
For Immediate Release

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**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOSTS DISASTER SIMULATION EXERCISE
FOR COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINEES IN
BROOKLYN**

November 21, 2019 – The New York City Emergency Management Department hosted a disaster simulation exercise for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainees at Transit Tech Career and Technical Education High School in Brooklyn on Tuesday, November 19. Instructors from NYC Emergency Management, FDNY, and NYPD tested and reviewed the trainees’ emergency preparedness and response skills in fire suppression, search and rescue, medical operations, and traffic management.

“Our CERT program is a great way for New Yorkers to get firsthand experience in basic emergency response and gives volunteers the tools they need to help their friends and neighbors prepare before a disaster happens,” **said NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Deanne Criswell**. “I hope the excitement of this disaster simulation has been educational and inspired each of these volunteers to bring emergency readiness back to their communities.”

“One of the best and worst things about New York is that you never know what can happen when you leave your apartment every day,” **said CERT trainee Calla Jean**. “Thanks to my CERT training I know that, if there’s an emergency in my community, I’m prepared to step up and help the people around me until first responders can get there.”

“CERT training was fun, informative and inspiring. The first responders who participated in all the training exercises were phenomenal,” **said CERT trainee Suleiman Malki-Delohim**. “I look forward to engaging in the community involvement opportunities that CERT has introduced me to, and I feel like a more connected New Yorker now ready for any emergency that may happen.”

During the simulation exercise, participants, under the guidance of their instructors from NYC Emergency Management, FDNY, and NYPD, extinguished live fires, executed basic triage assignments, and removed trapped victims.

The disaster simulation exercise wraps up the 35th CERT basic training cycle. Fifty volunteers are expected to join the CERT program following graduation at NYC Emergency Management headquarters at 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, on December 2.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in New York City

The New York City CERT program started in 2003 with 106 volunteers. Today, there are more than 1,200 credentialed CERT volunteers throughout the five boroughs. NYC CERT volunteers participate in a 10-session basic training program where they receive instruction from active members of the NYPD, FDNY and NYC Emergency Management. Volunteers are trained in



NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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Press Office: 718-422-4888

disaster preparedness and basic emergency response skills, including fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and traffic management. After completing basic training, new members join local CERTs to support their communities by assisting City agencies that prepare for and respond to emergencies.

For more information about the CERT program, or if you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, call 311 or visit [NYC.gov/cert](http://nyc.gov/cert).

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PHOTO CAPTION: *CERT_BK*: Brooklyn CERT trainees practice extinguishing fires with an FDNY instructor during the disaster simulation course hosted by NYC Emergency Management on Tuesday, November 2.

MEDIA CONTACT: Omar Bourne/Justin Bennett (718) 422-4888

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