

Village of New Lenox

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

“OUR FALLEN HERO 5K” – SEPTEMBER 25, 2021



At 7:15am on Saturday, September 25, 2021 eleven members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the parking lot of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, located at 19515 115th Avenue, Mokena, IL for the purpose of participating in the “Our Fallen Hero 5K” – In Memory of PFC Aaron Toppen.

Aaron Toppen grew up in Mokena and graduated from Lincoln-Way East High School. Aaron followed his dreams and was sworn into the United States Army in July 2013 where he received training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Aaron then reported to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team in Colorado. Aaron was then deployed to Afghanistan in March 2014 and made the ultimate sacrifice for his Country during a joint operation of Afghan and NATO forces in the Arghandab District of southern Zabul

province. Aaron was killed on June 9, 2014 and as a way to remember and honor him, family and friends created the “Our Fallen Hero 5K,” with the inaugural event being held in September 2014.

After opening remarks and the National Anthem, the race kicked-off at 8:00am. Our team walked the 3.1 mile course in New Lenox SAR attire, completing the course in approximately 50 minutes. Following the race, our team members took some photos and visited some of the post-race tents and exhibits. Our team left the area at approximately 9:30am. Everyone that participated agreed that it was an honor to do so, in support of PFC Aaron Toppen, a true American hero.



Our Core Principles:

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

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SURVIVAL SKILLS – SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

At 6:00pm on Thursday, September 23, 2021 a number of CERT members arrived in the New Lenox Commons to set-up stations for the "Survival Skills" training that was scheduled to begin at 7:00pm. Each of these (veteran) team members had graciously agreed to share their knowledge and expertise in the areas of knots / knot tying, shelter construction, wilderness first aid, and fire starting. Our instructors brought their own supplies and had everything set-up in advance of the 7:00pm start time.



At 7:00pm Daniel Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed approximately 40 team members to the training and thanked them for coming. Training was then turned over to Lisa Murphy who provided the overview and explained how each of the stations would work. Lisa was also kind enough to provide everyone with a 3ft. length of 550 Paracord that they could practice knot tying with.

Joe Frigo then provided an overview on knot tying. Joe held up a length of climbing rope and demonstrated knots such as the bowline, clove hitch, timber hitch, square knot and trucker's hitch. Joe also had lengths of climbing rope at a bicycle stand, which allowed team members to practice the knots. The remaining team members practiced with the 550 Paracord that Lisa had provided. Joe's presentation concluded at

approximately 7:35pm at which time those in attendance were divided into three teams – "Alpha," "Bravo," and "Charlie." This allowed approximately 12 team members (per team) to rotate through three stations as follows:

Station #1: Shelters (Lisa Murphy and Dan Johnson)

Station #2: Wilderness First Aid (Tricia Pakosz and Scott Thompson)

Station #3: Fire Starting (Rich DeVault and Jerry Reeves)

The training was designed for each team to spend 20 minutes at a station then rotate to the next assigned station until the three teams completed the three stations.

At the Shelter Station team members were shown how to construct a shelter with a tarp using a ridgeline between two trees. Lisa Murphy showed everyone how to create the ridgeline and secure the tarp to the ground using the tarp's grommets. Dan Johnson showed everyone how to create a tent-like structure using a tarp and objects like hiking sticks and hiking poles. This station also featured some "blow-up" (solar) lighting, which came in handy during the training.

At the Wilderness First Aid Station Tricia Pakosz and Scott Thompson covered various types of injuries, which can occur in the wilderness. Tricia and Scott emphasized the importance of knowing basic first aid, since help may be hours away. Those in attendance learned some bleeding control measures, basic ways to splint a broken bone and a variety of other skills. Tricia and Scott also had variety of items on display such as eye drops, SAM splints, sterile eye pads, 4" 4" dressings, triangular bandages, space blankets, tweezers, antibiotic ointments, band-aids, adhesive tape, mini CPR mask, glow sticks, poison ivy/oak skin cleaner, EMT scissors, disposable gloves, individual dose pain over-the-counter pain relievers and a number of other items.

At the Fire Starting Station Rich DeVault and Jerry Reeves talked about a number of ways to start a fire (matches, sparks generated with strikers, friction). Rich and Jerry also talked about various types of tinder, such as cotton, dryer lint, crushed dried leaves and other similar materials. Rich and Jerry had tinder, sticks, and other materials on hand for everyone to practice starting a fire with inside of aluminum pans.

At approximately 8:40pm everyone met on the stage at the Performing Arts Pavilion for the de-briefing. Joe Frigo, as well as each of the station leads / facilitators, was thanked for their time and talents. Joe and each of the station leads took a few minutes to recap their stations, including the tips that were provided. The de-briefing concluded just before 9:00pm. Thank to everyone that attended this training, which was extremely beneficial!



CASA SUPERHERO 5K – SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

At 8:00am on Sunday, September 19, 2021 twenty-four members of New Lenox CERT arrived in the upper level parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing related to the CASA of River Valley Superhero 5K. Our team was asked to assist with race marshal / traffic management duties throughout the course (Aerohaven & Wildwood Subdivisions).



Daniel Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them in advance for assisting. During the briefing, Mayor Tim Baldermann stopped by to say hello and also thanked everyone for assisting. Everyone was provided with a brief history of the race as well as information related to safety and how do address medical emergencies. In addition to those important pieces, a fair amount of time was spent discussing assignments and going over the course map. The briefing concluded at 8:20am at which time a group photo was taken just prior to everyone heading out to their assignments.



Everyone was in place well in advance of the 9:00am start time. Approximately 75 runners and walkers made their way through the 3.1-mile course between 9:00am and 10:15am (approximately). Our volunteers provided a safe route for the runners/walkers, as well as many words of encouragement as they passed by. Many participants thanked our volunteers for helping to keep them safe, which is always nice to hear. After the last walkers passed by our team's last race marshal position (Wildwood @ Old Plank Trail), everyone headed back to the Village Hall for a short de-briefing.



During the de-briefing only one incident with a disgruntled motorist was reported. Fortunately, the motorist did not present any hazards to the race participants, only vulgar commentary. Following the de-briefing, many of our volunteers walked over to the Commons to participate in some of the post-race festivities. Special thanks to those that assisted with this event – well done!



TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

At 8:30am on Saturday, September 18, 2021, Alsip CERT hosted the State of Illinois Traffic Incident management (TIM) training. It was held at the Alsip Village Hall, 4500 W. 123rd Street, Alsip, IL. Thirteen members of the New Lenox CERT team arrived at the Alsip Village Hall approximately 8:15am. Before the class started, bakery donuts and drinks were provided (thanks Alsip CERT!).

