



This year, the holy month of Ramadan began at the first sighting of the crescent Moon on the evening of Friday, February 28, 2025. Ramadan falls on the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is a holy month of fasting, contemplation, and prayer for Muslims. Ramadan is celebrated as the month during which the **prophet Muhammad** (Peace Be Upon Him) received the initial revelations of what became the **Qur'an**, the holy book for Muslims, from God. Since the Islamic calendar is based on a lunar cycle, the exact days of observance change slightly. For 2025, Muslims in New York are observing Ramadan from March 1st to approximately March 30th.

## Community Preparedness Symposium!



### MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL

Radio Channel  
CERT QNS

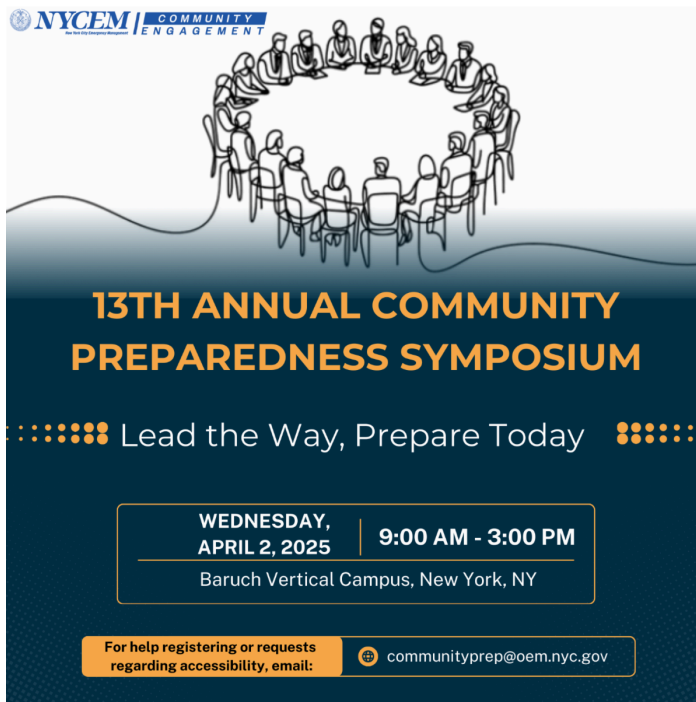
3/10 Responding Borough:  
Bronx

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

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

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 latest iteration of expectations and guidance.



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](https://on.nyc.gov/2025CPSymposium)

## Updated City Resources for Immigrant New Yorkers!

For any questions, please reach out to your volunteer leadership or email [CERT@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:CERT@oem.nyc.gov).



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

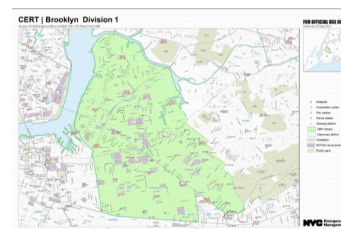


View the [NYC CERT Event Calendar](#) to see upcoming training, meetings, and planned deployments.

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](#).



NYC CERT Division maps are available (pdf format) to support recruitment and preparedness planning in your community.

- [Brooklyn](#) - [Bronx](#) - [Manhattan](#) -  
- [Queens](#) - [Staten Island](#) -



## New Immigrant Resources

Available on [www.nyc.gov/knowyourrights](http://www.nyc.gov/knowyourrights)



The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) has updated several booklets with guidance for immigrant New Yorkers. New Yorkers and service providers can learn what to do after a friend or family member is detained by federal immigration authorities, Know Your Rights, and understand New York City's local laws related to immigrants. [Visit MOIA's Know Your Rights webpage](#) regularly for up-to-date translated guidance related to immigration.

These booklets give only general information. It is not legal advice. Consult an attorney for legal advice. All immigrant New Yorkers can access free and confidential immigration legal help in their preferred language.

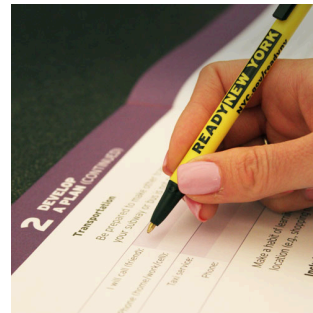
You can call the city-funded, free, and safe MOIA Immigration Legal Support Hotline at 800-354-0365, between 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday to Friday or call 311 and say, "Immigration Legal."

## Daylight Savings: Spring Forward AKA: Update your Go-Bag

# 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.*

### Updated NYC CERT IDs



### Membership:

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



Spring forward! Don't just change your clocks, refresh your go-bag too. With longer days and shifting weather, now's the perfect time to swap out winter gear for lighter layers, rain protection, and sun protection. Check those electronics – are your flashlights, radios, and power banks charged and functioning? Replace any dead batteries and update firmware if needed. While you're at it, double-check your documents – are copies up-to-date? And most importantly, review your medications and first-aid supplies. Ensure everything is within its expiration date and replenish as needed. A well-maintained go-bag is your peace of mind, ready for anything.

[Click Here for more information on Daylight Saving/ Spring Forward](#)

## 2025 Training and Exercise Catalogue Announcement!

### 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](#).

# NYCEM CERT

## TRAINING AND EXERCISE CATALOGUE 2025 EDITION



We're pleased to announce the [2025 Training and Exercise Catalogue](#), designed to help you grow and develop your skills as a valued volunteer! This catalogue is your go-to guide for a wide range of learning opportunities. Explore options that fit your schedule, from self-paced courses through our federal partner Learning Management Systems to specialized training like the Coastal Storm Plan Training. Many offerings include dates and seasons, and we'll continue to update the catalogue as more information becomes available. To ensure accurate rosters for our partners, registration opens 30 days prior to each event. Check out the catalogue now and start planning your personal and professional growth!

