

Annual statewide Burn Ban

The annual statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning started on March 16th and runs through Wednesday, May 14th. Since 2009, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has enforced the annual brush burning ban to prevent wildfires and protect communities as the weather starts to warm, which can quickly cause wildfire conditions to arise. Open burning of debris is the single-largest cause of spring wildfires in New York State.

- This burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires statewide for purposes of brush and debris disposal.

Resources:

- [Read more from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation here](#)
- [Visit Smokey the Bear for more tips](#)
- [National Fire Protection Association Tips](#)



MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL



Radio Channel
CERT QNS

3/24 Responding Borough:
Staten Island

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

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

Community Preparedness Symposium!



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

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

In less than a month, the NYCEM Community Preparedness Team is hosting the annual Community Preparedness Symposium! Spread the word to 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.

Take advantage on this free opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and skills. Register now at on.nyc.gov/2025CPSymposium

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

The Ready School of the Year application is now 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!

READY NEW YORK

The poster is for the 'READY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD 2025 APPLICATIONS OPEN!'. It features a superhero character in a blue suit with a yellow 'R' on the chest, flying. There are also icons of a first aid kit, a backpack, a walkie-talkie, and a battery. The NYCEM logo and 'READY NEW YORK' logo are at the bottom.

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.

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



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



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](#).

Join The Preparedness Recovery Institute COVID-19 Community

Convenings



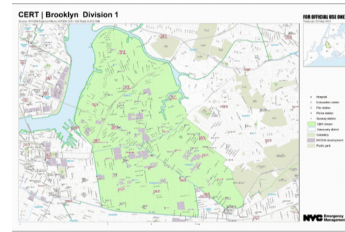
The NYC Preparedness and Recovery Institute, formerly the NYC Pandemic Response Institute (PRI), a landmark initiative led by Columbia University, with key partner CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy, is conducting a comprehensive review of NYC's COVID-19 response across various sectors. After analyzing hundreds of reports and articles, we developed a draft set of recommendations and last summer convened the PRI COVID-19 Review Assembly, bringing together over 100 NYC leaders and experts to refine these recommendations and shape evidence-based guidance for future public health crises.

Participation is fully virtual and includes attending:

- Orientation on March 26, 2:00–3:00 PM
- One of the following:
 - A three-hour borough-specific session in English (2:00–5:00 PM) during the weeks of March 31 or April 7
 - A three-hour language-specific session in Spanish or Mandarin (2:00–5:00 PM) the week of April 14

**For more information and registration
click here**

NYC Emergency Management Commissioner for a Day Contest



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.



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.

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](#)

Updated NYC CERT IDs



Membership:

All members should reach out to their division leadership to exchange expired credentials for updated ones.

Leadership:

All Division 2 leaders in all boroughs can schedule a pick-up of their members' credentials beginning next week. They should have an expiration of 2/28/2025. Please 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.



The accompanying graphic shows the breakdown of individuals since the start of 2025, who have applied to join a future NYC CERT Basic Training session. This information should be reviewed at your monthly division meetings, especially if you do not see any applicants for your division. We are here to help!

NEW APPLICANTS



If you look back at the last few newsletters, you will find some helpful info on how to build up recruitment for your division. We provided a great new initiative to begin partnering with your local service organizations, like Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW), Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), and Knights of Columbus (K of C), as well as other orgs. We also shared some great events that some of our CERT members are doing to develop recruitment for their divisions, and some resources that can help with skills development and research. Please take advantage of these tips and provide us with feedback we can share with the larger program. You are our best resource when it comes to recruitment!

We were able to gain new applicants in focus areas in 3/5 boroughs last month alone. We hope to continue and expand this trend, going forward with your help. Thank you for your support! Recruitment Resources

- **Recruitment kit – Order a recruitment kit for any upcoming recruitment events! Use the regular material request here: on.nyc.gov/CERTreadynyc**
 - In the comment section, add "Recruitment Kit ONLY"

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

CERT Leadership

Calling all future CERT leaders. Please join CERT program staff at our CERT Leadership development class on March 25th at 6:30pm. During this training you will learn about the different roles in CERT leadership including cabinet members. We look forward to see you there!!

Registration:
Tuesday, March 25 | 6:30 PM

Cultural Awareness Training

This virtual course has been designed for emergency management professionals and volunteers. It is intended to strengthen your cultural awareness and competency in the workplace and in the field when dealing with the different communities we serve. Participants will challenge biases and assumptions through self-reflection, identify culturally appropriate vocabulary, and acquire creative strategies to use in cross-cultural situations, all of which can help minimize cultural misunderstandings and enhance collaboration and trust. (1.5 hours)

Course pre-requisite: please take this self assessment and have your scores available for the training. If you use the Excel file, the score will be generated for you. If you use the pdf, you will need to calculate your score at the end. [Valuing Diversity Self-Assessment](#)



Registration: Thursday, March 27 | 6:30 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.