Chuck Geraci gave the introduction to the class and introduced the two instructors: Alsip Fire Chief Tom Styczynski and Ed Forsythe, the Executive Director for professional Towing and Recovery Operations of Illinois.

The purpose of the training was to bring awareness to the dangers encountered by emergency responders working in or near traffic. IU a typical year, the number of responders struck by fatalities include 10 law enforcement, 4 fire personnel, 40 – 60 towing and recovery professionals, and several IDOT personnel. Three objectives of the training were:

1. Respond safely to the incident.
2. Safe, quick clearance.
3. Prompt, reliable, interoperable communications

Traffic Incident Management is anything that happens in traffic.

Videos were shown throughout the course to point out the dangers the responders face when called to a traffic incident. In 2015, there were 6,296,000 crash reports to police.

- 32,166 were fatalities
- 1,715,000 were injury crashes
- 4,548,000 were property damage only
- 174,000 NFPA reports of vehicle fires

Students learned about the “D” drivers who are killing us: **D**runk, **D**rugged, **D**rowsy, **D**istracted, or just plain **D**angerous.

Students were shown slides and videos of how responders can safely and quickly clear vehicles and debris off the street. Students were informed of laws that were passed to protect the responders and others on the road. Scott's Law (the “Move Over” Law) and Shib's Law (conditions needed to close a highway) were named after two men who were killed while responding to traffic incidents.

Other topics included the importance of people involved in a traffic incident, when calling for help, to be explicit when stating their location. This helps the responders to find them quickly. They should identify the specific geographic location of the incident, referencing highway mile markers, intersection or cross street, landmarks, etc. If they are on a ramp, they should say if they are at the top or bottom of the ramp. If the vehicle(s) involved in an incident are drivable and there are no injuries, they should be driven off the road to the shoulder or safe place as soon as possible

There were question and answer periods throughout the class. Much was gained by this class and our roads will be much safer as we put the information we learned into practice. Special thanks to our CERT members that attended this class and to Alsip CERT for hosting!



EVIDENCE SEARCH IN PERU, IL – SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

The New Lenox Search and Rescue Team was asked by the Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC), to participate in an Evidence Search that was scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2021 at 9:00am. The staging area was located at I & M Canal Park on “A” Street in Peru, IL, adjacent to the I & M Canal.

Eight members of our team met in the upper level parking lot of the Village Hall at 7:30am for the purpose of carpooling to the staging location. The team then left at 7:40am and arrived at the staging location a little more than an hour later.

At 9:00am a briefing was given by law enforcement and emergency management personnel. In short, volunteers were asked to search for evidence related to the missing Illinois State University student, Jelani Day. His body had been recovered on September 4th with a positive identification (through DNA) made some time thereafter.

Our eight team members were divided into two teams with additional volunteers added to our teams. Throughout the day, collectively our (New Lenox) teams completed five search segments. The terrain varied in the segments, but mostly consisted of wooded areas not far from the staging area. Search segments were given to the teams via SARTopo, which allowed SAR Managers to track the teams in real time.

Our teams returned to the staging area shortly after 4:00pm. After some hydration and a quick de-briefing, our team members signed-out and headed back to New Lenox. Everyone arrived back at the Village Hall at about 5:15pm. Special thanks to all of our team members that participated in this search!



MULTI-DISCIPLINE SAR TRAINING – SEPTEMBER 16, 2021



At 7:00pm on Thursday, September 16, 2021, members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Community Park District, 701 W. Haven Ave. for monthly training. The training started with a brisk ½ mile warm-up walk after which, everyone met at the (NEW) National Fitness Campaign’s Fitness Court (<https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/content-library>). This wonderful new addition is located at the corner of Haven Ave. & Gear Drive and includes a wide variety of exercises that can be done at 7 stations (Core, Squat, Push, Lunge, Pull, Agility and Bending). Team members made their way around the court and tried out the various stations and exercises. Everyone enjoyed the stations and were impressed with how many different exercises can be done on this court.



At 7:30pm those in attendance were divided into two teams – “Alpha” and “Bravo.” Everyone was provided with a walk-thru of the 11 stations that were set-up in advance of everyone’s arrival. The stations included:

- AMDR – wooded area between grass field and Old Plank Trail (adjacent to corn field).
- Critical Spacing (utilizing AMDR from wooded area).
- Efficiency Search at 220° to Old Plank Trail (starting at edge of corn field – western boundary).
- AMDR – grass field adjacent to the corn field.
- Critical Spacing (utilizing AMDR from grass field).
- Evidence Search in the grass field for a “gun” (black BB).
- Determine azimuth from fixed point to three landmarks.
- Flagging exercise in open field – place 6 flags, 6 paces apart, on a 10° heading.
- Locate an object / location with provided UTM Coordinates.
- Water rescue throw bag exercise. Each team member must accurately deploy throw bag(s) into designated target area.
- Team must demonstrate 3 types of carries – moving “Rescue Randy” to designated points.



In addition to the exercises, teams utilized radio communications when moving from one station to the next and when locating clues and “victims” during the searches. The teams did an excellent job with AMDR, demonstrating a couple different ways it can be done with essentially the same results. Critical spacing was excellent as well, but adjusted accordingly (smaller) by Crew Leaders during the Evidence Search. Both teams located the “victim” (Rescue Randy Jr. – mannequin) during the Efficiency Search *and* both teams located the gun during the Evidence Search. Team members did a nice job determining azimuths (47° for the peak of the New Lenox Police Department, 95° for the cupola of the New Lenox Village Hall, and 143° for the top / center of a lift in the Village Hall parking lot). Team members also demonstrated some “straight as an arrow” flag lines (10° heading toward Trinity Services, Inc.) Back azimuths (190°) were checked along the way. Both teams were given UTM coordinates and correctly located the objects in the New Lenox Commons utilizing their GPS units. With the August Water Safety / Shoreline Rescue Training still fresh in everyone’s minds, team members did a great job deploying the water rescue throw bags at that station. Lastly, team members performed 3 carries of Rescue Randy Sr. (165lb. training mannequin). They did a blanket carry, a portable litter carry and a backboard carry for a total distance of approximately 100 yards.



At 9:00pm a debriefing was held and each of the stations was discussed. In addition, some time was spent discussing some recent activations. The training concluded at 9:15pm. Special thanks to all of our team members that participated!

