

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM *and* SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING / HEALTH & SAFETY EXPO / TOUCH-A-TRUCK – MARCH 30, 2023

At 3:00pm on Thursday, March 30, 2023 New Lenox CERT volunteers began to arrive at Lincoln-Way WEST High School for the purpose of assisting with this annual event. Volunteers started by setting-up tables and chairs outside of the auditorium where 50 organizations would staff informational tables for the Health and Safety Expo from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.



Outside, volunteers used traffic cones to control parking in two areas for the Touch-a-Truck portion of the event, which was scheduled to take place from 5:00pm to 7:00pm also. CERT volunteers directed vehicles from 15 organizations (some with multiple vehicles) to their respective parking areas.



As participating organizations began to arrive, CERT volunteers helped unload vehicles and bring informational table items into the venue. Volunteers showed representatives from the organizations to their tables and assisted them with set-up if requested.

At 5:00pm the Health and Safety Expo as well as the Touch-a-Truck officially began, although families had already started to arrive. For two hours, there was a steady stream of people that visited the informational tables inside the venue as well as the awesome vehicles outside.



At 7:00pm, Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, welcomed hundreds of attendees to the 2023 Severe Weather Spotter Training. Dan then introduced Village of New Lenox Mayor Tim Baldermann who thanked all the organizations and individuals responsible for planning this wonderful event. Dan thanked the Mayor for the opening remarks and then introduced Mike Bardou and Brett Borchardt, Meteorologists for the National Weather Service Chicago Office (Romeoville), who were going to take turns presenting the material. Brett and Mike did an excellent job with the 90-minute Severe Weather Spotter Presentation, which wrapped up at 8:30pm.

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Our Core Principles:

- Readiness
- Member Safety
- People Helping People
- Doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people...

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Severe Weather Event Cont'd

Dan, with the assistance of CERT volunteers, then began the door prize drawing for those in attendance. There were literally dozens of door prizes compliments of the participating organizations. Door prizes included gift cards, gift baskets, NOAA weather radios, fire extinguishers, first aid kits and much more. Each organization was recognized for the door prize(s) that they donated.



The door prize drawing wrapped-up at approximately 8:50pm. As attendees exited the auditorium on the way to their vehicles, they were provided with a box of food from ShareFest New Lenox. Our CERT volunteers helped hand out the food in an efficient and expedient manner.

Special thanks to everyone that planned, participated and / or attended this event. It was great to see all the organizations working together to make this a true "community event."



Doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people . . .

ASSIST NEW LENOX LIONS CLUB WITH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER – MARCH 26, 2023

At 10:00am on Friday, March 24, 2023, seven New Lenox CERT volunteers met at Lincoln-Way WEST High School to assist the New Lenox Lions Club. The Lions Club needed assistance with loading a portable stage onto a trailer for transport over to New Lenox VFW Post 9545. The stage (and runway) is used for the models to walk on during the fashion show. With everyone working together, the stage was loaded within minutes and everyone departed the high school.



At 8:30am on Sunday, March 26, 2023, fifteen members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the VFW to assist the New Lenox Lions Club. Everyone got right to work and started unloading the trailer, bringing the pieces of the stage into the venue. Working together, the stage and runway was quickly assembled. This included putting legs under the platforms, locking platforms together and placing skirting all around the stage/runway.



While this was in progress, other volunteers worked hand-in-hand with Lions Club members to set the round tables throughout the banquet facility. This included placing table cloths, floral centerpieces and silverware on the tables. Volunteers also assisted with bringing raffle / silent auction baskets into the facility and setting them on tables for display. Everyone did an amazing job setting up, which was done by 9:00am!

At 3:00pm, ten CERT volunteers returned to the VFW to assist with breakdown. Upon arrival, the event was still underway so volunteers waited outside until about 3:45pm when guests started to leave. Everyone then pitched in to break down the stage/runway, which included removing decorations and curtains from the back of the stage. Other volunteers cleared the tables and assisted with bringing decorations out to Lions Club members' vehicles. Lastly, volunteers assisted with stacking chairs and breaking down the round tables. Everything was done by 4:30pm or so. Following a group photo and conversation with our Lions Club friends, everyone departed the VFW at about 4:45pm.



At 10:00am on Monday, March 27, 2023, nine CERT volunteers met at Lincoln-Way WEST High School to help unload the stage and return it to school officials.

Special thanks to our amazing volunteers for helping on Friday, Sunday, and Monday. Everyone did a terrific job and it was a pleasure helping the New Lenox Lions Club, an organization that does amazing things for our community. Congratulations to the Lions for another successful event!



