

# The CERT Report

September 2008

## National Night Out 2008



MN 3 Team Chief David Yeung showing New York City's flood zones

National Night Out is a unique crime and drug prevention event. This year, many NYC CERTs worked with police precincts in their community districts.

This highly recognized event gave NYC CERTs a chance to connect with their communities and educate them about emergency preparedness.



MN 3's Tao Ping Lin distributing guides

On August 5, 2008, the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out was held across the nation.

## Bay Ridge Power Outage



NYC CERT BK 7 members Natasha Cordero, Anthony Payne, Roger Ma, Maria Roca, Julian Moya, and Enrique Flores

By Roger Ma, NYC CERT Brooklyn 7 Team Chief

On a scorching Sunday in July, when most sought comfort in air-conditioned surroundings, CERTs from Brooklyn Community Boards 7 and 10 were on the street providing relief for

those who lost power. OEM activated two CERTs in response to a ConEd power outage in Borough Park, Brooklyn. Newly-graduated CB7 CERT worked with the seasoned CB10 CERT to distribute dry

ice to businesses and residents without power. CB7 CERT continued to distribute dry ice throughout the day until the early evening.

CB10 CERT moved to the Bay Ridge area to notify the community about using less electricity to prevent any additional losses of power to the surrounding neighborhoods.

CERTs used their OEM-issued hand gloves, part of the standard equipment issued to members, to handle the dry ice



CERTs distributing dry ice

safely. They were also approached by people speaking many different languages, including Chinese and Spanish. The CERTs used their language skills to inform the residents of the power situation and the appropriate use of the dry ice.

# National Night Out 2008



Dave Gillespie, Diane Klages, and Paul Tashjian



Geraldine Corbett, Diane Klages, Phillida Viest, Kathy Jolowicz, Nick Viest, Mary Ford, Inspector James Murtagh, Bill Lettich, Dan Garodnick, Chief Michael Scagnelli, and Captain Brandon DelPozo



Jacob Itskowitz, Joel Mendlowitz, Susana Ramos, Julio Castro, Naomi Chappelle, Miguel Vazquez, Lori Craft, OEM Commissioner Joseph Bruno, Jammie Lloyd, Kurt Hill, Herman Richter, Danielle Castro, Isaac Wertzberger, Isaac Schwartz, Ben Zion Itskowitz.



Mike Trivolis, Tommy DeMarzo, Ed Muerner, James Seacott, Vivian Snyder, Antoniette Arale.



Johnny Rodriguez, Rose Racuggulia, Peter Anthony Morici, Kayla Morici, Johnny Velez, Xuhui Davis Kuang, Tinamarie Rodriguez, Joseph Fox



Virginia Caswell, Virginia Rosario, Al Doyle, Pat Sallin, Anne Lifflander, Bob Murray, Ida Kellebrew, Wally Ayres, Luba Swienc.



David Yeung, Jerry Chan, and Tao Ping Lin.



Chris Donovan, Mary Ford, Angela Tedesco, Diane Klages, and Paul Tashjian

# Spotlight: New Corporate CERT at UBS



By Kevin Milgram, NYC CERT UBS Team Chief

Since becoming the second Corporate CERT, the UBS team has been busy engaging with both its community and the City.

Our start-up was relatively painless since we had many of the organizational skills and tools required to establish a CERT presence at UBS within Community Board 5. What made this particularly effective for us is that we are fortunate to have a number of profes-

sionals on the team. They were instrumental in setting the right tone for the team's enthusiasm.

What made this team ready to spring from the nest was the thorough, dedicated training and day-to-day follow-ups by Virginia Mewborn, Director of Training and Exercises at OEM, as well as Captain Joe Brosi of the FDNY. The support and communication we receive from OEM is a dramatic re-enforcement of our own volunteer spirit.

We had the opportunity to operate our CERT team call chain for Tropical Storm Hanna. This was an

excellent opportunity for our team to receive information from OEM, distribute that information internally, and inform OEM of our readiness capability.

Our training was validated as well—we knew what we needed to do to call-down the team and prepare for deployment.

