout the day. Their dedication helped bring much-needed support to the community.

Meetings

Brooklyn Leadership



NYCEM staff recently joined Brooklyn CERT leaders, hosted by Borough Coordinator Elba Melendez. As many volunteer leadership terms conclude this December, the group gathered to thank outgoing leaders for their

dedication and contributions to the program. Director Joseph Pupello expressed gratitude to all leaders for their ongoing commitment.

Brooklyn Division 6



This past Thursday, Brooklyn Division 6 CERT members reviewed past events, discussed upcoming activities, and conducted administrative business. Elba Melendez, the Brooklyn Borough Coordinator, also shared program updates on behalf of NYCEM staff. Great work to all involved!

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.



What is the NYC CERT Uniform?

We are a Team! To ensure we all represent NYC Emergency Management with professionalism, this message serves as a friendly reminder about our uniform policy. Whether it's a preparedness event or an emergency response, being in proper uniform allows us to be easily identified by the public and first responders. It signifies our commitment to safety and fosters a sense of unity.

- 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](#)

Here's a quick rundown of the NYC CERT uniform:

- Green NYC CERT polo shirt (mandatory)
- Khaki pants (mandatory)
- NYC CERT reflective vest (always most visible outer layer)
- NYC CERT credential on lanyard, visible at all times (mandatory)
- Optional items: NYC CERT baseball hat, windbreaker, green helmet (for emergency responses), green CERT response bag (for emergency responses), NYC CERT branded sweaters/jackets (produced with NYCEM approval)

Not sure about an item? Don't hesitate to reach out! Contact us at cert@oem.nyc.gov and we'll be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have.



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



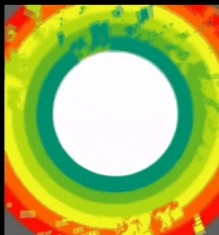
[NYCEM's YouTube page](#)
[NYC CERT recruitment video](#)
[2021 National Volunteer Week video](#)



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



Listen to all 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.



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**NYCEM
 CERT
 VOLUNTEER
 SUPPORT**

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](https://nyc.gov/emergencymanagement)
 (Click here to view as a webpage)



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