TRANSPORT / CARRIES – MARCH 21, 2023

At 6:00pm on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 set-up for our monthly training began at the New Lenox Public Works Facility. This included setting-up things like training mannequins, blankets, tarps, and chairs at three stations within the Public Works Garage. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, worked with Patrick Hardin, USAR Operations Branch Chief, MABAS, Illinois on the set-up. As it was designed, Chief Hardin would be the lead instructor and would be assisted by firefighters from the New Lenox Fire Protection District.



At 6:30pm CERT members began to arrive, including members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team. Pat requested six of the SAR members to assist at the stations (2 per station). Pat then walked our SAR members through the stations and during the walk-through they were joined by the NLFPD firefighters that would be leading two of the three stations.

At 7:00pm, almost 50 CERT members had arrived at which time Dan Martin welcomed everyone and made a few announcements about upcoming events. Dan then introduced Pat, thanking him and the NLFPD firefighters in advance for the training. Pat then provided a brief overview of the size-up process as well as scene safety. In addition, Pat outlined the process for back boarding a patient, using a backboard (with straps) and training mannequin that were on a table at the front of the classroom. Following Pat's 15-minute overview, everyone in attendance was divided into three groups (Alpha, Bravo and Charlie) and were provided with a station rotation (grid). Everyone then headed out to the garage area for the hands-on portion of the training.



Station #1 demonstrated a 1-person arm carry, a pack-strap carry and a small portable litter carry. Following the demonstration of each of the carries, team members from each of the teams practiced the carries for 15 minutes.

Station #2 demonstrated a 2-person carry and a 2-person chair carry. The chair carry included carrying a "victim" (training mannequin) up and down a flight of stairs. Following the demonstrations, team members from each of the teams practiced the carries for 15 minutes.

Station #3 demonstrated log rolling (onto a blanket, tarp or backboard), 2-person blanket drag and 6-person (plus medical person at the head) blanket carry. Following the demonstrations, team members from each of the teams practiced the carries for 15 minutes.



At 8:40pm the stations wrapped-up and everyone headed back into the training room for a de-briefing. During the de-briefing, Dan thanked Pat, the NLFPD firefighters and our SAR members for instructing at each of the stations. Pat, the firefighters and some of the SAR members provided comments about each of the stations and training wrapped-up just before 9:00pm.



Special thanks to Pat Hardin, the NLFPD and our SAR members for leading this excellent training. Also, special thanks to New Lenox Public Works for providing a great facility to hold this training at. Lastly, a big thank you to everyone that attended. We had a great turn out and it's greatly appreciated!



FLAGGING AND NAVIGATION – MARCH 16, 2023

At 7:00pm on Thursday, March 16, 2023 sixteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at Hickory Creek Preserve at the LaPorte Road Access. This month's training consisted of flanking and navigation exercises. Lisa Murphy provided a short overview of the training at which time everyone was divided into small teams.

The stations were as follows:

- Navigating around an object – facilitated by Scott Thompson
- Setting a straight line with surveyor's flags – facilitated by Lauren Humbrecht
- Tying a knot with flagging tape – facilitated by Lisa Murphy
- Shooting azimuth and proper use of a lensatic compass - facilitated by Joe Frigo and Terry Hartigan
- Teams spent about 10-15 minutes at each station and then rotated to the next.

After completing all the stations, everyone gathered under the pavilion for instructions regarding the next exercise. Lisa Murphy explained that in small teams, everyone would navigate through a wooded area on an azimuth that would be provided. There would be a Crew Leader and two Flankers (left and right). After receiving assignments, Lisa led teams out to their respective starting locations.

Teams spent the next 20 minutes or so navigating through the woods, which included flankers flagging along the way. "Search Base" ended the exercise via the radio, at which time everyone headed back to the pavilion for a debriefing.

Each of the station facilitators discussed their respective stations and comments related to the stations were made by team members. Following the debriefing, a short discussion was had regarding a recent recovery search. Training ended just before 9:00pm.

Special thanks to those that facilitated stations and to those who attended!



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BUILDING SEARCH TRAINING – MARCH 7TH, 8TH, AND 9TH

The old Century 21 Building, located on Cedar Road just east of Rt. 30, became available for use. After scouting the 2-story office building, it was determined that it would make an ideal location for Building Search Training. Team members were offered the following dates and times to choose from:

Tuesday, March 7th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Wednesday, March 8th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Thursday, March 9th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

12-15 CERT members signed-up for each of the trainings. A curriculum was developed which included the following areas:

- **Building Search Considerations** – building structure, level of damage and 9-step size-up.
- **Team Organization** – number of team members, skill sets and assignments.
- **Search Strategy** – right hand search, providing input and supporting the team leader.
- **Search Markings** – proper markings upon entry and exit.
- **Search Method** – searching “6 sides” and places where small children may hide.
- **Communication** – among team members, with team leader and with incident command.
- **Time** – reinforcing doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people, in the shortest amount of time.
- **Safety** – using the “buddy system,” checking for hazards, knowing where you are at within a structure and looking out for fellow team members during a search.
- **Equipment** – utilizing PPE, flashlights, glow sticks, medical supplies, flagging tape and door wedges.