“RECYCLEPALOOZA” – SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

At 7:30am on Saturday, September 11, 2021 twelve New Lenox CERT volunteers met at the Spencer Campus, 1711 S. Spencer Road, for “Recyclepalooza.” This Annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & Recycling Event is organized by Will County Waste and Land Use / Will County Green and ShareFest New Lenox. It’s supported by the Village of New Lenox and New Lenox Township as well. The goal of this event is to encourage residents to bring their HHW, electronics, scrap wood, scrap metal, Styrofoam, (old) American flags, and donations (food, clothing, books, household goods) to this collection. Prior to the event, citizens made appointments at the Will County Green web site, which were in 15-minute increments (ex. 8:00am, 8:15am, 8:30am, etc...). This method really helps to control the flow of vehicles into the Spencer Campus. Hundreds made appointments from dozens of Will County communities, with New Lenox representing approximately 50% of all appointments.

Volunteers received a briefing before heading out to their assignments. The primary responsibility for our volunteers was traffic management within the Spencer Campus. Most of the traffic management locations were decision points for those coming to the event.



After determining what folks had in their vehicles (electronics, used motor oil, old car batteries, scrap wood, etc...) they were sent into a particular lane to be unloaded. In addition to our volunteers staffing these traffic management positions, our volunteers staffed the Styrofoam, scrap metal and used wood stations for the entirety of the event. The Styrofoam station included a semi with a 53’ trailer, one massive dumpster for the scrap metal, and four more for used wood.

Everyone did an excellent job with their assignments. The first crew assisted from 7:30am to 10:30am. “Shift change” was at 10:30am (to 1:30pm), where eleven volunteers assisted during this “shift.” The final “shift change” was at 1:30pm (to 3:30pm) where a total of six volunteers helped to close out the event. It was fortunate that things started to slow down a bit in the afternoon since we were a bit light on volunteers for this last “shift.” At approximately 3:15pm a debriefing was held with our final crew, some who had been there all day.

Special thanks to all of our volunteers who assisted with this event. Great job!



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

MULTI-AGENCY SAR TRAINING IN WARRENVILLE – SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

At 5:00pm on Saturday, September 11, 2021, six members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Village Hall in order to carpool to the monthly multi-agency training. The training, a night search, was being held at the St. James Farm in Warrenville, IL. All team members arrived at the location by 5:45pm.

Kim Gotte, from Kendall County SAR, started the exercise promptly at 6:00pm. She began by giving teams current updates for some of the more recent call-outs they had participated in. Then she discussed various search tools, such as using clip flags instead of tape for flanking. Once the sun began to set (6:45pm-7:00pm), Kim gave teams the scenario for training. A young man, "Chance," had gone fishing that morning and when he hadn't returned home, he had been reported missing by his wife. A physical description of "Chance" was given to teams, including height, weight, eye / hair color, and clothing description. It was also reported that he had taken a fishing pole, a blue tackle box and a black / blue backpack with him when he left. Kim gave teams a safety briefing regarding the location; thick brush, thorn bushes, uneven terrain and some water hazards were all within the search areas. Teams were also advised to use a lot of insect repellent. They were also informed that a drone would be in use during the exercise.

The group was then broken up into teams and all six NLSAR members, plus a seventh member from another agency, were assigned to team Bravo. They were tasked with searching section 113 - a very large, heavily wooded area. After completing AMDR, the team decided to search using straight north and south azimuths. They started in the northwest corner of their grid and immediately found themselves in dense trees, brush and rose bushes. After searching for approximately 2.5 hours and completing between 35-40% of their area, team members noticed something white in a tree. Upon closer inspection, they found that it was actually the male training aid "Chance. The team lead called their discovery into Search Command (SC) and were told to collect the training aid and continue searching the area. However, within 15 minutes, SC called all teams back to base as the training exercise had concluded.

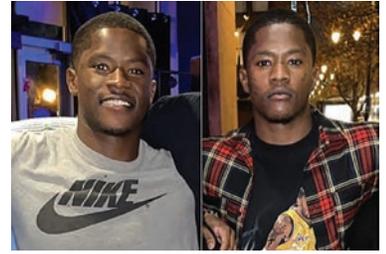
Once all teams had returned to command, Kim gave everyone a quick debrief of the evening. NLSAR members signed-out and travelled back to New Lenox. All members arrived at the Village Hall by 11:00pm. Special thanks to our six team members for attending this training and doing an excellent job!



SEARCH FOR MISSING ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT – SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

On Thursday, September 2, 2021 ISARC requested assistance on Saturday, September 4, 2021 regarding a recovery search for a 25-year-old male, from ISU, missing for a week. The staging area for this search was at LaSalle-Peru High School, 541 Chartres St., LaSalle, IL.

On Saturday, September 4, 2021, four New Lenox SAR Team members arrived at staging by 8:00am. By 8:30am, LaSalle County EMA Director Fred Moore introduced Sergeant Dennis Hocking from Peru and Detective Paul Jones from Bloomington. A brief description was shared, indicating the 25-year old Jelani (JJ) Day was last seen in Bloomington on August 24. He is 6'2", 180lbs, thin built. His car was found in a wooded area of Peru, minus its' license plate. His wallet was found along Rt. 6 in Peru. He possibly could be diabetic but that could not be confirmed. He had no known mental health issues. His clothing attire was unknown.



Bloomington, IL Police Department

Team deployments began by 8:40am. Our team was merged with two members from Will County. By 9:00am our team of six, "Delta," was driven to search segment adjacent to where the individual's car was discovered. This was a heavily wooded area, with steep inclines, a stream, and unknown fencing, all of which added difficulty to the search pattern which was adjusted as we encountered the terrain and obstacles. However, through frequent compass, GPS and SARTopo work, the team was comfortable reporting an 80% coverage. The team was transported back to staging by noon.

While rehabbing at staging, we were notified a body was discovered on the south bank of the Illinois River by one of the water teams. However, the body could not be identified and other areas still needed to be searched. One team member signed out.

By 1:00pm we were redeployed with five other searchers as Team "Juliet." We were transported to a wooded area with similar steep terrain as the morning. We completed this search segment by 2:00pm. We were then requested to search along the Illinois River. To save time, the team chose to walk approximately 5 minutes to the river and searched the pathway we walked. At the new search area, we were delivered life vests and throw bags. Four team members exchanged most of their SAR gear for life vests and throw bags to rock climb along the steep river bank. The other four team members cautiously moved along the ridge of the river, which was a train track, keeping a watchful eye on the team members below. An item on the train track was reported and collected by law enforcement. Once the search of the river bank was completed, the rock-climbing team rested and the other half of the team continued the search on the ridge of the river for approximately another ¾ mile. We all were then all transported back to staging by 4:00pm.

All other teams had been dismissed and Incident Command provided a briefing for Team Juliet. The team members signed-out and returned to New Lenox shortly after 5:00pm. Special thanks to our team members who participated in this search!

