

Village of New Lenox

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

NEW LENOX CERT MONTHLY TRAINING (VIA ZOOM) – JUNE 24, 2020

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 sixty members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met (via Zoom videoconferencing) for monthly training. This month's training was more along the lines of a meeting and an opportunity to review where we've been, where we're at, and where we're going during COVID-19.

Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Dan then introduced and thanked the Team Leaders for their support and leadership of the team. Following the opening remarks, the following, in summary, was discussed:

- Business Patrols at 18 locations throughout the Village from March 22nd thru May 24th. Seventy-five volunteers collectively assisted for a total of 2,296 hours. Preventative watches resulted in ZERO incidents at any locations while CERT volunteers were present.
- Training
 - March 23, 2020 training (Building Searches) was cancelled.
 - April 30, 2020 training (New Disaster Psychology) was done via Zoom.
 - May 19, 2020 training (Basic Land Navigation) was done via Zoom.
 - June 11, 2020 additional training (Question, Persuade and Refer) was done via Zoom.
 - June 24, 2020 training / meeting done via Zoom.
 - July 27, 2020 training - it was agreed upon that we would do an in-person training. The Training Task Group will meet in the weeks to come to plan the training pursuant to "State of Illinois Phase 4 Guidelines for Reopening."
- Community Events
 - March 22, 2020 – Assist Lions Club at the VFW was cancelled.
 - March 26, 2020 – Operation Lifesaver was cancelled
 - May 2, 2020 – Triple Play Concert Series Ticket Sales was cancelled.
 - May 3, 2020 – Loyalty Day Parade was cancelled.
 - May 16, 2020 - NLSA #122 PTO 5K was cancelled.
 - May 19, 2020 – Mental Health First Aid class was cancelled.
 - June 4, 2020 - Chasing the Sun 5K was cancelled.
 - June 18, 2020 - Trinity Triumph 5K was cancelled.
 - Play Day in the Commons is cancelled.
 - 4th of July Parade (New Lenox CERT members honored). Saturday, July 4, 2020 / 11:00am start on Cedar Road (Loyalty Day Parade Route). Those in attendance were reminded to register at the link previously sent via email.
 - Triple Play Concerts
 - August 8th Billy Idol Concert is cancelled.
 - August 29th Dennis DeYoung – tentatively planned.
 - September 12th ZZ Top – tentatively planned.
 - National Night Out (rescheduled) Tuesday, October 6, 2020 / 6:00pm to 8:00pm
 - Christmas in the Commons (weekends starting Saturday, December 5, 2020)
- Additional Training
 - FEMA's Emergency Management Institute - Independent Study Program
IS-317.a Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team (*2 volunteer hours for training will be given) <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-317.a>
IS-315.a CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS) (*2 volunteer hours for training will be given) <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-315.a>
 - University of Utah, School of Medicine, Division of Occupational & Environmental Health's, Online 2020 CERT Training (*12 volunteer hours for training will be given)
<https://medicine.utah.edu/rmcoeh/about-us/outreach/cert.php>



Our Core Principles:

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

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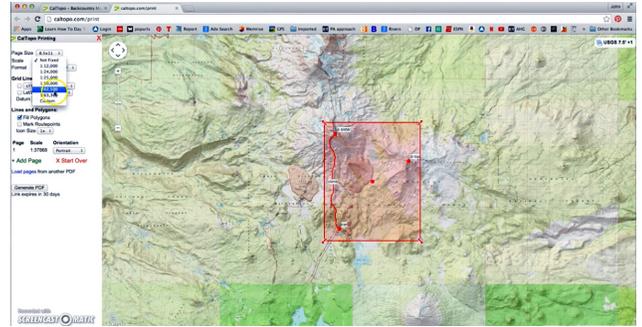
- CERT Professional Development Series (Under Development)
 - Partnership between the National CERT Association, FEMA National and FEMA Region IX, with support from CERT leaders / trainers across the country.
 - CERT Train-the-Trainer – series of webinars that cover the training modules in the CERT Train-the-Trainer Course.
 - CERT Program Manager – series of webinars that cover the training modules in the CERT Program Manager Course.
 - CERT Basic – series of short training videos demonstrating key skills that are taught during the CERT Course.
- CERT Class #16
 - Scheduled to begin Thursday, September 3, 2020. The class is scheduled for Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm thru Thursday, October 15, 2020 in the Community Room at the Village Hall. Final Exercise and Graduation on Saturday, October 17, 2020. **There is a conflict in the Community Room on October 15th and 17th due to early voting / general election. As such, an alternative location will be needed on those dates.*
 - Weighing Options
 - In-person class, just like classes #1 thru #15?
 - University of Utah, School of Medicine’s Online Training (12-hours, then a 4-hour practical)?
 - Hybrid of the above (example: hold an in-person class and allow others to complete the University of Utah training by October 15th. Then, everyone comes together for the October 17th practical?
- Updated CERT Basic Class Curriculum
 - New CERT Materials <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
- 2020 National CERT Conference
 - Rescheduled for July 12 – 17, 2020 in Springfield, MO <http://2020nationalcertconference.com/>
- CERT Train-the-Trainer
 - April, 2020 Class was cancelled and will be rescheduled.
- 2020 Prairie State CERT Challenge
 - The event will NOT be held in person at the Cook County Department of Health in Oak Forest, IL due to COVID-19. Please save the date of Saturday, October 24, 2020 for a video conference-type training in lieu of the Prairie State CERT Challenge.
- New Lenox CERT Newsletter
 - April, 2020 Issue <https://www.newlenox.net/files/documents/04-2020CERTSARNewsletter1352064308040120PM.pdf>
 - July, 2020 Issue (Coming Soon)
- New Lenox CERT Social Media
 - Facebook Page - 1,436 “Like” our page and 1,531 “Follow” our page. Please “Like” our page and share with others. Here’s the link: <https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT>
 - Twitter <https://twitter.com/NewLenoxCERT>
- Online Calendar – Dan thanked Carrie Williams for creating and maintaining the team’s online calendar, which lists all training and community events.
- CERT Association of Illinois
 - Currently 47 participating organizations, with almost 80 members. Continually seeking to identify teams and members. Recruitment efforts are ongoing, especially in Central and Southern, Illinois.
 - Currently using a geocoding program (McDonough County EMA / Western Illinois University) to track CERTs and members.
 - The Association is utilizing “Basecamp” as a message board, email system, and as a location to archive meeting agendas, meeting minutes and newsletters.
 - Facebook Page has 474 “Likes” and 498 “Followers” as of June 19, 2020. Please “Like” the page and share with others. Here’s the link: <https://www.facebook.com/CERTAssociationofIllinois/>
 - Web Site (Under Development)
 - Newsletter
 - Training Committee
 - Prairie State CERT Challenge
 - CERT Train-the-Trainer
 - Quarterly Training
 - Videoconference Training
 - Annual Training Conference
 - Bylaws
 - Interim Board of Directors

