



For Immediate Release

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QUEENS ADDS 17 VOLUNTEERS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERTs)

April 4, 2019 – New York City Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito, NYPD Auxiliary Deputy Inspector Phylis Byrne, and FDNY Deputy Chief James Brosi presided over a graduation ceremony for 44 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers. The graduation was held Monday evening, April 1, at the New York City Emergency Management Department headquarters in Brooklyn. The CERT graduates completed a training program in disaster preparedness and basic emergency response skills that included lessons in fire safety, search and rescue, traffic management, first aid and triage. After completing training, CERTs support their local communities by assisting City agencies that prepare for and respond to emergencies.

“CERT volunteers are an asset, not only to first responders but the entire community,” **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito** said. “These 17 Queens’ graduates will be joining a proud group of CERT members who are ready and willing to help their friends and neighbors prepare for emergencies.”

“The CERT instructors from NYPD, FDNY, and NYC Emergency Management were very knowledgeable,” **Queens CERT Graduate Abena Osei-Mensah** said. “The lessons in fire safety, search and rescue, traffic management, and first aid and triage prepared us for the disaster simulation where we put our skills to work. I will continue to recommend this program to my family, friends and community members.”

This is the 33rd basic training cycle since the New York City CERT program launched in 2003. The graduates participated in a 10-session training course, which began in February. Seventeen of the graduates will join Community Emergency Response Teams in Queens. In addition to the 17 CERT graduates joining Queens’ teams, 11 will be joining Bronx teams, five will be joining Brooklyn teams, and 11 will be joining Manhattan CERT teams. Currently, there are 10 Community Emergency Response Teams in Queens with 210 members.

“I recently finished my masters in emergency management and wanted to get hands-on experience through the CERT program,” **Osei-Mensah** said. “I look to continue to advance in the field while actively preparing my community.”

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in New York City

The New York City CERT program started in 2003 with 106 volunteers. The new Cycle 33 CERT graduates will join more than 1,200 credentialed CERT volunteers representing more than 50 teams throughout New York City. The 44 graduates received training from a number of the city’s highly trained emergency responders, including 13 FDNY instructors, 7 FDNY/EMS instructors, 7 NYPD instructors, and 9 NYC Emergency Management liaisons.



**Emergency
Management**

NEW YORK CITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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For more information about the CERT program, or if you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov.

-30-

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