



## The CERT Report

October 2009

### National Preparedness Month Kickoff



*CERT volunteers distribute Ready NY guides and information to passers-by in Times Square.*

On September 2nd OEM and the Citizen Corps Council kicked off National Preparedness Month with a tabling event in each of the five boroughs of New York City. OEM staff, CERT, and volunteers from partner agencies lent a hand distributing Ready NY guides, disaster preparedness literature, and small bottles of hand sanitizer. This year's National Preparedness Month was focused on good hygiene and staying healthy, as the City gears up to face the H1N1 pandemic and normal flu season.



*US Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano helps kick off National Preparedness Month with American Red Cross in Greater New York CEO Theresa Bischoff, Ad Council President and CEO Peggy Conlon, OEM Deputy Commissioner of External Affairs Christina Farrell, and OEM Commissioner Joseph Bruno.*

Highlighting the kickoff events was a public service advertising campaign designed to encourage New Yorkers to prepare for disasters. OEM partnered with the American Red Cross in Greater New York and the Ad Council to produce television, radio, print, and billboard advertisements, including a billboard in the middle of Times Square.

In addition to volunteers handing out information to the high level of foot

### New CERT Training



*FDNY instructors Joe Brosi and John Nykiel teach CERTs-in-training.*

Three CERT training classes began recently in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, which will add 112 volunteers to CERT teams in New York City.

"The students are all very eager to learn and have good questions," observed OEM liaison Emily Carroll of the Manhattan. They come to the training with diverse backgrounds and past experiences, ranging from the medical and healthcare field to involvement in City agencies and volunteer organizations, to average citizens who want to help.

The new students are working with an updated participant manual. One of the features of the updated manual is the Urban III unit, which now focuses on building community connections prior to incidents through Community Disaster Networks (CDNs).

Team leadership has been notified of the updated curriculum and will be provided with an electronic version of the manual. For those who trained in earlier cycles, please speak with your team chief about obtaining a copy.

### CERT Post Training

traffic passing by, officials gave remarks about the importance of preparedness, including Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

"Preparedness is a shared responsibility that begins with the American people," Napolitano remarked.

While September is National Preparedness Month, we encourage all NYC CERTs to remain active the entire year helping to prepare their communities. Visit the Ready NYC website at [www.readynyc.org](http://www.readynyc.org) or in Spanish at [www.listonyc.org](http://www.listonyc.org).

## How Prepared is America?

Earlier this year FEMA's Community Preparedness division in conjunction with the National Citizen Corps initiated a survey to gauge the progress of the nation's personal preparedness. The results are contained in the report *Personal Preparedness in America: Findings from the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey*.

Of the 3,448 households surveyed, 56% reported that they have supplies set aside for an emergency. Only 43% of those, however, updated their supplies at least once a year.

Despite these low numbers, 81% felt that preparation, planning, and emergency supplies would help them handle a natural disaster.

Almost a quarter of the individuals surveyed had given some time in the past year to support emergency responder organizations or organizations that focus on community safety, like CERT. Help raise that number! Build your Community Disaster Network and make sure that the connections you have in the network know what hazards are out there and what they can do, now, to prepare.

The full report and PowerPoint presentation can be found at [www.citizencorps.gov/ready/2009findings.shtm](http://www.citizencorps.gov/ready/2009findings.shtm).



Ready NY Program Manager Amber Greene instructs future CERT presenters.

The CERT program offers continued training to enhance the skills and knowledge of its volunteers.

Classes have included: Con Edison Awareness, taught by Con Ed response team leaders; Cultural Awareness and Psychological First Aid, run by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and Ready NY presenter training.

Post-training classes are ongoing and new classes will be announced by e-mail. Stay tuned and be sure to register for those that interest you via [certtraining@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:certtraining@oem.nyc.gov).

## CERT Quiz (SOP Edition)

In October, OEM released the updated NYC CERT Standard Operating Procedures. This newsletter's quiz features three questions from the SOPs.

- 1.) When can a NYC CERT member self-deploy?
- 2.) What is New York City's program for responding to and recovering from emergencies?
- 3.) In at least how many preparedness / response events must a NYC CERT volunteer participate every two years to maintain credentials?

Answers:

- 1.) *Never*
- 2.) *CIMS - Citywide Incident Management System*
- 3.) *Four*

For more information about NYC OEM CERT, log on to the website at [www.nyc.gov/cert](http://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](mailto:cert@oem.nyc.gov).

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

