

ACTIVATION STATUS: NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IS ACTIVATED.

PLEASE NOTE: Program staff will respond to inquiries and requests as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience and support.



2023 After-Action Report (AAR)

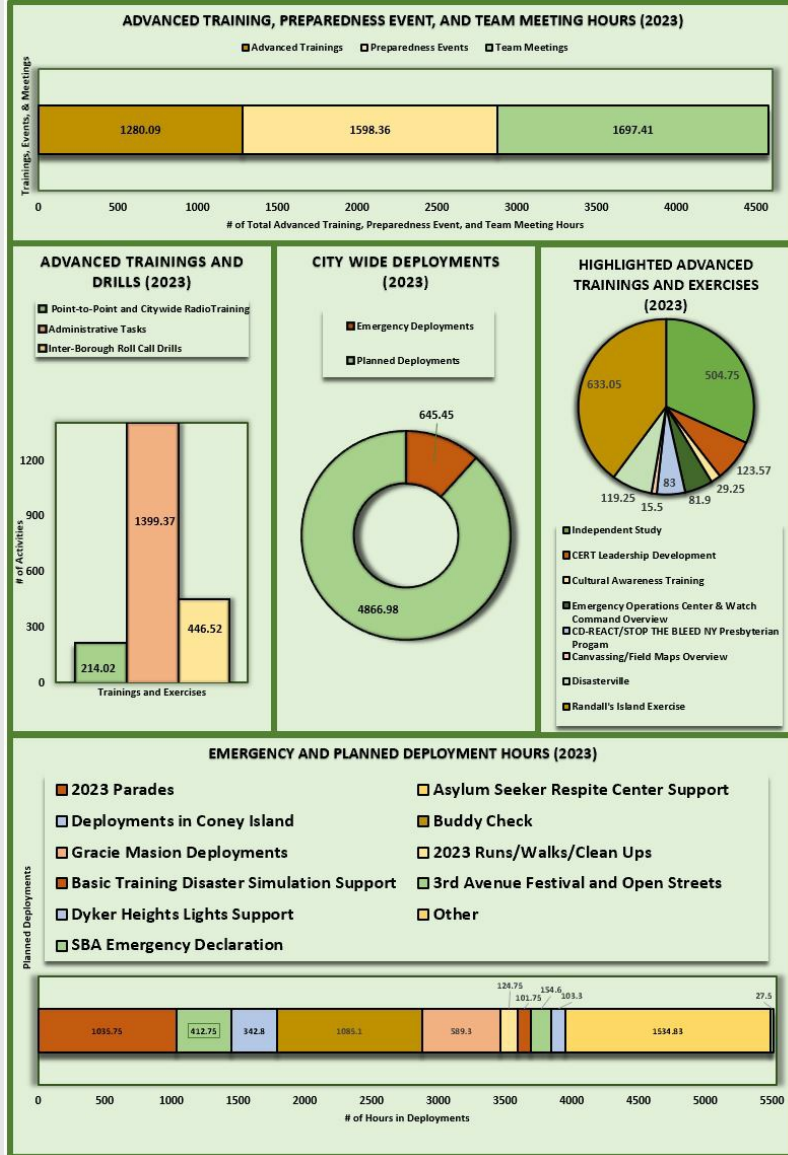
Volunteer hours are self-submitted. The AAR 2023 only references submitted and approved hours, and does not reflect the exact amount of volunteer activity.



MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL

Borough Channel:
NO Call

01/01/2024 : NO CALL

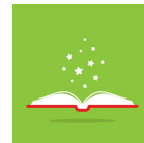


Citywide Radio Drill Refresher

Call signs per Radio



The [NYC CERT Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#) provides guidance and outlines policies and procedures for you and your team to follow.



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

QUIZ

Each week we will propose a quiz question that relates back to lessons learned during NYC CERT training or from your experience as an active member. The answer will be revealed in the following week's newsletter.