Columbia Climate School



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

St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bay Ridge

On Sunday March 23rd, NYC CERT will be assisting NYPD's 68th Precinct Community Affairs Office with crowd control and traffic management during the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bay Ridge. If you are interested in participating in this deployment.

[Please click here to register!](#)



Basic Training Disaster Simulation Support

The Basic Training Disaster Simulation exercises will be coming up at the end of next month on Wed, March 26th and Thurs, March 27th. NYCEM is requesting NYC CERT active volunteers to support the sims as live victims. This is a great way to engage with our newest members and have fun while doing it! NYCEM's Moulage team will be on-hand to "dress you up" for the part! This role may include sitting or lying on the ground and acting in distress. Please do NOT wear your CERT uniform for this opportunity. Wear something that you are not concerned with getting soiled.

Registration:

[Wednesday, March 26th - 6PM - 9:30PM](#)

[Thursday, March 27th - 6PM - 9:30PM](#)

Brighton Family Day and Eid event

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



**NYCEM
CERT
APPLICANT
ORIENTATION**

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

Assemblymember Chandler-Watermen 3rd Youth-Led Vital Voice Meeting



Tom Wagner of Brooklyn Division 6, with Wendy Peterkin, Fred Chong Rutherford and Doris Payne, distributing Emergency Preparedness and recruitment info at the annual Health and Wellness fair at Medgar Evers College on March 12. Scores of packets were distributed and lots of discussion among volunteers and students. Lunch was served and a good time was had by all!

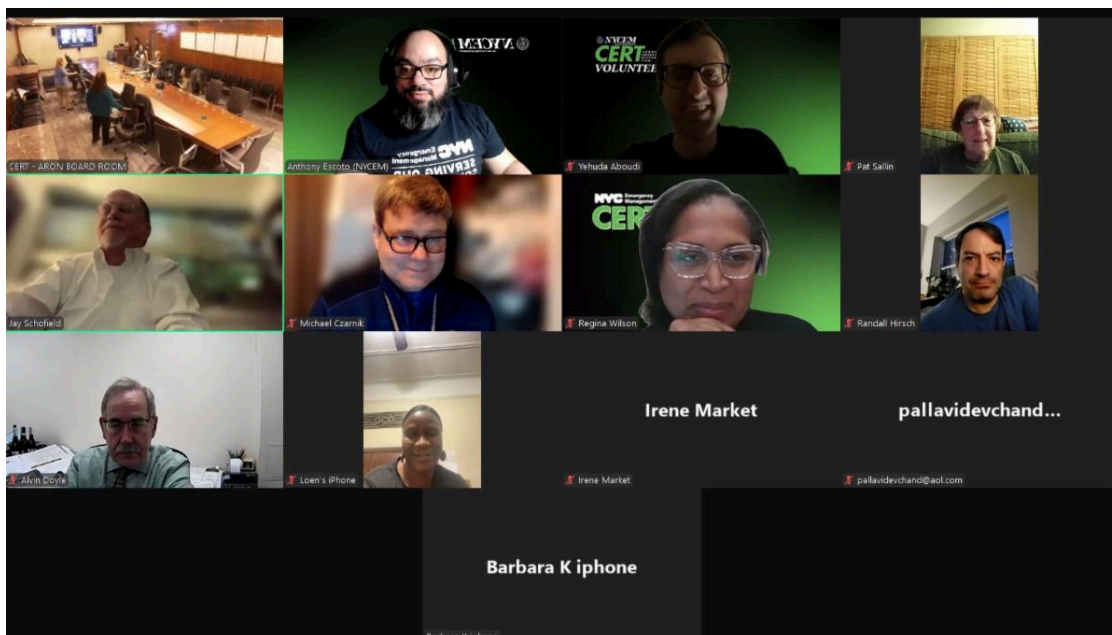
CERT Orientation



CERT Staff hosted an orientation session on Thursday, March 20th for interested applicants. Attendees discussed their interest in joining CERT and supporting their communities during emergencies. Almost all attendees registered for the next Basic training cycle, starting in May!

Meetings

Manhattan Division 3



Manhattan Division 3 gathered this past Wednesday March 19th hybrid. Members continue the traditional individual volunteer report out ; providing all volunteers in attendance to go through information sharing session towards the end of the team agenda. While working with program staff to coordinate an upcoming workshop pertaining to the upcoming seasonal hazards.

