



# NYC Community Emergency Response Teams

## November 2007 NEWSLETTER



### **CERT STAFF :**

**Johnnie Pacheco, Operations Coordinator**

**Darlyn Ramos, CERT Intern**

**Lauren Ginsberg, Program Manager**

**Christian Quintanilla, Training & Logistics Coordinator**

**Jill Samonte, Team Development Specialist**

### ***NYC CERT STORIES From Across The City***

#### **FIRST CORPORATE TEAM**

NYC CERT has welcomed its first corporate team—CoVERT from BNP Paribas, a French investment bank with a large presence in New York City. In early 2007, BNP contributed \$30,000—\$15,000 to train its own team and \$15,000 to support a team in Manhattan Community Board 4, which encompasses Chelsea and Hell’s Kitchen.

The bank’s own Corporate Volunteer Emergency Response Team-CoVERT, trained 50 staff to form its team.

CoVERT team leaders met with John Sepe, Team Chief for the **Chelsea/Hell’s Kitchen (CHK) CERT**, at National Night Out in Columbus Circle in August. CoVERT also arranged for three **CHK** team members to attend CPR training along with CoVERT members. We look forward to future collaborations and good work from our first corporate team!

#### **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

Various NYC CERTs and volunteers from member agencies of the **NYC Citizens Corps Council** worked two-hour shifts on September 6th to distribute preparedness materials at NYC transportation hubs. Teams were stationed at the South Bronx hub, Columbus Park, Foley Square, Mitchell Square Park, Jamaica Station, Forest Hills, and the Staten Island Ferry. They distributed **Ready New York** information and talked about their experiences volunteering to promote emergency preparedness. Ann Daniels, Team Chief for **Brooklyn 2 CERT**, was interviewed for a local cable station. Thanks to ALL the NYC CERT volunteers who raised awareness of emergency preparedness through the city.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

After a refresher held by the Port Richmond Staten Island Team, the following lessons were learned:

1. Teams need to practice emergency response more.
2. Teams need to have an organizational structure and chart.
3. Team members who attend refreshers or trainings need to bring the information back and share with their teams.
4. Team members were put into teams where they did not know one another. Needing to rely on another NYC CERT member with similar training is a strength. This is based on the principles of incident command.

### ***NEW THINGS TO KNOW:***

#### **UPDATED CURRICULUM**

OEM will be introducing its new NYC CERT training curriculum during the backfill training this December. After four years, the curriculum has been updated to better represent what NYC CERT teams will be doing in the field, as well as being more hands-on and interactive.

#### **CERT CREDENTIALING**

To be recognized as a NYC OEM CERT Team, at least 10 members of your team must be credentialed. In addition to the primary reason for universal identification from New York City first responders, credentialing will become vital in participating in post-training opportunities through OEM. Current Team rosters are due immediately. Contact Johnnie Pacheco: 718-422-8418.

#### **STANDARD OPERATING**

#### **PROCEDURES (SOPs)**

OEM has developed and will be distributing new, written policies and procedures to all NYC CERT teams. As NYC CERT continues to grow, it is important to have everyone understand and follow guidelines regarding team structure, deployment and training. **The SOPs will be the focus of the December Team Chiefs’ meeting.**

### **TRAINING**

**BACK FILL TRAINING-DEC. 2007** for existing teams.  
**CYCLE 10** to BEGIN MARCH 2008 for new teams.  
Contact Christian: 718-422-4856 for more information.

Got an item for the next newsletter? Contact Jill at [jsamonte@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:jsamonte@oem.nyc.gov).



**Port Richmond CERT 10/13/07**

### **TEAM TIP/BEST PRACTICE**

When recruiting for new members, don’t forget to include members of different faith communities in your area on your team.

### **COMING SOON:**

OEM NYC CERT Website Updates!  
NEW NYC CERT BROCHURE!