Last week's question:

As NYC CERT, you are asked: what is NYCEM is doing about local flooding? You should tell them:

Correct Answer(s): d) both answers b & c. It is important to report to 311 and let them know they can visit our website

Are you ready for 2024?

NYC CERT certainly is! Members reported an impressive 13,032 hours of total member engagement in 2023.

The 2023 After-Action Report (AAR) revealed 7111 deployment hours for various emergency responses, planned deployments and preparedness events across the city. These efforts included providing support for the Asylum Seeker Respite Center (413 hours), DEP Support (68 hours), and various other planned deployments such as Gracie Mansion Deployments (589 hours), Deployments in Coney Island (342 hours), Brooklyn 3rd Avenue Festival and Open Streets (155 hours), 2023 Runs/Walks/Clean Ups (125 hours), Basic Training Disaster Simulation Support (102 hours), SBA Emergency Declaration Canvassing (28 hours), and Dyker Heights Lights Support (103 hours).

CERT was activated twice in December, to provide emergency support for the St. Brigid Reticketing Center and Commodity/Food Distribution in downtown Manhattan and the Fire Service Center Support in Sunnyside, Queens, totaling 144 hours of volunteer activity.

The NYC Parade Deployments totaled 1,036 hours reported and included 2023 Lunar New Year Parade (January), New York City Pride, Brooklyn Pride, and Puerto Rican Day Parades (June), Long Island City and Coney Island 4th of July Fireworks, NYC

Veteran's Day Parade (October), and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Balloon Inflation and Parade (November), in Manhattan, to name a few.

CERT members underwent extensive training and exercises, with a total of 2,517 hours dedicated to learning vital emergency skills, awareness, and preparedness. Members reported 500 hours of Independent Study, 446 hours of radio drills, 123 hours in CERT Leadership Development, 97 hours in Overviews of the Emergency Operations Center & Watch Command and Field Maps, 74 hours of training in Cultural Awareness and Human Trafficking Awareness, and 83 hours in Hands Only CPR, STOP THE BLEED, AED, and Narcan training.

All the training culminated in the Randall's Island Exercise and Disaster Simulation in April, where CERT teams showed up for the challenge with a total of 633 hours reported. But that's not all – with over 1,084 hours in Buddy Checks and 1697 hours in Division Team meetings, we kept each other accountable, active, and aware.

What an amazing year! It couldn't have been possible without each team member's unwavering dedication and commitment. Let's continue to show up in 2024 with the same spirit of humility and service.

From the NYC CERT staff, we wish you a happy, healthy, and safe New Year!



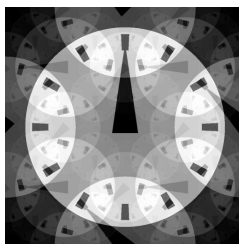
Volunteer Hours

How to report your volunteer hours?

What accounts for your volunteer hours?

For more questions on how to submit your service hours you can view the [Hours Submission FAQs](#).

Deadline for submitting 2023 volunteer hours is January 24, 2024



What to Do Before a Winter Storm or Extreme Cold

that focuses on flooding in NYC:

[Plan for Hazards - Flooding - NYCEM](#)

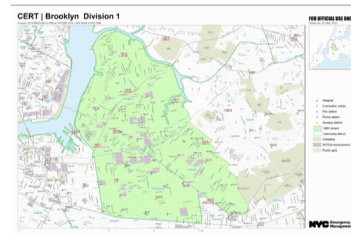
You are a new CERT graduate and you would like to jump right in. What should you do first?

a) Ask your leadership what they suggest.

b) Check the CERT Event Calendar to see what is available

c) Call your local politician to see if they have any upcoming events

d) Wait for events to come to you



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

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



Reduce anxiety by being prepared. Here are ways to be prepared for winter storm and extreme cold weather:

- Make sure your [household disaster plan](#) is ready and all members of your household are familiar with how to contact one another in an emergency.
- Do not forget the needs of pets and service animals when severe weather (including winter weather and extreme cold) strikes. [Learn more about how to prepare your pets.](#)
- Winterize your [Go Bag](#) by adding a blanket, warm socks and gloves.
- Your [emergency supply kit](#) should be fully-stocked to allow you to sustain yourself for up to seven days without power, or in the event you are unable to travel far from home. You may wish to include additional items such as extra blankets, additional warm clothing, and a battery-operated radio to monitor weather conditions during a storm.