ASSIST OTTAWA POLICE WITH MISSING F/62 – AUGUST 28, 2021

At 8:23am on Saturday, August 23, 2021 Kim Gotte from the Illinois Search and Rescue contacted the New Lenox Search and Rescue (NLSAR) Team to request assistance with a search in Ottawa, IL. The Ottawa Police Department was looking for a F/62 who went into a cornfield for her dog and never came back out. The staging area for this search was designated as Blaine's Farm & Fleet, 4140 Columbus Street (Rt. 23) Ottawa, IL. A text message was sent to our team and a total of six team members responded to this mutual aid request.

Our first team member arrived at the staging area at 9:40am and by 10:30am all six were on scene. Our team members were split up between two teams and given assignments to search the cornfield. Essentially our team conducted two searches; one in the morning and one in the early afternoon. The morning search was done in one direction (south to north), through the corn, for a distance of approximately 2,000 feet. It should be noted that a recent storm caused moderate wind damage to the crop. As such, it made the search challenging because rather than the stalks being straight up, a significant portion of them were bent sideways. This caused team members to have to fight their way through the rows, sometimes crawling on the ground to get under the stalks. This was a very challenging task due to the heat, humidity and the physical effort that needed to be exerted.



Following the morning search, teams returned to the staging area to hydrate. Team assignments were then put together and it was decided that three teams would conduct the next search (a larger / longer section) from north to south. Teams were then driven to a drop-off point and lined up accordingly. Much like the morning search, searchers were spaced in rows, with the responsibility of searching the row they were walking in as well as 2-3 rows to the right and left. Within 10 minutes and approximately 100-150 yards into the field, the victim was discovered by searchers (deceased). Contact was made with Incident Command and law enforcement was directed to the scene at which time searchers exited the field. Each of the teams conducted short de-briefings and a short time later everyone was transported back to the staging area.

Our team members signed out, held a quick meeting, and headed back to New Lenox. Everyone was back at approximately 3:00pm. Although this was a very sad outcome, we are grateful that we could help bring closure to the victim's family. Special thanks to our team members that participated in this search.

ASSIST NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK AND SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL – AUGUST 25, 2021

At 10:00am on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 fourteen members of New Lenox CERT met in the rear parking lot of New Life Church, 500 Gougar Road, New Lenox, IL for the purpose of assisting with a food giveaway. This event was sponsored by the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) and Silver Cross Hospital, with the support of ShareFest and New Life Church. This food giveaway was referred to as a “Rx Mobile Market” with produce, milk, eggs, meat and other items. It was marketed by Silver Cross Hospital to their patients, but was also advertised beyond the hospital, thus making it available to anyone in need.

Everyone got right to work, starting with setting up traffic cones leading to the food distribution area. In addition, volunteers helped unload the NIFB truck, setting up tables / stations for the various items. Four volunteers directed vehicles into the parking lot and organized them into lines. As the vehicles were parked and waiting for the distribution to start at 11:00am, two of our volunteers handled registration, utilizing paperwork provided by Silver Cross Hospital. Once the final items were set out on the tables for distribution, a quick briefing was held and our volunteers took their places at the tables.

Starting at 11:00am, volunteers loaded vehicles with fresh produce, canned goods, frozen items and dairy products. The food distribution line was set up in such a manner that vehicles were stopped and loaded, then stopped and loaded once again. After vehicles were loaded and ready to go, one of our volunteers provided them with some literature from Silver Cross and removed the number (ex. 1 thru 150) from their windshield. Those coming through the line were friendly and many expressed their appreciation for the food as well as those volunteering on such a hot & humid day.

At approximately 12:15pm the event concluded when no food was remaining from the truck. A short de-briefing was held with our team members, as well as the ladies from the NIFB and Silver Cross Hospital. Two gentleman that were volunteers from the church also joined the de-briefing where various aspects of the event were discussed. Upon conclusion of the briefing, all volunteers were thanked for their time and efforts.

Great job team – well done!



Rx Mobile Market
August 25, 2021

FOOD BANK Together we are solving hunger
www.SolveHungerToday.org

NEW LIFE CHURCH
500 Gougar Rd., New Lenox
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FREE
Rx Mobile Market with produce, milk, eggs and meat.

For questions or to volunteer, contact:
Ms. Leslie Newbon at (815) 300-1096.

NORTHERN FOOD BANK | ShareFest | NewLife Church | SILVER CROSS

www.SolveHungerToday.org



CERT WATER SAFETY / SHORELINE RESCUE TRAINING – AUGUST 24, 2021

At 5:30pm on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 several members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the New Lenox Community Park District's Hibernia Park for Water Safety / Shoreline Rescue Training. Hibernia Park, located at Eagle Circle & Blarney Road, has a number of amenities, including a 9-acre stocked lake. As such, this is a great location for our team to conduct this type of training. From 5:30pm to 6:00pm, the planning team set-up the stations that would be utilized for this training. Team members arrived between 6:00pm and 6:30pm, checking in at the pavilion and then walking over to the south side of the lake where the stations were located.

Tricia Pakosz welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of the training, including the stations that would be incorporated into the training.

Joe Frigo then discussed PFDs (Personal Flotation Devices), including the different types and the importance of having them fully zipped / buckled. In addition, those in attendance learned about strainers and entrapments. Joe explained these dangers and, with the assistance of Jerry Reeves, demonstrated the "emergency swim position." While lying on the ground, Jerry lifted his legs off the ground with his knees slightly bent, his toes were pointed upward, his arms were out to his sides and his head was lifted slightly off the ground. Joe explained that if the current takes you toward a hazard such as a strainer, flip over onto your stomach and get into the swim position. Swim as hard as you can and try to propel / launch yourself over the object so the current doesn't take you under the object. Joe also briefly talked about water rescue throw bags, including the different types that are available. Everyone learned about the different types of throws, including underhand, overhand, and sidearm. In addition to the three basic throws, Joe explained that sometimes it's necessary to throw the line when it's out of the bag (ex. missed on the first throw and the victim is still floating down stream). Joe showed everyone how to coil the line so it can be thrown quickly to the victim. Right before deploying the line, yell "rope, rope, rope" to the victim to get their attention and let them know it's coming. The target (for the bag / line) should be the between the victim's feet and head. Joe also demonstrated how to stuff the water rescue throw bag using the 1-person and 2-person methods.