Each night the instructors arrived approximately 30 minutes in advance of those scheduled to attend the training so that everything was set-up. From 6:30pm to 7:00pm a lecture / discussion was held that covered the above-described points in greater detail. At 7:00pm, those in attendance were divided into two teams (Alpha and Bravo). One team worked the upper level for 30 minutes while the other team worked the lower level. At 7:30pm the teams switched and practiced building search techniques until 8:00pm.

Teams started with the search markings, made entry and called out “New Lenox CERT, if you can hear me, come to the sound of my voice.” Team organization included a team leader, scribe and two search elements of 2-3 members. The first search was very slow and methodical as it was designed to allow team members to practice the search technique. Approximately 10 searches were conducted in each 30-minute time frame. Each search was designed to go faster, but still very efficient and thorough. “Victims” consisted of small blue footballs, which when located, were communicated to the team leader and scribe. The last few searches in each 30-minute segment included closing doors and wrapping flagging tape around the door handles as an indication that the room had been searched.

At 8:00pm each evening a de-briefing was held to discuss learning objectives, strengths and areas for improvement. Special thanks to Rich DeVault for assisting with this training and thank to everyone who participated!



INDIVIDUAL FIRST AID KIT (IFAK) TRAINING – FEBRUARY 22, 2023

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 sixty-five members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. By-way-of background, through generous donations from team members, funds were acquired to purchase 25 Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs). The kits, which are red “sling” bags stocked with a myriad of medical supplies, will be carried by CERT volunteers at community events moving forward. Should a mass casualty event occur, team members will have supplies on their person to take care of themselves, fellow CERT members and others that have been injured during an event. This training was designed to introduce team members to the new kits and to provide them with training on the supplies contained therein.



Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided a quick overview of the training. Dan then introduced Victor Kress, President / CEO, EzCloud Solutions, who was on hand to present the team with 100 Reusable TR1 Tactical Respirators. Dan advised that 25 of the respirators will be placed in the IFAKs and the other 75 will be provided to team members for their own use (personal & CERT). Dan noted that the value of the respirators is approximately \$20,000.00 and thanked Victor for his generous donation.



Victor then provided a short presentation on the TR1 Tactical Respirators, noting that these respirators are capable of filtering 99% of airborne particulates, measuring down to 0.1 microns. Victor then provided examples of how the respirators can be utilized in a CERT environment. Following Victor's presentation, Dan once again thanked Victor for his generosity.



Dan then introduced Val Grellner who provided an overview on the IFAKs, which included showing everyone in attendance the various compartments and where everything is stored. Following Val's presentation, training continued as follows:

- Chuck Geraci and Sandy Scannell provided an overview on tourniquets, chest seals and SAM splints. The overview included accompanying videos from Rescue Essentials (tourniquets and chest seals) as well as a demonstration on how these products are used.
- Dr. Martin Greenberg and Joan O'Malley provided an overview on the “Israeli” bandage, OLAES bandage and CPR face shield. The overview included accompanying videos from Rescue Essentials (“Israeli” bandage and OLAES bandage) as well as a live demonstration. Joan O'Malley, who donated CPR face shields to everyone in attendance, demonstrated how the face shields work.
- Patty Edgett then came up to the front of the room and showed everyone how to use a triangular bandage. Patty also touched on wound dressings and other ways to stop bleeding through direct pressure.
- Val Grellner provided a quick over on naloxone (Narcan), noting that nasal spray kits will be placed in the IFAKs. Val also touched on the proper use of exam gloves, noting where they can be located in the IFAKs.



Following the demonstrations and videos, everyone in attendance was divided into three groups. The groups then went to three separate tables that had been set-up by the instructors. Approximately 10-15 minutes was spent at each table, which provided team members hands-on practice on the above-mentioned items. The teams rotated accordingly until they completed all three stations.



Shortly before 9:00pm the training wrapped-up, after which a short de-briefing was held. Each of the instructors provided comments during the de-briefing, which prompted some additional discussion. At the end, Dan thanked the instructors for doing a terrific job. Dan also thanked everyone in attendance for coming out to refresh their medical skills. utilize the SARTopo maps during a search exercise. Again, special thanks to John, Tricia and MaryAnn for leading this training!

