

Newsletter of NYC Community Emergency Response Teams



“THE NEWSLETTER”- We are having a name the NYC CERT Newsletter competition. Please submit your idea to Kit Lee, klee@oem.nyc.gov by August 18!

July 2008

CERT in Action

Another Crane Collapse

Another unfortunate crane collapse occurred on the Upper East Side on May 30. Team members from Manhattan CB8 Upper East Side, Manhattan CB8 ESNA, and Manhattan CB6 represented NYC CERT in the human services recovery effort by staffing the reception center and escorting residents back to the affected buildings.

These teams rotated personnel for four days in another great effort to the East side of Manhattan communities.

Tom Murphy recounts his experience with the crane collapse on page two. He responded as an American Red Cross



CERT members help triage “green-tag” victims at JFK.

volunteer.

EMS drill

Teams from Queens 1 and 11 participated in the Port Authority Police Department JFK EMS drill, where members triaged victims.

The scenario was a plane crash with multiple injuries. Patient conditions varied with severity, including bro-

ken bones, lacerations, and loss of consciousness. CERT members were used to triage green-tag, or stable, patients.

HurrEx 2008

Brooklyn teams from Community Boards 1, 2, 7, 10, 14, and 15 helped set up and break down an evacuation shelter during the two-day HurrEx drill in Bay Ridge.

Though the plan estimated 12 hours for a shelter set-up, CERT members and American Red Cross volunteers unloaded the entire truck in less than two hours!



Doreen Garson, BK15, leads CERT through HurrEx 2008.

CERT BBQ at Gracie Mansion



Mayor Bloomberg at the CERT BBQ.

On Wednesday, June 11, Mayor Bloomberg recognized NYC CERT members from across the five boroughs at Gracie Mansion for five years of service.

CERT members, instructors and special guests enjoyed a night of good food, music, and camaraderie. Mayor

Bloomberg even hosted a short NYC CERT quiz game for lucky volunteers.

During the last five years the program has grown to include over 60 teams and 1,000 trained members. Thanks to all who have helped make CERT a success.



The United Senior Center NYC CERT in Brooklyn CB 7 celebrating at Gracie Mansion.

OEM Liaisons: Contacts and Connections

Beginning in January 2008, the NYC CERT program introduced a greater role for the OEM liaison.

The liaisons' responsibilities have grown from taking attendance and managing other administrative tasks to teaching both the introductory and Urban III modules, assisting with classroom management and team development, and being the point of contact for all students to OEM. All the liaisons have been meeting regularly to touch base, discuss class issues, and troubleshoot to make sure classes run well for students, instructors, and the program.

The spring 2008 cycle employed 15 OEM staff who served as liaisons: Jonathan

Jenkins, Frankie Durr (BK7); Herman Schaffer, Anthony Marzuillo (QN3), Virginia Mewborn, (UBS); Al Villacara, Dave Blitzer (BK16). Natan Mandelbaum, Kevin Darcy (BK8); Heather Roiter, Jen Adger (MN2); Kim Fallon, Vinnie Montouro (BX10); and Jim Gillespie, Elvis Rosario (SI1).

"Being an OEM CERT Liaison during this spring cycle has been a very rewarding and educational experience personally and professionally," said Jonathan Jenkins. "To see how the program itself has grown and brings together so many key agencies with the community is amazing. CERT is truly an asset for the City."

"Working with the UBS CERT has been a great experi-

ence. FDNY Captain Joe Brosi and I worked with 31 students who came from many different UBS locations and the group has become a true team," said Virginia Mewborn, liaison for the corporate team this cycle. "The level of enthusiasm and the camaraderie of the group made this a meaningful experience, and this team will continue to be a success."



Jonathan Jenkins with the Brooklyn 7 Team at Gracie

Partners in Preparedness: CERT & American Red Cross



Tom Murphy, Queens 11 NYC CERT member and ARC-PRO Team Volunteer, was on-call during the most recent crane collapse. He explains firsthand how NYC CERT and the American Red Cross worked side by side to make a difference.

"The CERT members unloading the box truck full of supplies were outstanding. Later, they helped guide the evacuees to the different ARC areas: registration, refreshments, medical, clients services, and mental health.

As the day progressed, CERT became more integrated into the operations of the center. The eagerness and willingness of CERT to assist in any way possible was a great thing to see and, of course, experience. I personally feel that as time goes by, all levels involved in emergency response will come to realize and appreciate the full potential of CERT."

BEST PRACTICES



Reaching out and developing relationships with your local NYPD precinct and FDNY engine and ladder companies is a great way to establish communication and with first responders in your community.

- **C: Community-based**
- **E: Eager to help**
- **R: Ready to Respond**
- **T: Trained for the Task***

* Tom Murphy

New CERT Intern at OEM



My name is Daniel Loffredo. I am currently a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. I am studying Criminal Justice and Law and plan on going to law school.

I currently work as a function coordinator/bartender at Sirico's Caterers in Brooklyn and volunteer as a coach at the Fort Hamilton Parkway Roller Hockey League.

Previously, I volunteered at the 68th Precinct Youth Council Baseball League. I conducted private lessons for the youth organization, and assisted in coaching/umpiring. I enjoy volunteering at local youth athletic leagues and teaching young kids what I have learned through my athletic experience.

I am a summer intern for OEM CERT, and look forward to learning more about OEM.

NYC CERT QUIZ

1. What size fire is CERT trained to put out?
2. Why should team members be rotated during a response?
3. What is a "collapse zone"?

ANSWERS

1. No bigger than a small garbage can.
2. To avoid fatigue; poor decision-making; avoiding injury.
3. It is at least the distance from the base of a wall to the top of the building wall.

Chain of Command

What is the chain of command and why is it so important to follow, especially in the Incident Command Structure (ICS)?

The chain of command is a continuous line of authority that extends from the highest organizational levels to the lowest and clarifies who reports to whom.

NYC CERT uses the chain of com-

mand to fit into the national response framework of ICS used by all first responders and to create clear and effective organization during an emergency or disaster.

The new deployment protocols designate the Team Chief, or his/her designee, to be the *one member* to contact Watch Command to in-

form or to receive specific instructions. This allows for clear lines of communication with OEM and NYC CERT.



Upcoming Trainings & Special Events

Spring 2008 Graduation

July 23 at FDNY Headquarters, MetroTech

The Spring 2008 Cycle classes will graduate 160 new NYC CERT members.

Summer 2008 Cycle

Classes began July 8 and will run through September 16.

32 participants who will join different teams from all five boroughs will be graduating in September.

Fall 2008 Cycle

New teams confirmed:

Bronx Community Board 12

Brooklyn Community Board 5

Manhattan Community Board 5

Re-developing teams confirmed:

Bronx Community Boards 1, 2, and 7