We have several educational lectures planned for future team meetings. We are also planning joint team meetings with the Corporate team at BNP Paribas, and are lining up a visit with Community Affairs group at NYPD Midtown North Precinct 17.

We have found our participation to be well-rewarded in a variety of ways. Our contacts at OEM, FDNY and NYPD are participative, always responsive, and ultimately a tremendous reinforcement of our own thoughts and actions as a corporate CERT.

Our CERT experiences are helpful with our professional responsibilities as well in that we are able to bring real-world knowledge into our business continuity and operating plans. This collaboration allows NYC, OEM, UBS and each CERT member to benefit from participating in the CERT program.

## NYC CERT QUIZ

- 1.) How is the team notified of deployment?
- 2.) True or False: When cordoning off an area where a downed power line is in the middle of the road, it is OK to only secure around the line itself.
- 3.) Will the object to the right notify the FDNY if activated?



- 1.) OEM instructs the team chief to deploy, the team chief contacts the team through his or her pre-determined method (phone tree, email, text messaging, Ham Radio, pagers, or a combination of these).
- 2.) FALSE: Electricity can be conducted by any number of objects, including metal objects, fences, and the painted double lines in the middle of the street. CERTs must establish a safe zone around these as well.
- 3.) YES: The white stripe on this fire alarm indicates that it will notify the FDNY as well as set off the fire alarm in the building.

## In Memoriam: Carlo Guina

By Father Kane, NYC CERT Brooklyn 18 Deputy Chief

Carlo was a founding member of the original training class of CERT 18 Brooklyn. Carlo was retired from the Transit Authority where he was respected as an expert electrician and rescue worker.

Carlo was a valued member of the team and brought to the team many abilities that enhanced our preparedness training. He was in the process of planning a new presentation on rescuing someone from a dangerous electrical situation when he died of massive kidney failure. He was only 50 years old. He will be greatly missed.



## Recruiting and Retention

By Angela Tedesco, NYC CERT MN 8 UES

Our original team was recruited through the East 79<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Association, and graduating 23 members in June, 2004.

Our class included several people who wanted the training but lived outside our area, had unexpected family/work demands. We have retained 13 of our original members and added 11 who joined after being referred by team members, other

CERTs, and OEM.

Two or three NYPD and FDNY officers met informally with the prospective members to answer their questions about CERT and be sure they understood what to expect from training, team activities, and deployment. Because we meet regularly (the second Monday of each month) recruits also have an early opportunity to observe a typical meeting. Usually 12–15 members attended and actively participated in



Manhattan borough-wide deployment training at Baruch Library

discussions.

Retention relies on many factors: a consistent meeting schedule where OEM topics and opportunities for com-

munity outreach are discussed, stimulating guest speakers from the medical field, radio drills, and above all, the motivation of each member.

## New AmeriCorps VISTA at OEM-CERT



Alec getting cornered on the first floor

An Eagle Scout and a born volunteer, Alec's journey to the Office of

Emergency Management began with a simple question: what do you do when disaster hits close to home? This was never more evident than during the NYC Blackout of 2003 when he realized that he had absolutely no idea what to do, where to go, or whom to contact. He was not terribly worried then, but over the weeks and months that followed, through

conversations with friends and family, he realized that he was not alone in his ignorance. Alec began to think, "If nobody knows, we're just as helpless as fish in a bowl."

Alec sought to learn how to react appropriately for many situations, the "all-hazards" approach, as well as for specific events. He took this drive with him out

of Morningside Heights, where he graduated from Columbia University with a degree in psychology. Through the partnership of the AmeriCorps VISTA program and OEM he will help train, educate, and prepare New York City residents so that they have a better idea of what to do when unfortunate situations occur.

## Spring 2008 Graduation

On Wednesday July 23, 2008, eight CERT classes graduated at the Metrotech EMS building.

Three new teams were added in Brooklyn Community Boards 7, 8, and 16, Manhattan 2, Queens 3, and Bronx 10 Co-op City. Staten Island's existing team



Honoring the graduates were FDNY Chief Salvatore Cassano, OEM First Deputy Commissioner Calvin Drayton, FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, FDNY Brooklyn Borough Commander Edward Kilduff, OEM Commissioner Joseph Bruno, NYPD Deputy Inspector Angelo Maroulis, and NYC Deputy Mayor of Administration Edward Skyler

was supplemented with fresh members, and UBS represented the second Corporate CERT—which will fund a community team.

