***ACTIVATION STATUS:*** ***NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IS ACTIVATED.***
***PLEASE NOTE:*** ***Program staff will respond to inquiries and requests as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience and support.***

## Queens Fire Support Center: Sunnyside Community Services

NYC CERT volunteers are being requested to support the Queens Fire Reception Center: Sunnyside Community Services with line management, flow monitoring, and generally supporting the NYCEM site lead.

There will be two shifts for each deployment:

- Shift 1: 9:30am - 1:00pm
- Shift 2: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Registration | Tue, Dec 26, 2023 | 9:30AM - 5:00PM**

**Registration | Wed, Dec 27, 2024 | 9:30AM - 5:00PM**

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MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL

**Borough Channel:**
***CERT SI***

**12/25 Responding Borough:**
No Response

Documents to Review:
**Citywide Radio Drill Refresher**
**Call signs per Radio**

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

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It's important to prepare for winter weather-related dangers. There are several steps you can take to stay safe before, during, and after winter storms. Visit the NYCEM Winter Weather website for more information.

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## Cyber Secure for the Holidays

'Tis the season for gift giving and shopping online has become a convenient solution for many since 1994. A cyberattack can happen any time of the year. We shared ways to protect yourself from a cyberattack. Here are ways to respond during a cyberattack:

- Check your credit card and bank statements for unrecognizable charges.
- Check your credit reports for any new accounts or loans you didn't open.
- Be alert for emails and social media users that ask for private information.
- If you notice strange activity, limit the damage by changing all of your internet account passwords immediately.
- Remember: A company will not call you and ask for control of your computer to fix it. This is a common scam.
- Let work, school or other system owners know what happened.
- If you find a problem, disconnect your device from the Internet and perform a full system restore.

Learn more about how to be cyber secure and how to respond during and after a cyberattack at Ready.

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NYC Emergency Management CERT

Volunteer Hours

How to report your volunteer hours?

What accounts for your volunteer hours?

For more questions on how to submit your service hours you can view the **Hours Submission FAQs**.

View and Download the Complete NYC CERT Basic Training Student Manual

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# QUIZ

Each week we will propose a quiz question that relates back to lessons learned during NYC CERT training or from your experience as an active member. The answer will be revealed in the following week's newsletter.

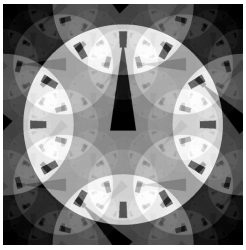
Last week's question:
As a CERT member, if you were on the block at the time either of these incidents occurred, what actions would you take?

Correct Answer(s): C is correct. All other answers involve you assisting at an active emergency. This is the task of first responders, like FDNY and NYPD. CERT members NEVER self-deploy. If it is determined that there is a role for CERT on-scene, it will be AFTER the scene is deemed safe and you will receive an email from NYCEM CERT Staff with the role and all of the details you will need to assist. Your safety is our priority! Possible CERT roles after emergencies like these two in the Bronx: Registration assistance at a service or reception center, pedestrian or vehicular traffic management around the perimeter of the incident location, or escorts for building residents into building to retrieve personal items.

As NYC CERT, you are asked: what is NYCEM is doing about local flooding? You should tell them:

a) you are a CERT member, and this is not what you do.

# Deadline for submitting 2023 volunteer hours is January 24, 2024



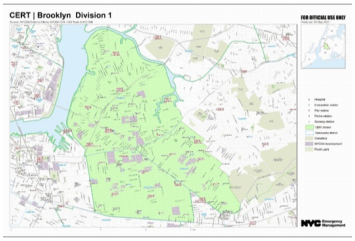
Christmas is observed annually on December 25th as a religious and cultural holiday celebrated by billions of people, globally. The traditions of recognizing the birth of Jesus Christ, the spirit of Santa Claus, Christmas trees, gifts, charity, and goodwill are ubiquitous, but did you know these fun facts about this festive time in the United States of America (USA):

- On December 21, 2023, the U.S. Postal Service's holiday tracker reported 8 billion packages processed, so far. Last year, December 2022, the holiday tracker reported 12 billion packages processed.
- Christmas trees have an ancient tradition that dates to the Egyptians and Romans, but it wasn't until 1850 when they made their debut as an essential holiday item and were available for purchase across the USA, after Prince Albert of Germany popularized it when he bought a Christmas tree for Queen Victoria of England in 1848.
- 35 million Christmas trees are sold and more than 45 million are planted, annually. A Christmas tree has an average growth rate of about 15 years.
- Saint Nickolas of Myra, Sinter Klaas, is not only the inspiration for Santa Claus, but is also the patron saint of banking, orphans, sailing, and New York City.
- Christmas trees were banned from the White House, in 1901, by then president, Teddy Roosevelt, who was an environmentalist.
- The first musical interlude in space was "Jingle Bells." It was performed by Astronauts Wally Shirra, on harmonica, and Tom Stafford, on sleigh bells, aboard Gemini VI, after telling Mission Control they spotted an unidentified object entering the Earth's atmosphere at the North Pole on December 16, 1965.
- Construction workers, who were working at Rockefeller Center, during the 1931 holiday season, were the first to place a small, undecorated tree to brighten their spirits. A couple years later, a Christmas tree appeared in the same spot, but this time decorated with string lights. Over the years, the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center attracts visitors in the millions from all

b) to report it to 311 and provide information on the Know Your Zone campaign.

c) to visit nyc.gov/emergencymanagement for more helpful information and resources

d) both answers b & c




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.

over the world, with its majestic size and over 25,ooo twinkle lights.