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AMDR / CRITICAL SPACING / NIGHT SEARCH – FEBRUARY 15, 2023

John Schuld, MaryAnn Cody and Tricia Pakosz planned this training for our team, which included scouting Pilcher Park in advance. They also arrived a couple hours before the team to set-up the exercise areas. This was a very worthwhile training, and our team members appreciated their efforts.

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 our team met at Pilcher Park for monthly training. John, MaryAnn and Tricia provided everyone with a briefing, which included a timeline for the 2-hour training. Those in attendance were divided into two teams – ALPHA and BRAVO.

At this time MaryAnn led an AMDR (Average Maximum Detection Range) exercise with ALPHA, while Tricia led a similar exercise in a different area with BRAVO. In both exercises an object was placed on the ground in a wooded area. Searchers circled the object with their backs to it and then walked outward from the object (ex. spokes on a bicycle tire). Searchers counted their steps, looking back at the object until it was no longer clearly recognizable. Searchers then returned to the object, rotated positions (clockwise) and repeated the drill a total of five times. Searchers then added their numbers together and divided by five, which then became their average number. Example as follows:

AMDR $4 + 4 + 6 + 6 + 5 = 25$

Average $25 / 5 = 5$

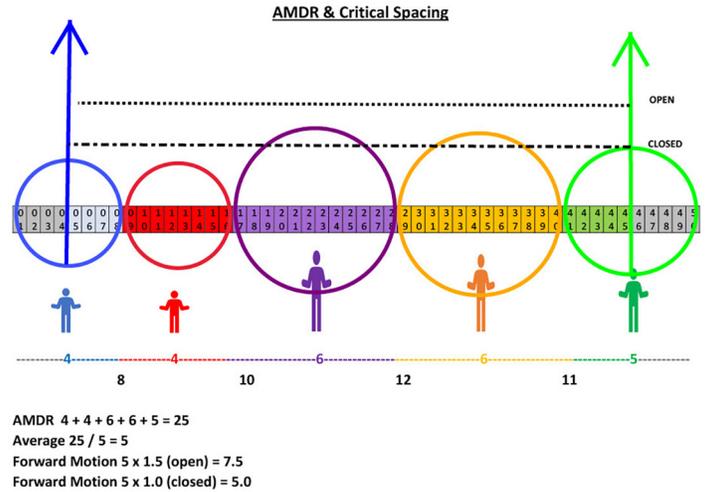
Utilizing the number that was derived from the AMDR exercise, ALPHA and BRAVO then set their Critical Spacing accordingly, from the left flank to the right flank. In addition to spacing on the search line, Forward Motion Spacing was determined as follows:

5×1.5 (open) = 7.5

5×1.0 (closed) = 5.0

After ALPHA completed the exercise with MaryAnn they went over and did the exercise with Tricia. After BRAVO completed the exercise with Tricia, they went over and did the exercise with Mary Ann. The AMDR / Critical Spacing exercises were completed by 8:00pm.

John then provided everyone with a lost person scenario, which included descriptive information (age, height, weight, clothing, etc...). Everyone was provided with a QR Code that opened a SARTopo map that would be utilized for this exercise. ALPHA and BRAVO were assigned search segments and following the briefing both teams headed out to the segments. Radio communications were utilized just as though it were a real search.



Upon arriving at their search segments, AMDR was conducted and Critical Spacing was set. Crew Leads for ALPHA and BRAVO contacted Search Command (Tricia Pakosz) to announce that efficiency searches of each of the segments were commencing. Teams did a good job with navigation, flagging, searching and maintaining critical spacing. Just as ALPHA was starting their second pass, the "victim" was located. In this exercise, the "Rescue Randy Jr." training mannequin was utilized. Team ALPHA read his injury card and began treatment of the "victim" based in his injuries (likely hypothermic and fractured lower left leg). After splinting the "victim's" leg and wrapping him in a blanket, he was carried out of a creek bed where he was located. Per Search Command, he was transported (carried) back to the Staging Area on a portable litter.

Everyone returned to the Staging Area at 9:00pm at which time a short debriefing was held. Everyone agreed that it was an excellent refresher on AMDR / Critical Spacing as well as the core GSAR skills that were needed to complete the search. This training also provided an opportunity for team members to utilize the SARTopo maps during a search exercise. Again, special thanks to John, Tricia and MaryAnn for leading this training!