[Download Catalogue](#)

### Basic Training Independent Study Resources



[Basic Training Student Manual](#)

[Basic Training Refresher videos](#)

---

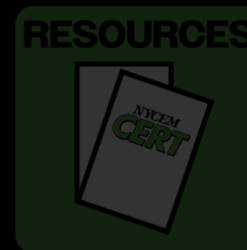
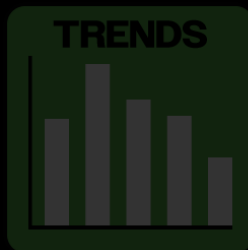
### United Senior Center Dominican Heritage Celebration

Brooklyn Division 2 CERT led the annual Dominican heritage celebration at the local United Senior Center. The event was full of music, fun activities, dancing, and plenty of food while local members amplified Ready New York preparedness materials to all in attendance.





Last week we started adding 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.



### WAY TO GO!

This week, we would like to shine a spotlight on recent and upcoming recruitment events that NYC CERT volunteers scheduled in their communities.



On **Tuesday, February 25th**, Vincent Massarelli, Division Chief of Manhattan Division 1, attended the Manhattan Community Board 1 meeting and spoke to the audience about the NYC CERT program and how to join, sharing some CERT recruitment materials with attendees to take home.

On **Thursday, March 13th**, Donika Beka, Division Chief, and members of Bronx Division 3, will be attending the 50th Precinct Community Council meeting and distributing CERT recruitment materials to attendees to recruit for the CERT program.



Thank you to Vincent and Donika for setting up these events and spreading the word to your communities! This is a great reminder that community meetings like these meet monthly and provide excellent opportunities to reach residents that are invested in developing their neighborhoods and making a positive impact. Way to go!

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**



## 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, Thu, Mar 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM |](#)

---

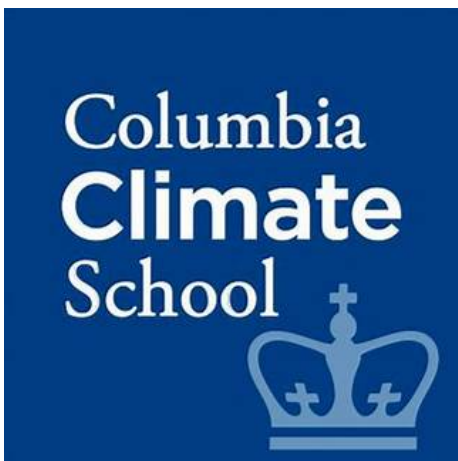
## CISA Learning

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.
- [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](#)

### **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



## Advanced Training

### Ready New York Bingo



The Ready New York team successfully hosted a special training for bilingual NYC CERT members, empowering them as cultural ambassadors. Participants learned to promote preparedness using an engaging Bingo game tailored for second-language speakers, ensuring broader community readiness.

---

### NYRR Washington Heights Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5k Support



The NYRR Washington Heights Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5k was a success on Sunday, March 2nd, thanks to the dedicated CERT volunteers. Working alongside the NYPD 34th Precinct Auxiliary, they effectively managed crowd control and pedestrian flow, ensuring safe crossings throughout the race.

## Meetings

### Brooklyn Leadership



This past Monday March 3rd Brooklyn Leadership gathered, as Brooklyn Borough Coordinator Lisa provided a few announcements on the current agenda of her and Darya for new engagement opportunities for the rest of the year. While all leaders provided local updates, needs and requests. A strategy by the borough coordinator to engage all of the borough of Brooklyn to use Position Task Books is in place. Thank you all for your incredible hard work!

## Send Us Your Photos!



Please continue to share photos and videos from your NYC CERT events at [on.nyc.gov/CERTupload](https://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](mailto: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





## 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](#)



### 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](mailto:cert@oem.nyc.gov)



Schedule a meeting with NYCEM staff: [NYC CERT Volunteer Support](#)

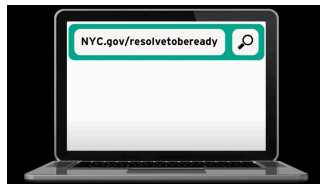
and we'll be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have.



[Download the New NYC CERT Backgrounds](#) for use during CERT meetings and training in a virtual environment (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.)



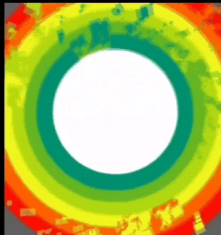
[NYCEM's YouTube page](#)  
[NYC CERT recruitment video](#)  
[2021 National Volunteer Week video](#)



[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>**

<i>Choose a Topic:</i>	<u>CERT Pick-up (In-Person)</u>	<u>NYC CERT Operations</u>	<u>Advanced Training</u>	<u>Exercises &amp; Tabletops</u>
<u>General Questions</u>	<u>CERT ID Questions</u>	<u>Leadership Interest</u>	<u>Borough Discussion</u>	<u>Division Discussion</u>

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](mailto:CERT@oem.nyc.gov).



NYC Emergency Management | [nyc.gov/emergencymanagement](https://nyc.gov/emergencymanagement)  
([Click here to view as a webpage](#))



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