



SEVEN NYC COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERTs) **GRADUATE**

OEM congratulates the newest members of New York City's CERT program for completing training to serve their communities in times of emergency. This January, seven teams joined the established 22 CERT teams by finishing 25 hours of basic disaster and preparedness response training.

As part of their training, CERT members received hands-on instruction in skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue and medical operations. The new CERT graduates are now prepared to assist emergency personnel when needed in emergencies affecting their immediate communities. They are also committed to helping their communities better prepare for all types of emergencies.

Graduation ceremonies took place in each of the five boroughs to recognize the CERT groups' achievements. Representatives from the NYPD, FDNY, NYC OEM, were on hand to congratulate the graduates.

The seven groups that graduated include:

Brooklyn: District 18
Manhattan: District 3
Queens: District 1
Queens: District 7
Queens: District 8
Queens: District 11

OEM Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno, in partnership with the American Red Cross, New York's five borough presidents, Citizens for NYC, New York City Fire Department (FDNY), New York City Police Department (NYPD), New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), today launched the second phase of New York City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) pilot program.

“CERTs empower citizens to take a more active role in preparing their communities for all types of emergencies – they are among our most important partners in helping to ensure the City is prepared,” Commissioner Bruno said. “But all New Yorkers can do their part to prepare the City for any emergency by taking the steps outlined in ‘Ready New York: A Household Preparedness Guide.’”



CERT – part of the Department of Homeland Security’s Citizen Corps initiative – aims to help individuals take a more active role in emergency response and preparedness. CERT members are trained in basic disaster response skills so they can assist emergency personnel when needed in emergencies affecting their immediate communities. CERTs also work to educate residents about the many hazards they may face and ways they can better prepare for all types of emergencies.

The City encourages New Yorkers interested in disaster volunteering to sign up with a local volunteer organization such as New York Cares, the Salvation Army or the American Red Cross in Greater New York *before* a disaster occurs. Getting involved with a disaster volunteer organization before an emergency will increase your ability to help when help is needed.

For more information about Citizen Corps, CERT, and the “Ready New York” campaign, residents can access NYC.gov/oem or call 311.