



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**NYC OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
ANNOUNCES THE GRADUATION OF FIVE COMMUNITY  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERTS)**

The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) congratulates the newest members of New York City's CERT program for completing a training program enabling them to serve their communities in times of emergency. This January, five teams joined the established 43 CERT teams by finishing 25 hours of basic disaster response and preparedness training.

The CERT program aims to help communities take a more active role in emergency response and preparedness. CERT members are trained in basic disaster response skills so they can assist emergency personnel during crises in their communities. CERT members are taught by members of OEM, as well as the Fire and Police Departments. They learn basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and medical operations. CERTs are also active participants in OEM's Ready NY campaign. They work to educate their neighbors about the many hazards they may face and how to better prepare for them.

The new CERTs represent neighborhoods in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Queens. The graduations took place in:

- **Manhattan District 7**                    –            **Upper West Side**
- **Brooklyn District 6**                    –            **Carroll Gardens**
- **Staten Island District 1**                –            **Stapleton**
- **Queens District 4**                      –            **Corona**
- **Queens District 2**                      –            **Woodside**

OEM plans to have one CERT in every Community Board in the City by the end of 2007. Individuals interested in starting a CERT in their community, or joining an existing team, should call 311 or visit OEM's website: [www.nyc.gov/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/oem).

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