It's important to prepare for winter weather-related dangers. There are several steps you can take to stay safe before, during, and after winter storms. Visit the [NYCEM Winter Weather website](#) for more information.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



You are not alone. If you're struggling, it's okay to share your feelings. Call, text, or chat with the 988 Lifeline, and be connected to trained crisis counselors who are part of the existing 988 Lifeline network, made up of over 200 local crisis centers. These crisis counselors are trained to provide free and confidential emotional support and crisis counseling to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress and connect you to resources.

Have questions? Find some answers at [988 FAQ](#) or [Contact 988](#).



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

After you participate, be sure to [Submit Your Volunteer Hours!](#)

For more questions on how to submit your service hours you can view the [Hours Submission FAQs](#).

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.



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](#).



FDNY Smart on New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve is a time to celebrate new beginnings. Ring in the New Year the smart way-- FDNY Smart: safely. Here are some Do(s) for a fire safe new year:

- Dial 911 any time there is a threat to life or property, including fires, smoke, odors of gas or medical emergencies. It is important to call 911 quickly because the situation can get worse fast.
- Check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms save lives by quickly giving you and your loved ones an early warning signal that something is wrong. Fire spreads fast and carbon monoxide is a silent killer. Working alarms are the most critical component of your escape plan.
- It is essential to have an escape plan in case of an emergency. Everyone in your household should help make the plan and practice it regularly. As part of your escape planning process, be sure to know if you live in a [fire proof or non-fire proof building](#).
- If you leave a building during a fire, close all doors as you exit. This will keep the fire inside. This includes the stairwell door.
- A large portion of home fires start in the kitchen. Keep your kids safe in the kitchen by establish a "kid-free zone" three feet around your stove.
- Turn pot handles inward, facing the wall to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills. While cooking, never leave children unattended in the kitchen.
- Hair and clothing can easily catch on fire. If you or your clothing catch on fire, follow these steps to stop the spread of fire and to ensure your safety: Cover your face with your hands and drop to the ground and roll over and over.
- Some buildings have fire escapes which are to be used as exits in the event of an emergency like a fire. Keep windowsills and/or doors leading out to your fire escape clear, free of clutter and easily accessible. Keep exits that lead to fire escapes clear of security gates. Keep outside fire escapes clear at all times and do not use the area for storage.

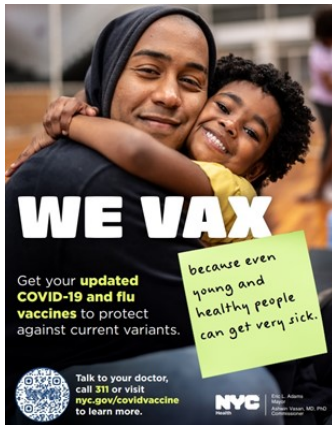
Learn more [Do\(s\)](#) and about the [Don't\(s\)](#) to be FDNY Smart this New Year.

Planning a New Year's Eve party? Watch the short [FDNY Smart Tips](#) for a safe New Year's Eve gathering.

Find more ways to stay [FDNY Smart](#).



A Healthy New Year with an Updated Vaccine



Prepare yourself for a healthy new year. COVID-19 and flu vaccines are available to help protect against current variants. Because the virus changes and adapts, the vaccine also gets updated periodically. Also, people's protection against the virus lessens over time. For these reasons, everyone who is 6-months or older should get vaccinated, even if they have been vaccinated before. Vaccination also reduces the risk of having Long

COVID, potentially debilitating symptoms that can last for months or longer after infection. Moreover, the vaccine can help reduce the duration and severity of COVID-19 symptoms if you become infected. While healthy people can also become very sick from COVID-19, the vaccine is more likely to be lifesaving for:

- Those who are 65 or older
- Those who are pregnant
- People with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk for severe outcomes
- People with certain disabilities that may increase their risk for having underlying chronic conditions or immunodeficiency.