OEM congratulates all the graduates for completing the training and encouraged them to stay active and informed.

# Spring 08 NYC CERT Graduates



**Brooklyn 7**



**Brooklyn 8**



**Brooklyn 16**



**UBS**



**Manhattan 2**



**Staten Island Backfill**

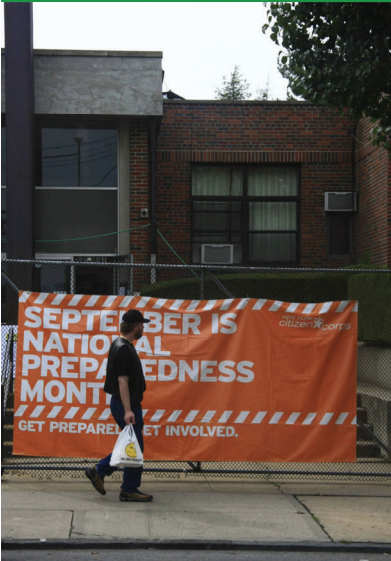


**Bronx 10 Coop City**



**Queens 3**

# National Preparedness Month



# National Preparedness Month

## Brooklyn Team at IKEA



By Susana Ramos, NYC CERT Brooklyn I Team Chief

My idea for national preparedness month activity came from something we do in our day to day lives—shopping!

I visited the Brooklyn IKEA in August and after spending the day there,

noticed so many people from all over New York City had come there to shop.

I called the public relations department in the Brooklyn IKEA store and spoke to Ms. Montalvo. I realized that the way you introduce yourself is very important. I said, "My name is Susana Ramos and I work with the New York City Office of Emergency

Management."

I explained the roles of CERT and OEM in New York City emergencies and that we all work together to approach disasters. I stated that we are not requesting funds, just the space to set up tables and distribute important information for National Preparedness Month.

We then set up a date for them to meet

with Ann Daniels and me to discuss the logistics and the location in the store.

Our events took place on September 13, 14, 20, and 21 in the main entrance of the Brooklyn IKEA in Red Hook, Brooklyn. They were a great success, with us distributing guides and explaining the Ready NY and CERT programs to many who walked by.

## Kickoff Around New York City



CERTs outside NBC studios  
By Oscar Valdez, NYC CERT Bronx II Team Chief

NYC Citizen Corps Council held a citywide kickoff on Thursday, September 4, 2008,

event where emergency preparedness, volunteerism information, and Go Bags were offered in NYC's five boroughs. CERTs at various locations were out there assisting with distribution of Ready NY Pamphlets.

Bronx CERT 11 members attended the Fordham Plaza location in the Bronx. Bronx

CERT 11 members also attended NBC Studios in Manhattan, along with members from CERT s MN 1-Tribeca, MN 3, MN 6, MN 7, MN 8-ESNA and UES, QN 3, BK 1, BK 2, BK 7, BK 10, BK 12 and BNP Paribas Corporate CERT. While the morning weather was being announced, they were able to have an East

Side Neighborhood Association (ESNA) CERT Banner in the background.

If you know people who are as interested in their community's safety as we are, guide them to their local community board where they can join a team. CERT is growing. Let's help people grow with us.

## Get Trained

We're in the process of starting **seven** CERT trainings. Get involved and help your community in times of need.

Training lasts 11 weeks and covers fire safety, light search and rescue, terrorism awareness, disaster medical operations, and mental health education.

A new round of training begins in **early 2009**. Check the website for at [nyc.gov/cert](http://nyc.gov/cert).

For more information, or if you have any questions call (718) 422-8585 or e-mail Alec Glucksman at [aglucksman@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:aglucksman@oem.nyc.gov).



- Queens 12 and 13
- Manhattan 9
- Staten Island 2
- Brooklyn 3
- Bronx 10

\* Plus backfill classes for existing teams.