Tricia then spent some time discussing the proper method of removing a drowning victim from the water. Tricia noted that if multiple people (rescuers) are available, several roles should be filled. This includes someone yelling for help and calling 9-1-1 if possible. Two people should keep an eye on the victim's location so as to not lose sight of them. This can be accomplished by observing the victim from two vantage points to form an "X." If there are enough rescuers, someone should assume the role of "safety officer" to keep watch on everything that's occurring, including the safety of the rescuers. Another person, perhaps the person that dialed 9-1-1, can serve as the person that directs EMS personnel to the scene. One person can enter the water and approach the victim from behind to ensure that the victim does not grab on to the rescuer and take him / her under as well. Once the rescuer gets the victim close to shore, others can be there to help carry the victim out of the water. Tricia also talked about giving the victim "rescue breaths" and starting CPR. Tricia provided a quick review of CPR as well.



Everyone in attendance was then divided into 5 teams (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, and Echo) for the purpose of rotating through the following stations: 1. Moving Target (Mary Ann Cody in a kayak to simulate a victim in rapid water) near vegetation. 2. Moving Target (Brian Mejdrich in a kayak to simulate a victim in rapid water) without vegetation. 3. Stationary Target (Lisa Murphy to simulate a drowning victim). 4. Homemade Water Rescue Throw Devices (water jugs with paracord demonstrated by Rich DeVault). 5. Water Extraction / Carry / CPR (Jerry Reeves in the water to simulate a drowning victim along with Tricia Pakosz and Scott Thompson facilitating the station). The stations were set-up to rotate every 15 minutes starting at 6:50pm.



Joe Frigo also assisted at the station as did members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team who had just completed this training a week earlier. Our team members did an excellent job at each of the stations and the station facilitators did an excellent job providing additional instruction and tips. During the training, a careful eye was kept on the sky, radar, and weather forecast. After 4 rotations, a decision was made to get everyone out of the water, pack up, and head back to the pavilion for a de-briefing.

At approximately 8:00pm Tricia Pakosz led the abbreviated de-briefing (due to the rapidly approaching thunderstorm). Dan Martin thanked the instructors, station facilitators, and everyone that attended the training. Everyone was then quickly dismissed in an effort to get everyone home before the storm.



SEARCH AND RESCUE / WATER SAFETY / SHORELINE RESCUE TRAINING – AUGUST 18, 2021



At 6:30pm on Wednesday August 18, 2021 fifteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Community Park District’s Hibernia Park for annual Water Safety/Shoreline Rescue Training. Hibernia Park, located at Eagle Circle & Blarney Road, has a number of amenities, including a 9-acre stocked lake. For the purpose of this training, the lake made a great location for this type of training.



Tricia Pakosz and Joe Frigo took the lead for this training. They were assisted by Lisa Murphy, Mary Ann Cody and Jerry Reeves. In advance of this training, Tricia sent several water safety/shoreline rescue videos to the team. These videos provided a foundation for this training and Tricia referenced them during her presentation to the team. Tricia emphasized the importance of approaching and rescuing a drowning victim from his/her back, rather than approaching them



from the front. This is to avoid a victim latching onto the rescuer, which could create an even more dangerous situation. Tricia also talked about how to extract a victim from the water, including immediately starting CPR.

Joe provided an overview on what to do if you fell in water with a strong current. Joe discussed and demonstrated positioning (on your back, feet pointed downstream, arms extended outward and head slightly up out of the water). This position will help a victim maneuver over obstacles in the water and conserve energy until the water slows or assistance is provided. Joe also demonstrated proper water rescue throw bag techniques including underhand, overhand and side arm throws. Joe also noted where to throw the bag to a victim who is caught in a rapid current. Ideally, throw the bag beyond the victim’s

body, between their feet and head. Joe, with the assistance of Jerry, demonstrated this including how the rescuer should hold the line when bringing the victim into the shore.

Tricia divided everyone into two teams. One team practiced the throw bags with a stationary target (Lisa - in the water) and with a moving target (Mary Ann - in the water, in a kayak). The other team practiced rescuing an unconscious drowning victim (Jerry – in the water), including getting him out of the water and onto land. After about 25 minutes the teams switched stations.



Following the hands-on portion of the training, Tricia and Joe covered a few additional areas. These areas primarily included equipment (PFDs, knives, lights) and knots that can be utilized in water rescue (figure 8 & bowline). The training wrapped up at about 8:15pm at which time everyone walked back to the parking lot to put away their equipment.

Special thanks to Tricia, Joe, Lisa, Mary Ann and Jerry for providing the instruction. Also, thanks to everyone that attended this valuable training!



SAR TRAINING / SHORELINE RESCUE – AUGUST 14, 2021

At 7:45 am on Saturday, August 14th, three members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue team met at the New Lenox Village Hall to drive to the Chicago Marine Safety Station next to Navy Pier in downtown Chicago. The Chicago Marine Safety Station is home of assets for the Chicago Police Marine Unit, Chicago Fire Department, U.S. Coast Guard and Illinois Department of Natural Resources for use with lakefront search and rescue. Close to 40 people from Chicago CERT, Hanover Township Emergency Services and SAR units from Kendall County, Carol Stream, Elk Grove Village, Aurora and Palatine joined the New Lenox members for this month's multi-agency training on Shoreline Safety.



Upon arrival shortly before 9:00am, attendees signed a waiver form and gathered next to Lake Michigan for presentations given by Rich Frizelis of Chicago CERT, Captain Kevin Hitney of the Chicago Police Marine Unit and Chief Jason Locke from the Chicago Fire Department. Each one gave overviews of open water safety procedures, equipment and personnel utilized in patrolling the rivers and harbors of Chicago and Cook County as well as lakefront territory from Evanston to the Indiana border. They described their agency's involvement with looking for missing boats, people, pets and evidence. Stress was placed on knowing the point of entry into the water in cases of people or pets. A minimum of 40 people are activated per incident with response time being no more than 5 minutes. All organizations have water vehicles of their own – some equipped with sonars and robotics – and a few have helicopters. Among all departments, there are 5 dive units with their response time being less than 10 minutes and teams of divers rotating in and out of the water every 20 minutes.

Kim Gotte of the Illinois Search and Rescue Council, followed with a talk on the role of SAR in assisting with water rescue. She advised the group to use the 'Reach' or 'Throw' methods rather than go in the water. Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are to be worn within 15 feet of open water. PFDs should be lightweight, fit snugly and able to hold or hook a dive knife, light and whistle. Throw bags provide a valuable tool for rescue efforts; ideally, they should have a thicker rope (at least 1/2") and be 75' in length. Kim and Rich proceeded to demonstrate proper throwing techniques for throw bags which include overhand (like with a football), side-arm and underhand (like with a softball, bowling ball or bags). When throwing, your aim should be to a point past and over the head of the person you are throwing the bag to so they can easily catch the rope. Do not tie your end of the rope to yourself; instead wrap the end around your palm or thumb (not the wrist) in case you have to let go of it. Once the person in the water has grabbed hold of the rope / bag, rescuers should place their end of the rope behind their body for support when pulling the person to shore. One should be aware of water temperature as the colder the water is the quicker fine motor skills and circulation can be hindered. Hypothermia can set in as soon as 10 – 15 minutes and the person in the water may not be able to grasp the rope, so time is of the essence. Once the person in the water has taken hold of the rope, they should keep it on the inside shoulder of their body or the side the shoreline is on so as not to flip.



