

NEW YORK CITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:** WHEN INTERACTING WITH THE PUBLIC, NYC CERT MEMBERS MUST WEAR FACE MASKS AT ALL TIMES REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS. ***PLEASE READ THE VACCINATION MANDATE BELOW.***

This weekly newsletter should provide you with helpful information that you can share and discuss with your community members.

If you're having difficulty viewing the newsletter [click here to view as a webpage.](#)

### NYCEM Commissioner Andrew D'Amora



New York City Emergency Management says farewell to Acting Commissioner Andrew D'Amora, as he retires from City service after more than 30 years. Commissioner D'Amora has been an incredible supporter of the NYC CERT program. We thank him and wish him a wonderful retirement.

[View Press Release \(1/2/2022\)](#)  
[Prep Talk Podcast: A career in Public Service - NYCEM Commissioner Andrew D'Amora](#)



#### MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL

Borough Channel: SI

**Scenario:** Does your division have an emergency plan?

1/10 Responding Borough: Queens

Documents to Review:  
[Citywide Radio Drill Refresher](#)  
[Call signs per Radio](#)

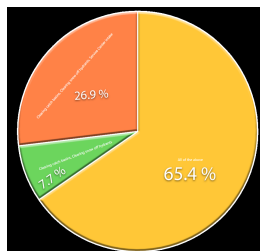
### Quiz of the Week

Thank you to all who participated in last week's **Quiz of the Week** and congratulations to those who chose the correct answer, **D. All of the above (65 %)**

The choice that stumped some of you was the sprinkler caps. NYC CERT has actively supported this initiative in past years. Anyone age 18+ can request a sprinkler spray cap in the summertime.

As per **311**, You can ask at your local firehouse to have a hydrant fitted with a spray cap and opened for recreational use.

- **What You Need:** You must be over 18, show ID, and fill out a form.
- **Firehouse Locations:** To find a firehouse location, go to the [Firehouses page](#).
- **What Happens Next:** The firehouse will schedule a time to turn the hydrant on and off.



## QUIZ OF THE WEEK

Each week we will have a survey with questions that relates back to lessons learned during your NYC CERT basic training or your time as a member. The answer will be revealed in the following week's newsletter. Good Luck!

[CLICK HERE](#)



### Health & Safety Protocol

NYC Emergency Management has added protocols specific to the COVID-19 pandemic. The mandate issued through the ***Order of the Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene to Require COVID-19 Vaccination for City Employees and Certain City***

Contractors is applicable to NYC CERT Program

volunteers.

Beginning **Tuesday, February 1, 2022**, volunteers who have not submitted appropriate documentation to meet the vaccine mandate and have not applied for a medical or religious reasonable accommodation through NYCEM will be placed as inactive and unscheduled from volunteer shifts until they are in compliance.

- To submit vaccination records, please e-mail an approved proof of vaccination to: [CERTVaxVerification@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:CERTVaxVerification@oem.nyc.gov).
- To request a reasonable accommodation for either religious or medical please follow the steps below.
- If you have any further questions related to the submission of proof of vaccination, please contact the NYC CERT program at: [CERT@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:CERT@oem.nyc.gov).

Please note, while this will make you inactive now, all volunteers will have two years to meet the vaccine mandate and reactivate their status before having to reapply to NYC CERT Basic Training.

[View more details including approved proofs of vaccination status](#)

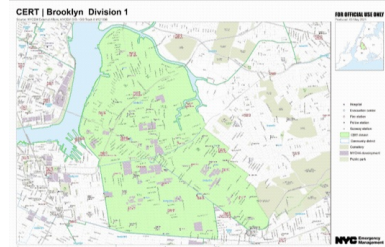


The [NYC CERT Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#) provides guidance and outlines policies and procedures for you and your team to follow.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the updated NYC CERT SOPs 2022 Edition. You may save this link as updates and additions to the SOPs will be made directly to this document.

## 2021 Volunteer Hours Deadline: **January 14th**

All volunteers must submit their volunteer hours for 2021 by Friday, January 14th. As a volunteer, you should be receiving credit for the hard work and



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!](#)

## **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.



Get Notified with New York City's official source for information about

incredible support you provide in serving your community whether it be at in-person events, during virtual training or on deployment. If you have any difficulty submitting your hours, please contact us at [cert@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:cert@oem.nyc.gov).



emergency alerts and important city services. Download the free [Notify NYC](#) mobile app, available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

## [Submit your Volunteer Hours](#)

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



[Report your Volunteer Hours](#)  
Search for *Buddy Check* Event

## 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.

## NYC CERT EVENT CALENDAR

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.

1. Complete the [NYC CERT Mentor Program form](#) to let us know if you'd like to be a mentor or mentee.
2. Complete the [Matching Questionnaire](#) to help pair the mentor to a mentee. Both forms must be filled out to participate in the program.

# VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

## Polar Bear Plunge Deployment & Hotwash

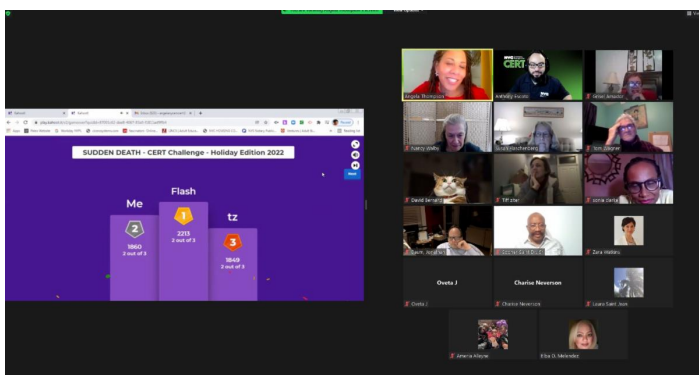
On the morning of Saturday, January 1st, several volunteers were deployed to the Coney Island shore to support the NYC Polar Bear Club for the annual event on New Years Day. As probationary member **Britta Husack of Brooklyn Division 6 CERT** observed one of the participants unconscious in the water she immediately reacted. Britta successfully provided CPR and resuscitating to the participant allowing FDNY the time to

transfer him to the local Hospital. NYC CERT Program staff hosted a Hot Wash for the recent and very first deployment of the year; the Coney Island Polar Bear Plunge 22'. A Hotwash is conducted to collect information from all participants to ensure that the volunteer experience was plentiful and meaningful while providing room for improvement in operations both from the programmatic and volunteer side. Thank you to all of the members who supported the memorable event and also participated in the hotwash. We're very proud to share the great work you do everyday and this is just another example of the importance of having NYC CERT support community events. Please view some of the articles regarding the Polar Bear Plunge response:

- [New York Post](#)
- [New York Daily News](#)
- [Gothamist](#)



Above Photo by Stephen Yang, New York Post



### Brooklyn New Year Game Night

All of our Brooklyn CERT volunteers were invited to participate in a Kahoot Trivia game night hosted and facilitated by Brooklyn Borough Coordinator, Angela Thompson as the first in a series of fun game nights that borough leadership will be hosting throughout the year. Great work everyone, especially to our grand prize winners Tiff Ziter (Division 2) and Susan Flaschenberg (Division 5)!

Brooklyn Division 7 CERT kicked off the new year with their January meeting. During the meeting, members reviewed some items found in last week's NYC CERT Newsletter, including the release of the updated **NYC CERT SOPs**. Program staff were also present during the virtual meeting to provide updates including recent graduates and their mentorship pairing as well as the Winter Weather Advisory at the time of the call.



[Download NYC CERT Background](#) for use during CERT meetings and training in a virtual environment (e.g.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

# Ready Up NYC Webinar Series

Join us on Zoom at 2:30 PM

**January  
20**

**Topic: Emergency Alerts**

- Importance of staying informed
- Types of alerts
- Notify NYC Program

**February  
17**

**Topic: Financial Emergency  
Planning with FEMA**

- 4 steps to financial preparedness
- Disaster assistance resources

**March  
17**

**Topic: John D. Solomon  
Fellowship for Public Service**

- Fellowship program overview
- Alumni experiences
- Application process

Register via: <https://bit.ly/ReadyUp2022>

Each of the FEMA Region II webinars presented in 2021 has been recorded and archived. If you wish to revisit a webinar you attended or would like to listen to one you missed, or even share with a friend or co-worker, you can find the links on the document linked here [2021 Webinar Catalog](#) which includes the webinar description and recording link for each webinar by category.

Get ahead of the upcoming CERT Radio Training announcements and take your pre-requisite on your own time!

Pre-requisite for members participating in the Point-to-Point training: **IS-242.b Effective Communications**

Please send verification of completion to [CERTTraining@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:CERTTraining@oem.nyc.gov) prior to the training date.

**NYC CERT online platform** includes online courses to support volunteer growth.

Schedule a free Fire Safety training for your Division at **FDNY Smart Fire Safety**.

**FEMA Region 2 (R2) Webinar Catalog** includes all recorded webinars from Jan-June of 2021.

**COVID-19 Community Conversations: Mental Health, Equity and Resilience**  
DOHMH is offering free virtual training to community groups. There are two options, a **1-hour informational virtual presentation** and a **3-hour interactive training** (available in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin).

## THINGS TO KNOW



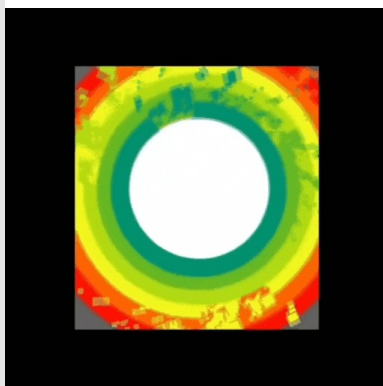
**NYCEM's Youtube page**  
**NYC CERT recruitment video**  
**2021 National Volunteer Week video**



**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.



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NYC Emergency Management | [NYC.gov/emergencymanagement](https://nyc.gov/emergencymanagement)  
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