Thank you for all the time and energy you put into making the CERT program thrive. Please remember after you participate, **Submit Your Volunteer Hours!**

We wish the entire team a very bright and Merry Christmas.

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NYC Emergency Management wishes all New Yorkers a Happy Kwanzaa as we celebrate African American culture from December 26th through January 1st

Here are some interesting facts about Kwanzaa:

- Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Korenga in 1966. The name Kwanzaa comes from a Swahili phrase that means "first fruits of the harvest". Some people combine aspects of Kwanzaa and Christmas together today in order to celebrate their race as well as their religion
- Kwanzaa is celebrated by ceremonies throughout the week. Many people celebrate by decorating their home in African art as well as the traditional Kwanzaa colors of green, black, and red. They may also wear traditional African clothing. Women may wear a colorful wrap called a kaftan. Men may wear a colorful shirt called a dashiki and a hat called a kufi.
- On the last day of Kwanzaa, families often gather for a large feast called karamu. Sometimes karamu is celebrated at a local church or community center. Here they enjoy traditional African dishes.

**There are seven main principals, one for each day of the celebration:**

- Umoja - Unity: To remain united in the community
- Kujichagulia - Self-Determination: To be responsible for yourself and your community
- Ujima - Collective Work and Responsibility: To work together
- Ujamaa - Cooperative Economics: To create African-American owned businesses
- Nia - Purpose: To build and develop the community
- Kuumba - Creativity: To improve our community and make it more beautiful

After you participate, be sure to **Submit Your Volunteer Hours!**

For more questions on how to submit your service hours you can view the **Hours Submission FAQs**.

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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.

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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.

- Imani - Faith: To believe that the world can become a better place

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## Send Us Your Photos!

***As 2023 comes to a close and we move into our 21st year, help us to celebrate CERT in New York City by sending us your photos and videos from your event at*** [on.nyc.gov/CERTupload](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!

**Download Photos from the Gracie Mansion Anniversary Event**

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

READY NEW YORK

CERT members will present and distribute preparedness literature. All Ready NY Presentation opportunities are found on [NYC CERT Calendar](). Reach out to the designated CERT Lead, of each event, to register. After you participate, be sure to [Submit Your Volunteer Hours!]()

[Ready NY Presentation: Atlantic Plaza Towers | Thurs, Jan 18, 2024 7:30PM]()

[Ready NY Presentation: Alexander Robertson School | Sun, Feb 4, 2024 4PM]()

[Ready NY Presentation: Brownsville Heritage Houses | Thurs, Feb 15, 2024 7:30PM]()

[Ready NY Presentation: Riverway Senior Center | Thurs, March 21, 2024 7:30PM]()

[Ready NY Presentation: Jameson Gorman Houses | Thurs, April 18, 2024 7:30PM]()

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**St. Brigid Center Support | Food Distribution**

NYC CERT volunteers are being requested to support Asylum Seeker Operations at the St. Bridget Reticketing Center through providing meals to on-site clients.

[Registration | Sun, Dec 24, 2023 12PM]()

[Registration | Sun, Dec 31, 2023 12PM]()

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## Coney Island New Year's Day 121st Polar Bear

### Plunge 2024

CERT will assist the Coney Island Polar Bears with line management for participant registration, be positioned on the Boardwalk to assist with crowd control and on the beach with keeping the waterfront clear to allow the plungers to enter and exit the water safely, and to assist in observing swimmers emerging from the water, watching for plungers who might be in distress and getting them to emergency aid.

[Registration | Mon, Jan 1, 2024, 8:30AM]

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**No prior knowledge, nor experience required to join in on the fun.*

### Cyber Ready Community Game Night

FEMA's National Exercise Division (NED) and DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) have developed the Cyber Ready Community Game to promote cyber preparedness. Team up and compete in the game that puts your sector in emergency cyber-scenarios and tested on how well you planned, mitigated, responded and recovered from the cyber-scenario.

[Registration | Wed, Jan 10, 2024 6:30PM]

# NYC CERT CALENDAR

### 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.

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

**Are you interested in becoming a**

NYC Emergency Management CERT | MENTOR PROGRAM

**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.

# ADVANCED TRAINING

### Active Shooter Training

CISA instructs on how to better prepare you to deal with an active shooter situation, focusing on behaviors that represent pre-incident indicators and characteristics of active shooters, potential attack methods, how to develop emergency action plans, and the actions that may be taken during an incident.

**Registration | Wed, Jan 24, 2024 at 6:30PM**

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### Human Trafficking Awareness Presentation

Learn how to define and understand the severity and scope of human trafficking, identify red flags of trafficking, the intersections between intimate partner violence and human trafficking, and trauma-informed lens, resources, and tools to increase efficacy in supporting survivors of trafficking.

**Registration | Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 6:30PM**

# NYC CERT VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

### Sharing is Caring Giveaway

Members from Manhattan Division 5, Shamel E. Lawrence and JoAnn D'Alessio, assisted with crowd control during the Sharing and Caring Christmas giveaway event that took place this past Saturday the 16th. Great job to both of these CERT members!

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**Manhattan Division 4 CERT Holiday Get Together**

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**Manhattan Division 5 Holiday Party**

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**CERT Leadership Development**

On December 13th the CERT Leadership development class was held with a great group of eager CERT members, ready to learn about leadership in the CERT program. These may be the faces of the new leaders in CERT!!!!!!!

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Download the NYC CERT Background for use during CERT meetings and training in a virtual environment (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.)

# 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**

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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 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

**AMY JOY ROBATEAU**
*AmeriCorps*
Member

NYC Emergency Management
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 |

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

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