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT & AUTISM AWARENESS – FEBRUARY 11, 2023

On February 11, 2023, two members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue team met at the New Lenox

Village Hall at 7:30am to carpool to the Multi-Agency SAR training. The training was held at the Elk Grove Village Police Department located at 901 Wellington Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL, with approximately 60 people attending. The training was in two parts: Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and Autism. The instructor for both classes was Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency.

At 9:00am, Kim welcomed everyone and introduced a new SAR team from Boone County. She then began a slide presentation on Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), which is a system of interventions usually performed by regional, non-partisan, multi-disciplinary teams comprised of SAR peers, police, fire, dispatchers, and specially trained mental health professionals. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) is designed to address the special personalities, jobs and family related stressors, and the support needs of service workers. Participation in any CIS process is strictly voluntary.



Why is Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Needed? When searchers find people alive, deceased, or not at all, it affects them emotionally. You could talk to a friend or a group to vent frustrations or celebrate what went right. It is most helpful to talk to someone who knows what you are going through. Examples of Critical Incident Events:

- Injury or death of an infant or child, someone you know, or a SAR worker.
- Extreme threat to SAR personnel.
- Disasters or MCI (Multiple Incident Casualty).
- Incidents that draw unusual media attention.

Stress Reactions:

- Emotional: Shock, anger, disbelief, guilt, terror, sadness, depression, and fear.
- Behavioral: Socially withdrawn, hyper-vigilance, irritability and agitation, and "hair trigger" anger.
- Biological: Sleep disturbance, appetite disturbances, trembling, GI disturbances, and nightmares.
- Cognitive: Decreased concentration, confusion, intrusive thoughts, self-blame, decreased self-confidence and self-esteem, flashbacks, forgetfulness, and upsetting dreams / images

Signs and Symptoms of CIS:

- Feeling excessive fatigue.
- May experience flashbacks or amnesia of the event.
- May experience vague health issues such as headaches or GI upset CIS reaction is a normal reaction by a normal person to an abnormal event.

Self-Help:

- Reach out and talk to others.
- Journal your thoughts.
- Exercise.
- Get into a normal routine.

Debriefing:

- Structured, confidential group meeting.
- Works best if offered 24-72 hours post event, and may last 3 hours.
- Goal is to reduce the impact of the critical event and accelerate the recovery process.
- Emphasizes ventilating emotions and other reactions to event.
- Promotes enhancement of group cohesiveness and inter-agencies cooperation.

The first portion of the training ended with an opportunity to ask questions. Kim then started the second portion of the training with a slide presentation on AUTISM.

AUTISM, also known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is characterized by social impairments, cognitive impairments, communication difficulties, and repetitive behaviors.

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Some common behaviors may include:

- No eye contact.
- Unable to speak or answer questions.
- Seems deaf.
- Social challenges (inability to understand social clues).
- Sensory dysfunction.
- Demonstrate no or low sensitivity to pain.
- Have odd fears, or fears things of little danger.
- Take figurative language literally.
- Repeat your words and body movements.
- Have meltdown triggers.
- Self-injurious behavioral.
- Spin objects or watch spinning objects.
- Walk on toes.
- Have little understanding of danger
- Older children and adults may appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or defiant
- MAY NOT RESPOND TO NAME OR VERBAL COMMANDS
- ATTRACTED TO WATER
- MAY BOLT INTO TRAFFIC



Autism and Wanderings:

Children of autism typically bolt from a safe place to get to something of interest like water, a park, train tracks, or to get away from something like loud noises, commotion, or bright lights.

Dangers associated with wandering include drowning, getting struck by a vehicle, falling from a high place, dehydration, hypothermia, abduction, victimization and assault.

DROWNING REMAINS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AGES 14 AND YOUNGER SUBSEQUENT TO WANDERING/BOLTING.

FIRST RESPONDER'S CHECKLIST:

- Treat each case as critical, because their sense of danger is impaired.
- Listen to care-givers, they know best the areas their child may be seeking.
- Ask if child wears a tracking device.
- SEARCH WATER FIRST, pools, rivers, ponds, etc.
- Ask about other dangers the child may be attracted to.
- Ask about the child's likes that may assist in the search effort (certain music, favorite characters, fire trucks, etc).
- Ask about the child's dislikes and fears that may hinder the search (Dogs, sirens, lights, shouting, aircraft, etc.).
- Continue search efforts when all hope is lost. Past cases have shown that children and adults with autism can survive a long time.

ONCE THE CHILD/ADULT IS FOUND:

- Maintain a calm and relaxed environment.
- Speak in a normal tone of voice using simple phrases.
- Bring caregivers to recovery site as soon as possible.
- Avoid the use of dangerous restraints.

