

March After Action Review



MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL

Radio Channel
CERT QNS

3/31 Responding Borough:
None

Scenario: How many radio trained
members are in your Division?

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

Throughout the past month, CERT volunteers across the city have demonstrated their unwavering commitment by actively participating in a diverse range of engagement opportunities, both in-person and virtually. Activities included an informative Bingo training session at the beginning of the month, as well as vital support for Disaster Simulation during basic training and a comprehensive virtual cultural awareness training. Noteworthy new deployments have taken place in Washington Heights, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, and various locations across Staten Island, reflecting the extensive outreach efforts undertaken by our dedicated volunteers. These initiatives exemplify the significant contributions our volunteers have made in enhancing community preparedness and resilience during this period.

Another Basic Training in the Books!

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



A heartfelt congratulations to our newest NYC CERT members! We're so grateful for the dedication and hard work of the 38 individuals who just completed their Basic Training this past week. We're eagerly looking forward to celebrating with them at the graduation ceremony on April 7, 2025. What a wonderful addition to our volunteer family! We'll be sure to share the highlights, including photos from the training and graduation, in the newsletter following the ceremony.

latest iteration of expectations and guidance.
For any questions, please reach out to your volunteer leadership or email CERT@oem.nyc.gov.



Download NYC CERT Catalogue



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

The Ready School of the Year application is open!



READY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD

2025 APPLICATIONS OPEN!

Does your school lead the way in preparedness?

Do you have training, clubs, or other initiatives to help prepare for emergencies?

Nominate your school!
on.nyc.gov/RSOTY25

Apply by April 15!








All New York City public schools are eligible to apply for a chance to showcase how their school leads the way in preparedness. The winning school will be able to collaborate with NYC Emergency Management on showcasing their commitment to emergency preparedness and community resilience through an award ceremony. Application deadline is April 15th.



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](#).

Register here: <https://bit.ly/RSOTY25>

Request for Public Input on Experiences with FEMA Disaster Responses



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Review Council requests information and comments from the public and other interested stakeholders to gain an understanding of their experience with FEMA during disasters. The public information and comments will ensure that the FEMA Review Council's findings and recommendations are informed by a broad spectrum of

perspectives, experiences, and ideas.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 15, 2025, to be assured of consideration.

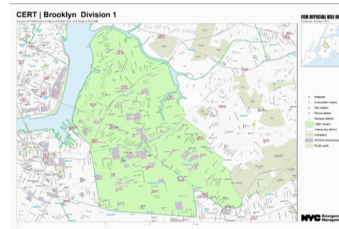
ADDRESSES: The FEMA Review Council invites submission of the requested information through one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- **E-mail:** FEMAreviewcouncil@hq.dhs.gov. Include Docket No. DHS-2025-0013 in the subject line of the message.
- **Mail:** Patrick Powers, Designated Federal Officer of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Review Council, Office of Partnership and Engagement, Mailstop 0385, Department of Homeland Security, 2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, Washington, DC 20032.

[Click Here for more information](#)

NYC Emergency Management Commissioner for a Day Contest

All New York City high school students are invited to participate in the annual NYC Emergency Management "Commissioner for a Day" essay contest. Entrants must submit an original essay and complete the application attached below. NYC Emergency Management Commissioner, Zach Iscol, will select the winner who will be invited to NYC Emergency Management headquarters to participate in the Commissioner for a Day Award Ceremony and take part in the John D. Solomon Fellowship Graduation event.



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.



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.

Eligibility: The essay contest is open to all New York City high school students enrolled in grades 9-12 and attending schools located within the five boroughs of New York City.

Deadline: All entries must be submitted by April 20, 2025. All entries must be emailed to readyny@oem.nyc.gov with the subject line "Commissioner for a Day Essay Contest."

[Click here for more information](#)

Community Preparedness Symposium SOLD OUT!