At about 10:30am, attendees were given an opportunity to practice with the throw bags. Half put on PFDs and walked to the helipad alongside of the lake to toss throw bags to divers from the Chicago Fire Department who were in the water. The other half stayed on land in the parking area and threw bags into hula hoops placed on the ground. After everyone had a chance to exercise their skills a few times, each side switched for a turn to throw in the other setting. Everybody was able to get at least one throw in before practice was cut short due to an emergency at nearby Burnham Harbor and resources needed to be deployed. All helped to reset the throw bags for their next use.



Everyone moved to the walkway near the boatyard to view some of the boats used for operations and listen to information about them. Around noon, Chicago CERT provided lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies, fruit snacks, water and Gatorade for all to enjoy. Participants ate, mingled with one another and asked questions of various crew representatives on site with a small group touring one of the Chicago Fire department boats. After assisting with cleaning up the grounds, the training ended at 1:00pm and New Lenox SAR members drove back to Village Hall arriving just after 2:00pm.

Special thanks to our team members that attended the training and were kind enough to provide this great summary of the training!

ASSIST WITH BILLY IDOL CONCERT – AUGUST 7, 2021

At 4:30pm on Thursday, August 7, 2021 twenty-six New Lenox CERT volunteers met at the New Lenox Village Hall for the Billy Idol Concert Briefing. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them in advance for helping out with the concert. Dan provided an overview of the concert, this being the third and final of the Triple Play Concert Series. The overview included information such as: Location of gates, what's allowed & not allowed into the venue, opening bands & times, locations where smoking is permitted, locations for accessible parking, description of where food vendors would be located, general safety information and more.

Following the overview, volunteers were given assignments along with additional information regarding each of the locations. The assignments also included a piece on where to go in case the Shelter Plan was activated. In addition to assignments, Dan summarized the concert's Incident Action Plan, including a preview of what all of the concert tickets and passes looked like. Following the briefing everyone gathered for a group photo and then headed out into the Commons at 4:50pm.

Between 5:00pm and 5:30pm our volunteers did some final planning at their respective locations in preparation for the gates opening at 5:30pm. When that occurred, guests quickly made their way to the lawn to find ideal location for their "bag" chairs, which soon covered the lawn. Our volunteers had dozens and dozens of conversations with guests regarding placement of the chairs and the importance of keeping the aisles open throughout the concert. Guests were receptive and appreciative as well.

From 5:30pm to 9:00pm guests enjoyed food and beverages while listening to the opening bands that did a great job warming up the crowd for Billy Idol. Guests were still streaming into the venue right up until 9:00pm, which is about the time that Billy Idol took the stage. Our volunteers did an excellent job of keeping the aisles open in case first responders needed to move about the venue for any emergencies. Volunteers in other areas around the venue also did an excellent job with their respective assignments.

The last song ended at 10:30pm at which time everyone started heading to the exits (gates #1, #2, and #3). Our volunteers did an excellent job pointing folks in the right direction and ensuring that no alcoholic beverages were taken outside the venue. Egress took 30 minutes or so and at 11:00pm the detail concluded and everyone headed to the Community Room at the Village Hall for the concert de-briefing.

Special thanks to our volunteers that assisted with this concert as well as all the 2021 Triple Play Concerts. Everyone did a great job keeping guests safe for each of the shows, which was greatly appreciated by Mayor Tim Baldermann, our Village Trustees and Village Staff. Thank you!



ASSIST WITH NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 3, 2021

At 5:30pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 twenty-three New Lenox CERT members arrived in the upper level parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing related to National Night Out. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them in advance for assisting with National Night Out activities that would be taking place in the New Lenox Commons from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Following the briefing and determination of assignments, everyone walked over to the event to assist.

Our volunteers assisted in a variety of areas from 6:00pm to 8:00pm as requested. At 8:00pm a de-briefing was held at the lower level main entrance of the Village Hall. Assignments were discussed and everyone was thanked for their time and efforts. The de-briefing concluded at 8:15pm at which time everyone headed for home.



MISSING MALE / 82 Y.O.A. GURNEE, IL – JULY 31, 2021

On Saturday, July 31, 2021, at 1:22pm, the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team was requested by THE Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) to assist in the search for an 82-year old man with dementia. The subject was reported missing from his residence at a memory care facility in Gurnee, IL. The staging for this incident was located at Lakeland Church, 440 Hunt Club Road in Gurnee, IL.

One member of the New Lenox SAR Team arrived at staging at 2:45pm. Volunteers were briefed that the man had been missing since the day before our call-out. The man was wearing a maroon sweater, blue jeans, and black NIKE sandals. In addition, canines had been brought out to search that day.

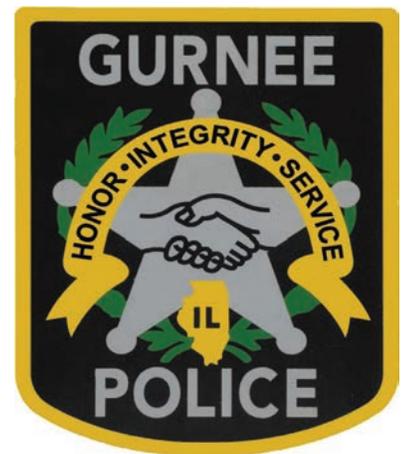
There were also team members from Will County, Kendall County, Naperville, and Wauconda EMA (approximately 12 searchers at the onset). Volunteers were divided into two teams, Alpha and Bravo.

The search areas included surrounding wooded areas, some parks, marshy areas, and the perimeters around ponds.

Our New Lenox SAR member was assigned to Team Bravo. Team Bravo started searching their assigned segment at approximately 4:15pm. The search area was mostly wooded, along with some tall grassy areas and a pond. At one point, there was a steep drop-off with a swamp at the bottom. Because of safety issues, the team was unable to complete the entire search segment. Team Bravo's Crew Leader requested a drone to cover the area that was impassable and the request was granted.