The training ended early, so for the last 45 minutes the teams were sent outside to practice SAR Topo (some for the first time). Each team member scanned the QR code for the map of the grounds of the Elk Grove Village complex, which showed the location of 9 semi-hidden clues. Each person had to use their SAR topo map to find the clues, mark them as clues, and label each clue. After everyone in the class had completed the assignment, we were told to sign-out. The New Lenox SAR members left approximately 1:00pm and arrived at the New Lenox Village Hall approximately 2:00pm.



NEW LENOX CERT ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 24, 2023

At 7:00pm on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 approximately 50 members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for the team's Annual Meeting. It should be noted that the Annual Meeting is the one-a-year opportunity to review the previous year's training, community events, meetings and activations. It's also an opportunity to look ahead to see what's in store for the next 12 months.

Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting. Dan then introduced the team leaders for teams 1 thru 12. Dan explained the process of assigning volunteers to teams and noted that there would be additional changes forthcoming.



Dan then began the 2022 Year in Review (January 1st thru December 31st) by noting that volunteers gave a total of **5,257** hours of their time in **2022**. The breakdown was as follows: Meetings – 120 hours, Training – 2,415 hours, Community Events - 2,635 hours, and Activations – 87 hours. Following the summary, Dan briefly recapped each of the activities (January thru December). Dan thanked team members for their participation in each of these events and encouraged everyone to continue to participate in 2023.

For informational purposes as all Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers are also CERT volunteers, Dan noted that New Lenox SAR members gave a total of **1,225.5** hours of their time in **2022**. The breakdown was as follows: Meetings – 78.5 hours, Training – 895.5 hours and Activations – 251.5 hours.

Dan noted that in 2022, CERT and SAR total hours were **6,482.5**. Interestingly, the value of volunteer time (National Average) for 2022 was \$29.95 per hour. Sources... <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>; <https://cftea.org/2022-value-of-volunteer-time/>; <https://nlctb.org/tips/value-of-volunteer-time/> As such, 6,482.5 (hours) X \$29.95 = **\$194,150.87** in "value" to our community.

In addition, 2009-2023 CERT and SAR total volunteer hours = **72,350**. So, at 2022's value, 72,350 (hours) X \$29.95 = **\$2,166,882.50** in "value" to our community.



The meeting was then turned over to Dan Johnson, Chair, Training Task Group, to discuss training for 2023. In summary, the team will be doing refresher training on the CERT core disciplines (triage, treatment, transport, building searches, fire safety / utility controls, cribbing, and disaster psychology). In addition, the team will be training in ground search and rescue, team building and will receive comprehensive training on Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK). The IFAKs, made available to the team through generous donations, will be carried by CERT members at community events in 2023. The IFAKs will contain supplies such as tourniquets, Israeli bandages, OLAES bandages, 4 X 4 dressings, chest seals and much more.

Dan Martin then continued on with the Meeting Agenda, noting that there will be numerous additional training opportunities in 2023 as well. These include New Lenox Safe Community Coalition classes and workshops as well as the 2023 Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo, which will be held on March 30th at Lincoln-Way WEST High School. Dan also encouraged those in attendance to complete FEMA's Emergency Management Institute - Independent Study Program courses, including

IS-317.a - Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team and IS-315.a - CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS). *2 volunteer hours for training will be given for both courses.

Additional Agenda items included:

20-Hour Basic CERT Class (#19) will start on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 (Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the Village Hall) and will graduate on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

New Lenox CERT Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT/> Please "Like," "Follow" and share the page.

New Lenox CERT / SAR Newsletter – latest issue January, 2023

[01-2023CERTSARNewsletter1352121754121322PM.pdf](https://www.newlenox.net/01-2023CERTSARNewsletter1352121754121322PM.pdf) (newlenox.net)

Current CERT Basic Class Curriculum

- Materials can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/cert>
- Instructor Guide https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019.CERT_Basic_IG_FINAL_508c.pdf
- Participant Manual https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019.CERT_Basic_PM_FINAL_508c.pdf

New Lenox CERT online calendar (and more) <https://www.preppedia.net/nlcertcalendar> Special thanks to Carrie Williams for creating and maintaining this resource.

The meeting wrapped up at approximately 8:30pm. Special thanks to everyone that attended!

Keeping our community safe, healthy, and prepared . . .

NEW LENOX SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 18, 2023

At 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 eighteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. After some pizza and beverages, the meeting started promptly at 7:00pm. Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. Following opening remarks, Dan provided a synopsis of 2022, which included the following: 895.5 hours Training; 251.5 hours Activations; and 78.5 hours Meetings.