**13TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS SYMPOSIUM**

Lead the Way, Prepare Today

WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 2, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Baruch Vertical Campus, New York, NY

For help registering or requests
regarding accessibility, email: communityprep@oem.nyc.gov

Scan here to RSVP

SOLD OUT

In less than a month, the NYCEM Community Preparedness Team is hosting the annual Community Preparedness Symposium! Spread the word to the local community and faith groups, leaders, and volunteers.

The 2025 Community Preparedness Symposium - Lead the Way, Prepare Today will take place on Wednesday, April 2 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the Baruch College Vertical Campus.

This free symposium will feature several workshops geared towards equipping community and faith-based organizations, as well as local leaders, with tools and best practices for preparing, responding, and recovering from emergencies in the community.

Thank you all who have either registered or spread the news! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Updated NYC CERT IDs



Membership:

All Division 4 IDs in all boroughs will be expiring on April 30th. All members should reach out to their division leadership to exchange expired credentials for updated ones.

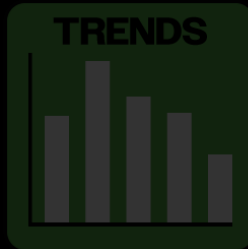
Leadership:

All Division leaders in all boroughs, please check in with your members to see if they have an expired ID. You can 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](#).

As a reminder, we've recently added this new section in our weekly newsletter dedicated to showcasing the incredible impact of NYC CERT volunteers across the city! This section will offer a closer look at the NYC CERT program, highlighting one of the following sections each week including recent trends, the diverse tasks our volunteers undertake to support new initiatives and campaigns, and the valuable resources available to both members and the public. It will also serve as a platform to spotlight the amazing work being done by individuals, divisions, and even entire boroughs, demonstrating the vital role CERT plays in keeping New York City safe and resilient.



Service Organization Recruitment

How can you help? We are requesting that all divisions work on collecting contact information from local service organizations such as, the Knights of Columbus (K of C), Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Lions Clubs International and Rotary Clubs. Our goal is to engage these groups in conversations on emergency preparedness and schedule CERT Recruitment events for their members.

Task: Division Leadership can start this conversation with members at their next division meeting and all volunteers can begin to compile a list of local chapters/posts where they can reach out to collect contact information. All members can participate in this activity and all information can be found via an internet search. At the next division meeting, members can share their contacts and all can split up the list and begin contacting (via phone or stopping by the location, if nearby) to introduce themselves and request to do a recruitment tabling and/or mini presentation about the benefits of joining NYC CERT.

PLEASE VIEW OUR SAMPLE MESSAGE FOR ORGANIZATIONS

**Feel free to relay any events you have participated in as a CERT volunteer and the roles you have performed when communicating this information.*

NYCEM CERT Staff can discuss this initiative and answer any questions at your division meeting. Thank you for your support in building membership for the program!

Feedback from divisions:

- Some divisions have members that are part of these service organizations, so check in with your division members to see who best to contact; or maybe they can reach out.
- Another service org that was brought to our attention was the American Legion. If you know of others to add to the list, please let us know.
- A few divisions sent over actions they have taken to get the ball rolling on this recruitment initiative, already. Others are planning to speak about it at their next division meeting.
- If your division has not yet researched the service organizations in your area, please start there! Next steps:
 - Reach out to the organization or stop by any locations in your area to get a good contact.
 - Provide the info in the sample script above and try to schedule a tabling event or brief presentation at their location. (Remember to take pics!)
 - If they are unable to schedule an event, offer recruitment materials that can be dropped off or shipped to the location to share with their members.
 - Send updates/pics on any activities your division is doing for this initiative to CERT@oem.nyc.gov
 - Check out the newsletter for resources for better recruiting and for updates on this initiative!

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Extreme Heat Preparedness Training for NYC CERT Leaders

As we approach the warmer months, it's crucial for our CERT leaders to be equipped with the knowledge and tools to support their respective divisions & communities and during extreme heat events. Join us for an upcoming Extreme Heat Preparedness Training designed to enhance your understanding of heat-related risks and effective response strategies.