Team Bravo finished their search area approximately 7:50pm and returned to the Staging Area. Our team member signed-out approximately 8:00pm and returned to New Lenox at approximately 9:30pm.

**On Sunday, August 1st our team was notified that the missing man was found deceased. There were no additional details.*



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

ASSIST SHAREFEST WITH FOOD GIVEAWAY – JULY 28, 2021

At 3:00pm on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 eight New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted ShareFest with a Food Giveaway at New Life Church, 500 Gougar Road, New Lenox, IL. The volunteers arrived at 3:00pm, which was an hour in advance of the event as assistance was needed with set-up.

In addition to the ShareFest Food Giveaway, our volunteers assisted New Life Church Food Pantry volunteers with their food distribution that started shortly after 3:00pm. Volunteers assisted in the following areas:

- Traffic management, including staging vehicles and directing them into the food distribution line.
- Handing out and collecting numbers, which corresponded with the quantity of food being requested.
- Loading food into vehicles.

There was a steady flow of vehicles until 6:30pm, which coincided with handing out the last remaining boxes until there were none. Those that took advantage of this wonderful opportunity received fresh produce, deli meats, coffee, chips and more. It's estimated that approximately 400 vehicles came through the food distribution line.

Special thanks to our volunteers that answered the call to assist on relatively short notice. As always, they did a terrific job and we are thankful for their willingness to help others.



ASSIST WITH FOOD GIVEAWAY – AUGUST 7, 2021

At 9:30am on Saturday, August 7, 2021 eleven New Lenox CERT volunteers met at Christ Mission Church, 22811 S Cedar Road, Manhattan, IL to assist with a FREE Food Giveaway. The event was sponsored by Hands of Hope of Illinois and ShareFest, with the gracious support of Christ Mission Church



Our volunteers jumped right in and started helping with set-up of the food and the two food distribution lanes. Our volunteers worked hand-in-hand with some volunteers from Hands of Hope as well as Christ Mission Church. Woodie Stiltner, Hand of Hope provided direction, guidance and briefing. Pastor Keith from Christ Mission Church thanked everyone for their assistance and led everyone in a prayer just before food distribution lanes were opened.



ALL volunteers did a wonderful job loading vehicles with hand sanitizer, water, apple juice, cereal Cliff bars, cheese, meats, tortillas, bread, produce, chips and more. The vehicles came through the lanes and the volunteers did an efficient and effective job loading them at each station.



Several hundred vehicles came through the lanes throughout the morning and into the early afternoon. Our last volunteers finished up at approximately 1:30pm.

Special thanks to our volunteers for doing yet another terrific job at a good giveaway. We appreciate all of you for giving your time and talents to help others!



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

ZZ TOP CONCERT – JULY 23, 2021

At 4:30pm on Friday, July 23, 2021 twenty-five members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing related to the ZZ Top Concert. Everyone in attendance was provided with a copy of the Community Event Log, which included important pieces of information relative to this concert, as well as assignments. In addition, radios were provided for those that did not have their own as well as ear pieces for those that had assignments closer to the stage. Ear plugs were also made available to those who wished to use them.



During the briefing, volunteers learned information such as: Expected attendance, gate(s) opening time, opening act(s) start times, number & location of food vendors, parking locations (handicapped, food vendors, VIP, bands), items prohibited in the Commons, items allowed in the Commons, where smoking is permitted, ticket & beer sale locations, where chairs and blankets are permitted, and safety considerations. In addition to the overview, volunteers learned about their respective assignments. These assignments included a variety of responsibilities throughout the venue. A few minutes was also spent discussing the concert's Incident Action Plan (IAP), which included staffing of shelter locations for severe weather or other emergency that required sheltering of concert attendees. Volunteers also had a look at tickets and passes for this particular concert. Following a quick group photo in the Council Chambers, everyone headed out to their assignments at 4:55pm.



Our volunteers walked over to the Commons and were in place at 5:00pm. This gave them 30 minutes before the gates opened to get the "lay of the land." The lines for this concert stretched around the Commons from both gates 1 & 3, which was a good indication of how excited folks were for this concert. As planned, the gates opened at 5:30pm at which time guests headed out to the lawn to find the perfect location for viewing. As time passed, the venue continued to fill up with people that were excited to hear live music while enjoying good food and beverages. The opening acts were excellent and as the sun began to set, there was a lot of energy and anticipation for ZZ Top.



ZZ Top took the stage shortly after 9:00pm and everyone stood as they played many of their big hits. Our volunteers continued their duties at their respective assignments throughout the concert, which concluded at about 10:15pm. As guests made their way to the exits, our volunteers staffed the gates to ensure no alcoholic beverages were brought outside the venue and to direct folks onto sidewalks to keep them safe from vehicular traffic. By 11:00pm there were only a few stragglers left in the venue at which time our team called it a night.

A de-briefing was held in the Community Room after the concert, which included food and beverages to show appreciation for our awesome volunteers. After a long hot day, it was nice to relax a bit and just hang out. Special thanks to our incredible volunteers, many who had worked all day, for assisting with this concert. WE APPRECIATE YOU!



HUMAN BONE IDENTIFICATION AND EVIDENCE PRESERVATION FOR SAR – JULY 10, 2021

At 8:00am on Saturday, July 10, 2021 three members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team departed from the New Lenox Village Hall for the purpose of attending Multi-Agency SAR Training. At 8:45am our team members arrived at the Harris Forest Preserve, 10460 Rt. 71, Yorkville, IL for training on Human Bone Identification and A Crime Scene Overview.

After opening remarks by Kim Gotte, there were two presentations that began shortly after 9:00am.

The first was on human bone identification, presented by Jacquie Purcell, the Kendall County Coroner. She explained that if you learn what the 206 human bones in the body look like, there would be no need to learn any animal bones in order to differentiate between human and animal. After explaining how the structure between human bone and animal bone is a bit different, she walked through the distinguishing characteristics for most of the human bones. This was done in a very interactive manner as she started with the head and worked through the different skeletal groups. In order to further illustrate what attendees had learned, she presented two case studies from past investigations. She also gave us the opportunity to physically examine several of the bones from one of the cases.



The second presentation was on Evidence Preservation for Search and Rescue, by Justin Kness of the Sycamore PD. He discussed how to successfully secure, collect and maintain evidence. The primary concern, besides scene safety, is to ensure that the evidence is collected and protected in the best manner possible to ensure that it's usable in an investigation. The main takeaway was that the best practice is to ask the law enforcement officer on scene how they would like all evidence handled.

After performing a post-activity wellness check and taking a few pictures, the New Lenox SAR members departed around 1:00pm, returning home shortly before 2:00pm.