Total Hours – 1,225.5

A review of each of the trainings was conducted. The review included the team's monthly trainings, multi-agency training led by Kim Gotte, the Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) Conference and additional training / exercises. The discussion included training topics, training locations and anything considered to be memorable.

A review of each of the activations was then conducted. There were eight activations that our team participated in (boots on the ground) and did not include those activations that were cancelled while team members were enroute. The discussion included some particulars about the lost person, what type of search it was, types of terrain, findings, etc...

A review of meetings was also conducted. Meetings included the 2022 Annual Meeting as well as planning meetings for the breakout session that our team led at the ISARC Conference in October, 2022.

The 2022 Team Participation Log was then discussed. In short, the log outlines everyone's participation in meetings, training events and activations. It shows team member's number of activations and total hours. The log also shows totals for each activity (meetings, training events and activations) as well as minimum goals that are outlined in the Standard Operating Guidelines. It was noted that all team goals were met in 2022.

Dan Johnson then provided those in attendance with an overview of training for 2023. In short, our team will continue to hold our own monthly trainings, with concentration in the core disciplines of ground search and rescue. These include, but are not limited to: Navigation (compass, GPS, SARTopo, UTM / map reading), flagging / flanker, AMDR, and critical spacing. Training will include an overview / refresher, followed by a search exercise. The exercise will include all ground search and rescue disciplines, but emphasis will be added to the focus area (ex. compass, flagging, etc...).

The team will also attend the ISARC Conference in October, 2023, complete the annual physical fitness test, conduct transport training / exercises and practice medical operations / first aid. Toward the end of the year (November) training will be done in the areas of hypothermia, cold weather survival and patient packaging.

Following the discussion about 2023 training, Lisa Murphy led a discussion about a NEW Physical Fitness Test. In short, we are heading in the direction of a test that's more reflective of what we actually do during a real search. The current test, walking 3 miles in under 50 minutes is not necessarily reflective of what happens during a real search. Noted in the discussion was the need for the test to be consistently be repeated, how it would be timed and how it would be scored. Locations for a test included a high school track, bleachers and football field. A wooded area, where team members would need to step over logs, duck under limbs and so on was also discussed. In the interest of time, a planning team was formed and will report their recommendations in the near future.

Dan reminded everyone to complete their NIMS courses (IS-100.c, IS-200.c, IS-700.b and IS-800.c).

Everyone in attendance was provided with a form that contained everyone's GPS make and model. Dan asked those that have upgraded GPS units to let him know what they are currently carrying.

The meeting wrapped-up with a short discussion about equipment. The goal for 2023 will be to equip everyone with Glo Toobs, portable litters, 1" nylon webbing (for a seat / harness) and a climbing carabiner.

Special thanks to our team members that attended the Annual Meeting. 2023 will be a great year for our team!



WREATH RETIREMENT AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL CEMETERY – JANUARY 14, 2023

At 8:00am on Saturday, January 14, 2023, ten members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL to assist with the “retirement” of the wreaths that were placed on gravesites on December 17, 2022 (Wreaths Across America event). The meeting location for volunteers was Section #15, which is where a short briefing was held prior to getting to work.

Everyone had blue 10 X 10 tarps, which were used to place the wreaths on. Working in teams of two, volunteers worked very efficiently up and down the rows removing the Christmas wreaths from each of the gravesites. The wreaths were dragged over to nearby dumpsters where they were placed inside, and the process was repeated over and over.



After Section #15 was cleared, our team moved over to Section #16 and retired the wreaths in the same manner.

After clearing Section #16, our team went on to assist volunteers in other sections until all the wreaths were removed as requested by event organizers. It was enjoyable to work with other volunteer groups (ex. scouts) and see the kids helping out as well.



Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, thanked volunteers for their efforts. Dan noted how efficiently everyone worked together and how the wreaths were removed in record time. Everyone departed the cemetery shortly after 9:00am.

Special thanks to our volunteers that assisted with this event. Truly, an outstanding job!



Doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people . . .

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – DECEMBER 17, 2022

At 10:00am on Saturday, December 17, 2022 fourteen members of New Lenox CERT met at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL for Wreaths Across America. Our team has been participating in this event for a number of years in various capacities and it was really great help out once again this year. From 11:00am to 11:30am the official ceremony took place, which honored veterans from all branches of service. Everyone in attendance was provided instructions for laying the wreaths at which time everyone departed from the memorial area.