This session will cover:

- Important preparedness tips for navigating extreme heat conditions
- How heat impacts different communities, including an exploration of the Heat Vulnerability Index and Mapping
- Strategies to encourage community members to care for themselves and others during heat emergencies
- An overview of HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) and the HEAP Cooling Assistance Program to support at-risk individuals and other community members

This training is a great opportunity to strengthen your leadership skills and ensure that your community is prepared for rising temperatures.

Registration | Wed, Apr 16, 2025 | 6:00 PM



CISA Learning

CISA's new Learning Management System has replaced the Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE) and will replace multiple other platforms. CISA Learning will be the go-to learning platform CISA staff, contractors and external partners. CISA Learning will continue to offer the same no cost online cybersecurity training as FedVTE on topics such as cloud security, ethical hacking and surveillance, risk management, malware analysis, and more.

CISA Learning using the following link: <https://learning.cisa.gov/>

- External users will access CISA Learning via Login.gov, a secure government site.
- While Login.gov uses personal identifiable information (PII) for verification, this information is not shared with or captured in CISA Learning.
- For more information, visit: [What is Login.gov?](#) | [Login.gov](#)

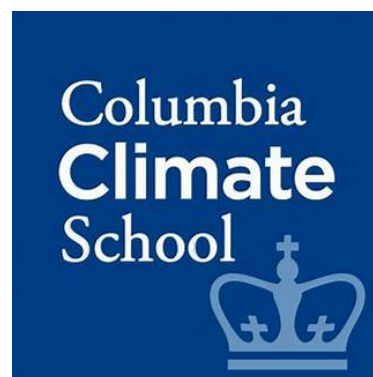
FEMA Learning Opportunities

National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP) has several on-demand web-based trainings to train learners quickly on mass care shelter and evacuation operations.

- AWR-423-W: Mass Care Shelter and Relocation Communication provides participants with an understanding of messaging for shelter and evacuation operations. This course is focused on the whole community.
- AWR-424-W: Pandemic Planning Multilateral Risk Communication provides participants an overview of multilateral risk communications during a pandemic.

PER-402-W: Pandemic Planning for Mass Sheltering is designed to help learners plan for mass sheltering operations during multiple disasters.

These trainings can be completed in as little as two hours. Trainings are available for individual learners or can be incorporated into the curriculum for volunteer groups, university courses, healthcare and hospital



systems, and more. To learn about and register for these trainings, please visit our training portal at <https://training.ncdpcourses.org>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

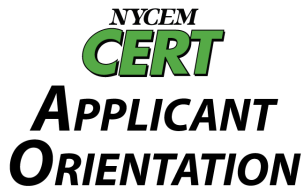
Brighton Family Day and Eid event



NYPD

On Sunday April 6th, NYC CERT will be assisting NYPD's 60th Precinct with Pedestrian Management during the annual Brighton Family Day and Eid event. If you're available, please register below

[Registration](#) | [Sun, Apr 6](#) | [10:00 AM](#)



NYC CERT Orientation Support

We are seeking volunteers from our active membership to assist with upcoming in-person Orientation sessions for new applicants in 2025. These evening sessions, held from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at NYCEM headquarters, will require volunteers to assist with light logistics, set-up, and answer questions from attendees. We encourage interested members to consider this valuable opportunity to contribute to the NYC CERT program.

[Register for an Orientation Date](#)