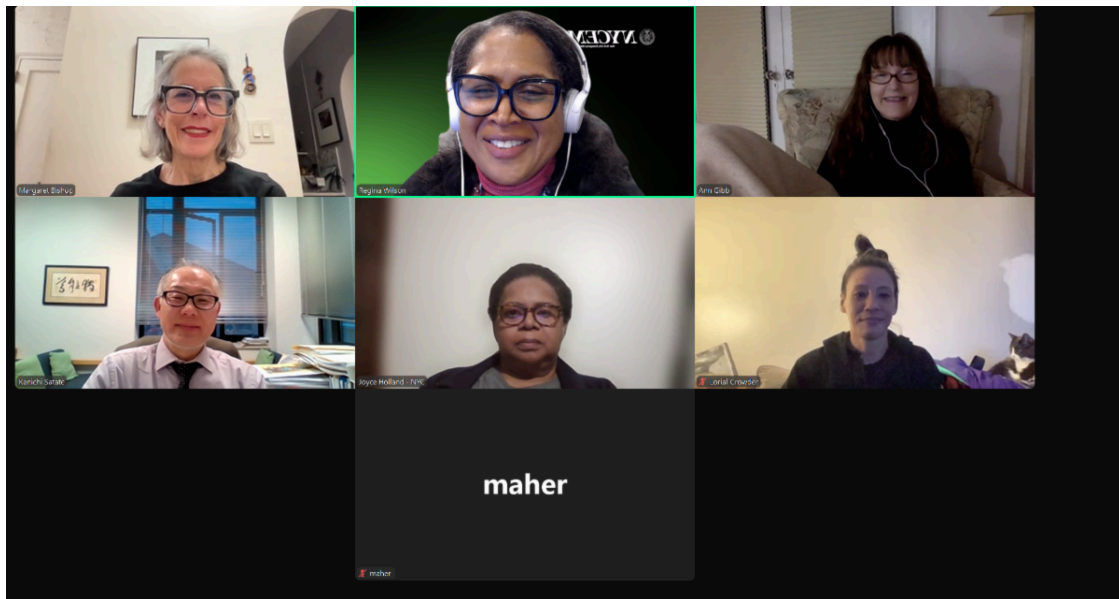
Manhattan Division 1



Manhattan Division 1 met for their team meeting on March 20th. The team discussed planning events for the spring, obtaining update ID's and looking for a in-person location for the team to meeting for a hybrid meeting. The

Division committed to passing along the information for Commissioner for the day at NYCEM and the Ready school of the year program.

Manhattan Division 4



Manhattan Division 4 met on March 20th. The team discussed event attended by members during the month and planning for future events in the spring. The team discussed participating in the upcoming 5 borough bike tour and preparing for their presence as a division. Questions were asked and answered regarding the cancellation of FEMA classes as previously informed to the membership by CERT program staff. The team was encouraged to attend the upcoming CERT leadership development class on March 25th at 6:30pm (Event on Airtable) to consider giving support to the new Division Chief

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

As requested, we would like to provide a better understanding of what it means for a NYC CERT volunteer to perform a Buddy Check. Below is a list of topics and specific talking points:

- **Emergency Contact Information**
 - "Do you have a list of emergency contacts, and is it up-to-date?"
 - "Does everyone in your household know who to call in different types of emergencies?"
 - "Do you have out of state contacts, in case local lines are overloaded?"
- **Communication Plan**
 - "Where would we meet if we couldn't get home?" (Establish a designated meeting place)
 - "How would we communicate if cell service was down?" (Discuss alternative methods like text messaging)
 - "Do you have a plan to check on neighbors that are older or have disabilities and functional needs?"
- **Emergency Supplies**
 - "Do you have an emergency stay-at-home kit? What's in it?"
 - "Do you have enough supplies for at least three days?"
 - "Do you have any needed medications, and do you have extra of those medications?"
 - **Use your knowledge as a NYC CERT volunteer to provide suggestions**
- **Home Safety**
 - "Do you know where your gas and water shut-off valves are?"
 - "Do you have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, and are they working?"
 - "Do you have a fire extinguisher, and do you know how to use it?"
 - "Are heavy objects secured to prevent them from falling?"
- **Evacuation Plan**
 - "Do you know your building's or neighborhood's evacuation routes?"
 - "Do you have an emergency go bag ready in case you need to evacuate quickly?"
 - "Do you know where your local evacuation center is?"
- **Specific Needs**
 - "Do you have any specific needs like medical conditions or mobility issues?"
 - "Do you have children? Do you have a plan for them?"
 - "Do you have pets? If so, do you have pet supplies in your emergency kit?"
- **Information Awareness**
 - "Do you know how to get official emergency information from the city or state?" (Encourage them to sign up for Notify NYC)
 - "Do you know the difference between different emergency alerts?"

Key Principles to Remember

- Keep it simple: Avoid overwhelming people with too much information at once.
- Be encouraging: Focus on helping them take small steps toward preparedness.
- Active Listening: Pay attention to their concerns and questions.
- Share resources: Direct them to reliable sources like nyc.gov/readyny.
- Follow up: Check in with them periodically to see how they're doing with their preparedness efforts.
- Be a good example: Demonstrate your own preparedness.

**NYCEM
CERT**

**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.)



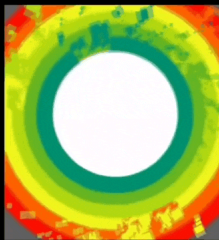
[NYCEM's YouTube page](#)
[NYC CERT recruitment video](#)
[2021 National Volunteer Week video](#)



[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](#))



NYCEM
New York City Emergency Management

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