Our team members went to Section #15 and assisted by placing "grave-specific" wreaths. These wreaths were purchased by family members who could not be attendance, but wished a wreath to be laid on their loved-one's grave. Once all the "grave-specific" wreaths were laid, volunteers assisted by placing "non-grave-specific" wreaths at the gravesites. Volunteers were asked to read the service member's name out loud along with any additional information on the stone / marker. After reading

the engraved information, volunteers would also add *thank you for your service.*

After finishing Section #15, our team moved on to Section #16 where hundreds of additional wreaths were laid. This section was completed by approximately 12:30pm and it appeared that other areas within the cemetery were completed as well. By approximately 1:00pm all of our volunteers were back at their vehicles and headed home.

Thanks to our volunteers and hundreds of others, over 28,000 wreaths were placed at gravesites to remember and honor those that served our great country.

Special thanks to those that assisted with this amazing event!



Additional Information

Daniel Martin

Safe Community Coordinator

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**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
20-HOUR BASIC CLASSES**

The next New Lenox CERT Basic Class will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The first session will be on September 6th and the last session will be on October 18th. The Final Exercise (Disaster Simulation) and Graduation will be held on Saturday October 21st from approximately 8:00am to 12:00pm. If interested in registering for the class or otherwise becoming involved with the New Lenox CERT Program, please contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox at (815) 462-6493 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net

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|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| • Class 1 Graduation | 10/17/2009 | • Class 10 Graduation | 10/31/2015 |
| • Class 2 Graduation | 12/05/2009 | • Class 11 Graduation | 03/12/2016 |
| • Class 3 Graduation | 02/27/2010 | • Class 12 Graduation | 10/29/2016 |
| • Class 4 Graduation | 10/30/2010 | • Class 13 Graduation | 10/28/2017 |
| • Class 5 Graduation | 04/09/2011 | • Class 14 Graduation | 10/27/2018 |
| • Class 6 Graduation | 11/12/2011 | • Class 15 Graduation | 10/26/2019 |
| • Class 7 Graduation | 10/20/2012 | • Class 16 Graduation | 10/17/2020 |
| • Class 8 Graduation | 10/19/2013 | • Class 17 Graduation | 10/23/2021 |
| • Class 9 Graduation | 10/25/2014 | • Class 18 Graduation | 10/15/2022 |

To learn more about the CERT program and the CERT Basic Class, visit <https://www.ready.gov/cert>



Visit us on Facebook

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**NEW LENOX SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM
TRAINING AT PILCHER PARK – DECEMBER 13, 2022**

At 4:00pm on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 one member of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team arrived at Pilcher Park to set-up a night training exercise for the team. Set-up took approximately two hours and included placing "clues" in six separate areas. The "clues" were actually training aids (small CPR torso mannequins and CPR infant mannequins). One "clue" was placed along an Initial Search Route for what would be designated as Team Alpha and another "clue" was placed along an Initial Search Route for what would be designated as Team Bravo. The remaining four "clues" were placed in four separate Search Segments (111, 112, 113 and 114). These search segments were approximately one acre each – three wooded and one open field area with some trees, bushes and structures.



At approximately 6:15pm team members began to arrive and were provided with a QR code for the SARTopo map. The map included the routes and descriptions for the two Initial Searches. It also included the above-described search segments along with their descriptions. Once everyone was accounted for, a briefing was held which included a quick overview on SARTopo. Everyone was divided into two search teams (Alpha and Bravo). The teams were advised to start their tracking and to name themselves as follows: Team name, dash, followed by initials (ex. "Alpha – PM"). Teams were given instructions for the Initial Searches, which included proper radio communications, using GPS coordinates to mark clues and to log clues into the SARTopo map. Teams were then deployed to conduct Initial Searches of some of the roads and trails within the park.



Both teams completed their Initial Searches within 30 minutes and both teams located the "clues" that were planted along the routes. After completing the Initial Searches, Team Alpha was directed to conduct an Efficiency Search of Search Segment 112 and Team Bravo was directed to conduct an Efficiency Search of Search Segment 111. Both teams successfully completed their Efficiency Searches and found the "clue" that had been planted in each of their respective areas.



Team Alpha returned to the Staging Area first and were given their next assignment, which was an Efficiency Search of Search Segment 113. Team Bravo then arrived at the Staging Area and were assigned an Efficiency Search in Search Segment 114. "Clues" were quickly found in both Search Segments. Team Alpha joined Team Bravo and Search Segment 114 was completed by the two teams working side-by-side. After completing their assignments, everyone was directed to meet under a covered pavilion for the de-briefing.

During the de-briefing strengths and areas for improvement were discussed. In addition, 2023 Multi-Agency Training, the 2023 ISARC Conference and the team's Annual Meeting in January were discussed. The debriefing and training discussion concluded just before 9:00pm. Special thanks to our team members that attended this training, which provided an opportunity to practice a number of SAR disciplines.

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Ready
2022**

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