Recent Activity

Deployment

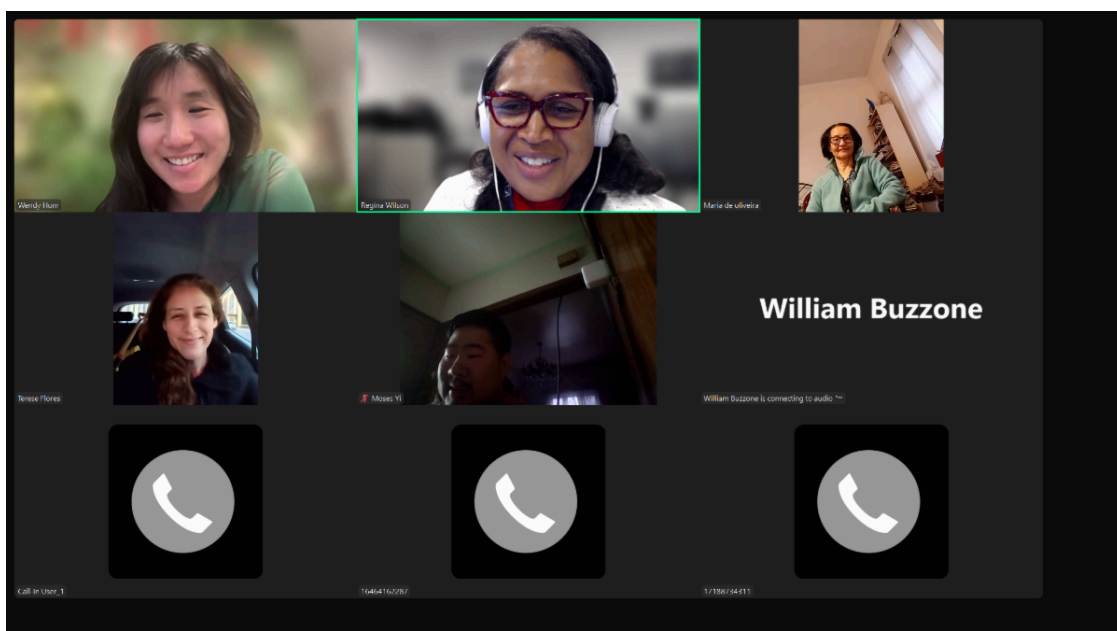
Ready NY Fair: CCBQ Live it Up: Stronger Together 2025



Joseph Polak, Queens Division 1, and Wayne Miller, Queens Division 5 participated in a fair on behalf of the Ready New York program, CCBQ Live it Up: Stronger Together 2025, at St. Teresa's Church in Woodside, Queens on Tuesday, March 25th to provide emergency preparedness literature to the community.

Meetings

Manhattan Division 4



Queens Division 4 held their monthly meeting on March 24, 2024. Division members discussed attending Community board and Police council meetings to introduce CERT to the members of both organizations. They then talked through the need to recruit more members and will plan another date next month to start planning out their strategy going forward.

Send Us Your Photos!



Please continue to share 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!

NYC CERT CALENDAR

What is a Buddy Check?



A simple check-in before, during, and after an emergency can make a world of difference. Please reach out to those in your community, especially those needing help. Sharing preparedness tips, confirming safety, and offering support are vital. Don't underestimate the power of community connection in building resilience. Be a prepared neighbor, be a supportive friend. Check in today!

[Report your Volunteer Hours](#)

Search for *Buddy Check* Event

[Click Here for the NYC CERT Buddy Check Role Description](#)



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.

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.
- 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](#)



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.

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.)



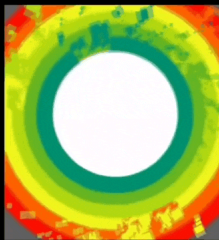
[NYCEM's YouTube page](#)
[NYC CERT recruitment video](#)
[2021 National Volunteer Week video](#)



[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.



JOSEPH PUPELLO
 Director
 Volunteer Programs



ANTHONY ESCOTO
 Program Manager
 Training & Exercises



DENISE ESPOSITO
 Specialist
 Recruitment & Retention



REGINA WILSON
 Specialist
 CERT Leadership



GABRIEN ZERVOS
 Specialist
 Operations & Engagement



VANESSA RODRIGUEZ
 AmeriCorps
 Member

**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](#)

ONLY active NYC CERT membership may book a one-on-one meeting with a staff member who specializes in each specific topic. Please provide a clear description of your needs so we can prepare to address all of your questions and concerns. Please do not share this link externally. All external inquiries can be directed to the program email address: CERT@oem.nyc.gov.



NYC Emergency Management | nyc.gov/emergencymanagement
([Click here to view as a webpage](#))



NYC Emergency Management Communications Network | 165 Cadman Plaza East |
Brooklyn, NY 11201 US