Find a vaccination location via [Vaccine Finder](#). Learn more at [NYC Health](#).

Send Us Your Photos!



As 2023 comes to a close and we move into our 21st year, help us to celebrate CERT in New York City by sending us your photos and videos from your event 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!

[Download Photos from the Gracie Mansion Anniversary Event](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CERT members will present and distribute preparedness literature. All Ready NY Presentation

READY NEW YORK

opportunities are found on [NYC CERT Calendar](#).

Reach out to the designated CERT Lead, of each event, to register. After you participate, be sure to [Submit Your Volunteer Hours!](#)

[Ready NY Presentation: Atlantic Plaza Towers | Thurs, Jan 18, 2024 7:30PM](#)

[Ready NY Presentation: Alexander Robertson School | Sun, Feb 4, 2024 4PM](#)

[Ready NY Presentation: Brownsville Heritage Houses | Thurs, Feb 15, 2024 7:30PM](#)

[Ready NY Presentation: Riverway Senior Center | Thurs, March 21, 2024 7:30PM](#)

[Ready NY Presentation: Jameson Gorman Houses | Thurs, April 18, 2024 7:30PM](#)

St. Brigid Center Support | Commodity Distribution

NYC CERT will be assisting Sidewalk Samaritan with distributing cold weather items to on-site clients.



[Registration | Sat, Jan 6, 2024 5:30PM](#)



Cyber Ready Community Game Night

FEMA's National Exercise Division (NED) and DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) have developed the Cyber Ready Community Game to promote cyber preparedness. Team up and compete in the game that puts your sector in emergency cyber-scenarios and tested on how well you planned, mitigated, responded and recovered from the cyber-scenario.

**No prior knowledge, nor experience required to join in on the fun.*

[Registration | Wed, Jan 10, 2024 6:30PM](#)

2024 Lunar New Year Celebration Parade in Bensonhurst

NYC CERT will support the 2024 Lunar New Year Celebration Parade alongside the 62nd Precinct.



[Registration | Sun, Feb 11, 2024 9:30AM](#)

NYC CERT CALENDAR



Buddy Check

As we close out a long year of volunteering to support your community and head into a new year with new challenges, please take some time to support one another. The best way to do that is by performing buddy checks.

What is a buddy check?

Taking the time to check on family and friends, especially those unable to leave their home for any reason. You might be surprised by the impact you'll have on those who you connect with.

[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.

ADVANCED TRAINING

Active Shooter Training

CISA instructs on how to better prepare you to deal with an active shooter situation, focusing on behaviors that represent pre-incident indicators and characteristics of active shooters, potential attack methods, how to develop emergency action plans, and the

actions that may be taken during an incident.



[Registration | Wed, Jan 24, 2024 at 6:30PM](#)

Human Trafficking Awareness Presentation

Learn how to define and understand the severity and scope of human trafficking, identify red flags of trafficking, the intersections between intimate partner violence and human trafficking, and trauma-informed lens, resources, and tools to increase efficacy in supporting survivors of trafficking.



[Registration | Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 6:30PM](#)

NYC CERT VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY



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

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](#)



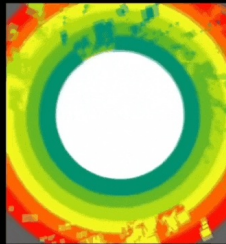
[NYCEM's YouTube page](#)
[NYC CERT recruitment video](#)
[2021 National Volunteer Week video](#)



[Resolve to Be Ready Calendar](#)
Regular reminders in simple steps that can help you work preparedness into your busy schedule.



Listen to the 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



AMY JOY ROBATEAU
AmeriCorps
Member

Schedule a meeting with NYC CERT Staff:
<https://on.nyc.gov/bookCERT>

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



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

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