



The CERT Report

January 2010

Happy New Year CERT



2009 was a great year for NYC CERT. We introduced the post-training program, released the revised student manual and standard operating procedures, and graduated 214 new team members.

We had great participation once again at the Five Boro Bike Tour, National Night Out, and the National Preparedness Month Kickoff events, as well as a myriad of other planned events. The CERT staff is looking forward to an even busier 2010.

Events and Deployments



Members of the Brooklyn 12 team taking a break from directing traffic at the Autism Walk near South Street Seaport.

CERT teams were active in a wide variety of events, deployments, and exercises this past year.

- In mid-June, 18 CERT members assisted with pedestrian control during the annual Autism Walk.
- 30 teams participated in activities during National Night Out in August.
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New CERT Training

There will be a new cycle of the 10-week basic CERT training beginning in March, with one class set for each borough. Talk to your friends, neighbors, and community members about getting involved! Interested applicants should contact Alec at aglucksman@oem.nyc.gov.

If you have any questions about the application process you can ask either your team leadership or Alec.

Notify NYC for Schools

Families of NYC public school students can now receive notifications from Notify NYC about emergency situations at their children's schools. Parents can sign up to receive notifications sent by e-mail, text message, or phone-about schools in up to five zip codes.

Notifications will be sent when:

- Students are relocated from their school during the school day.
- Dismissal will be delayed due to an emergency in or around the school.
- There is an emergency school closure.
- School opening is delayed due to an emergency in the school.

Register for free at www.NYC.gov/notifynyc or by calling 311.

Ready NY Awards

This fall, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene asked CERTs to help raise awareness about the H1N1 vaccination points of dispensing (PODs) in their communities. Volunteers distributed flyers in heavily trafficked areas and directed residents to the closest POD.

- CERT members from Manhattan 7 and other teams on the West Side of Manhattan helped direct pedestrian traffic around the Museum of Natural History during the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade balloon inflation.
- On December 11 CERT members from the Queens 1, Port Richmond, Roosevelt Island, and Manhattan 8 - UES teams assisted as live victims in a joint FDNY/MTA full-scale exercise about a derailed train.

As OEM and partner agencies continue to identify CERT as a resource, more opportunities to get involved will arise. Take advantage of them! Not only are planned events a great way to serve the City and your communities, they reinforce the skills that CERT members are expected to use during deployments. Communicating with first responders and agency liaisons, organizing small teams of members, and adapting changing situations are all skills that will be invaluable during an emergency.

Simulation on Randall's Island



CERT members extinguish fires during the simulation.

On November 15, 2009, CERT members met at the Fire Academy on Randall's Island for a day of disaster training.

The first half of the day focused on emergency response skills in a classroom setting and toured the Fire Academy's subway emergency training center. After lunch, the volunteers deployed to the scene of a mock emergency, a city bus explosion, on the Fire Academy's "Disaster Row."

The scenario involved multiple fires, a gas leak, a building evacuation, and victim triage. CERT volunteers broke into teams to survey the scene, establish an incident command post, redirect traffic to create a perimeter, and address the emergencies and victims. Disaster victims were played by CERT volunteers and Fire Department mannequins.

CERT Invited to Inauguration

On December 17, OEM's Ready NY program held a reception for members of its Speakers Bureau.

OEM employees and volunteers who have conducted frequent presentations received framed certificates of appreciation from Commissioner Bruno. Ramona Ponce of MN 10 and Beatriz Ruiz of ON 3 were the CERT volunteers with the most presentations. Congratulations!

That's so New York

CERT was recently featured for NYCTV's series "That's so New York." Film crews were on hand to capture scenes of CERT volunteers training on Randall's Island and helping to direct traffic during the Thanksgiving Day Parade balloon inflation. Check out the clip:

[That's so New York](#)

Resources Online



These past couple of months have seen the release of the revised NYC CERT basic training manual and the revised NYC CERT standard operating procedures (SOPs). Team chiefs should have received an electronic copy of these documents as well as a hard copy (if requested) in a binder.

These resources are available through your team chief, but can also be found on the CERT website at <http://nyc.gov/cert> under the "Resources" section. There are also archived copies of the CERT Report if you'd like to look back on past newsletters.

For CERT members who are interested in continuing education, the FEMA online training website is a great way to learn about more specific aspects of emergency preparedness and response. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has many great courses--which will not only expand your knowledge,



Michael Bloomberg is sworn-in for his third term as mayor.

Recognizing what an asset CERT is to the City of New York, Mayor Bloomberg invited CERT members to his inauguration on January 1, 2010. This was yet another tip of the hat from the administration to the CERT program, which has grown dramatically under Bloomberg's leadership.

but also serve as training credit to maintain your credentials! For more information visit: <http://training.fema.gov>.

The National CERT program's website also has continuing education material. You can find various demo videos: www.citizencorps.gov/cert/video_material.shtm

CERT Quiz (National CERT Edition)

1.
Where was the first CERT team formed?
2.
How many CERT teams are there in the United States?
3.
Are there teams in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands?

Answers:

1. *Los Angeles*
2. *About 3,300*
3. *Yes, there are a combined seven teams in the territories.*

For more information about NYC OEM CERT, log on to the website at www.nyc.gov/cert or call the CERT hotline at (718) 422 - 8585.

CERT is always looking to train motivated individuals to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Anyone looking for more information may contact the CERT hotline or e-mail cert@oem.nyc.gov.

Check out the National FEMA CERT Newsletter: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/newsletter.shtm>

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