Special thanks to our team members for attending this valuable training!



DISASTER SIMULATION AT (OLD) WALONA MOTEL – JULY 1, 2021



At 2:00pm on Thursday, July 1, 2021 our friends from MABAS dropped off three crates of training mannequins. Each crate contained approximately 10 mannequins. At 3:00pm several members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the (old) Walona Motel, 700 E. Lincoln Highway, New Lenox, IL for the purpose of setting-up training that was scheduled to begin at 6:00pm. *It should be noted that the Walona Motel was an abandoned structure that was slated for demolition starting on July 6th. The motel had 29 rooms, plus an office area, which also served as a residence. This location will be the future site of a Lenny’s Gas N’ Wash, which is scheduled to open by Christmas, 2021.



The planning team for this event worked right up until 6:00pm setting-up this exercise. Set-up included placing mannequins in motel rooms & the office area, including placing a medical condition card (for the purpose of triage) with each mannequin. Depending on the room / setting, motel room furniture was placed on top of the “victim” for the purpose of making it a bit more challenging for team members. In addition to placement of the training mannequins, smoke machines were placed in three (empty) rooms. When turned on, smoke could be seen emitting from the windows. For the purpose of the exercise, planners wanted the teams to notice the smoke while conducting a damage assessment and size-up of the structure.



At 6:00pm approximately 45 members of New Lenox CERT and 4 members of Alsip CERT were at staging. Everyone signed-in and awaited a briefing, which was held shortly after 6:00pm near the staging area. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program



Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this extra / impromptu training that had come together in the span of two days. Dan explained the scenario, which included a severe weather event / tornado that had come through the area and caused significant damage to the motel. CERT was asked to conduct a damage assessment, search for victims, triage victims, treat victims, transport victims, set-up a treatment area, etc... Included in the briefing was a SAFETY component, which included watching out for sharp objects and trip hazards that would likely be found in the motel rooms. Everyone was provided an opportunity to wear a mask to protect them from dust or airborne particles contained in the rooms.



Following the briefing, an Incident Commander, Assistant Incident Commander, Scribe and Logistics Officer (trailer / supplies) was chosen for the exercise. The Incident Commander got right to work and divided everyone into EIGHT teams that stood by in the staging area. Some of the first assignments that were given included an exterior damage assessment of the structures as well as an initial search of the property. As planned, teams noticed the smoke emitting from the rooms and victims were located on the property outside the motel. Search assignments were then given to teams and included searching 1-3 motel rooms as well as the office. As the searches were underway, a select group of CERT members with medical backgrounds led others in setting up a treatment area.



Teams did an excellent job finding the victims, uncovering them from debris, triaging them, treating them (when “immediate” injuries were noted), and transporting them to the treatment area. It should be noted that teams were also provided with breaching equipment (pry bars, hammers) as many of the bathrooms were intentionally nailed shut to simulate structural damage. This also provided team members with the opportunity to practice breaching, which in terms of training, we rarely have an opportunity to do.

The exercise concluded at 8:30pm after all of the victims had been located and transported to the treatment area. Everyone helped by breaking down the treatment area, including placing supplies back in their containers and returning the training mannequins to their crates. Supplies were then returned to the CERT trailer where everyone assisted the Logistics Officer who ensured that everything was returned to its proper location.

A de-briefing was then conducted, which included providing everyone (Incident Command Staff, Team Leaders, Team Members) an opportunity to discuss the positives, as well as the shortcomings of the exercise. One of the lessons learned from this exercise is that we have to do a better job of ensuring that teams have the necessary supplies (triage tape, dressings, bandages, splinting material, etc...) when they deploy for their assignments. In fact, one team member offered to write a Standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P.), including a supply list. The debriefing concluded shortly after 9:00pm at which time everyone safely departed from the property.

Special thanks to the team members that assisted with set up, MABAS for the use of the mannequins, and to New Lenox Public Works who took the mannequins off of the truck (and back on the next day) with a front-end loader. Lastly, thank you to those team members who participated in this exercise, which was an extremely unique opportunity for our team. Great job by all!

Additional Information

Daniel Martin

Safe Community Coordinator

Phone: 815-462-6493

Fax: 815-462-6469

Email: dmartin@newlenox.net



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<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

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

The next Basic CERT Course (New Lenox CERT Class #17) will start on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:30pm. The classes will be two hours (6:30pm - 8:30pm) on Tuesday nights for seven weeks. Following the last Tuesday evening class (October 19th), the Final Exercise and Graduation will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 8:30am to 12:30pm. For additional information about New Lenox CERT or to register for a future class, contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, at (815) 462-6493 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net.

Congratulations to the following classes:

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

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

SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING AT JOLIET ARMY TRAINING AREA – JULY 15, 2021

At 6:30pm on Thursday, July 15, 2021 thirteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the Joliet Army Training Center for monthly training. Team members entered through Gate 32 and assembled on the access road approximately ¼ mile south of Arsenal Road. Joe Frigo and Terry Hartigan were the leads for this particular training, which incorporated a K-9 search with Rich DeVault’s German Shepherd “Jake.” Joe provided the overview and scenario since Terry was the “victim” and was hidden in the woods approximately ¾ of a mile away from the staging area.



Following Joe’s briefing everyone in attendance was divided into two teams, “Alpha” and “Bravo.” Each team selected their Team Leader who, per “Search Command” led their team on an Initial Search. The Initial Searches were done on roads that were to the east of the staging area, which were approximately 1-mile loops. Both teams found “clues” along the way that were related to the “missing soldier” scenario. Following the completion of the Initial Searches, teams met at a pre-designated location and were given their next assignments.

At this point Scott Thompson was assigned to Rich DeVault and his K-9 “Jake” who used an article of clothing (from Terry) to begin his search. Teams Alpha and Bravo delayed their start, giving the K-9 Team plenty of lead time and space. “Jake” did an excellent job tracking and followed a scent down to one of the outdoor ranges. From there, “Jake” tracked west toward a wooded area near a building that’s used for gas / gas mask training. The scent was followed down a trail and to a wooded area where the “victim” (Terry) was located. Teams Alpha and Bravo were notified, the exercise concluded, and a short debriefing was held in the general vicinity of where he was located.

Following the debriefing it was learned that the teams missed two small clues during the Initial Searches so the teams went back and walked the area once again. The clues were then located and everyone headed



back to the initial meeting location where everyone’s vehicles were parked. Another short debriefing/discussion was held and everything wrapped up just before 9:00pm.

Special thanks to Joe, Terry, Rich and of course “Jake” for doing a great job with this training. Also, thanks to everyone that came out and participated!

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