The meeting wrapped-up with a short Q & A. Special thanks for everyone that attended and to those that offered some excellent suggestions for our program!

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

NEW LENOX SAR TRAINING / SEARCH AND RESCUE MAPPING TECHNOLOGY – JUNE 23, 2020

At 6:30pm on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, twelve members of New Lenox SAR participated in a videoconference that was hosted by Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency. Due to COVID-19, the training on Search and Rescue Mapping Technology was presented via Zoom.



Kim welcomed everyone and started her presentation shortly after 6:30pm.

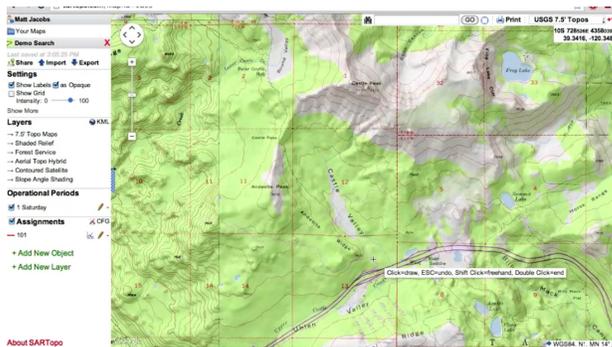
Kim presented the material via PowerPoint and also added live demonstrations via the Internet. Kim explained how Search and Rescue Management personnel can efficiently utilize mapping technology during a ground search operation. Examples of HOW mapping technology can aid SAR managers include:

- Produce a map of the overall search area
- Determine search areas / segments
- Print paper maps for planning purposes, initial briefing, and search assignments for field teams
- Download search tracks from GPS devices
- Tracking clues located by field searchers

Web mapping programs utilized during the presentation included:

- SARTopo <https://sartopo.com/map>
- Google Earth <https://www.google.com/earth/>

Kim noted that the utilization of mapping technology is definitely a perishable skill. It's something that needs to be used on a regular basis in order to take full advantage of the software's functionality.



A critical limitation of web mapping *could* be the lack of Internet connectivity during a SAR operation. Kim mentioned that if need be, a cellular phone may be used as a "hot spot" to obtain connectivity.

Kim did a nice job explaining the mapping technology, while also allowing participants to ask questions throughout the presentation. The presentation ended just short of 9:00pm, at which time Kim allowed some time for folks to chat.

Special thanks to Kim for providing this presentation and to our SAR members who attended.

NLSAR TRAINING / COMMUNICATIONS, AMDR, CRITICAL SPACING & LINE DISCIPLINE – JUNE 16, 2020

At 5:30pm on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 six members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team arrived at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie parking lot (Hoff & Chicago Road parking lot). The purpose of the early arrival was for two members of the NLSAR Team to complete their Annual Physical Fitness Test, which the rest of the team completed in May. Other members were marshals on the hike to ensure the safety of the those being timed. Both members passed the 3-mile hike with full gear in the required time of under 50 minutes. Social distancing and safety protocols were utilized during the fit test as well as during the below-described training.



The three members leading this month's training were Rich DeVault, Dan Johnson and Lisa Murphy. They began setting up three locations for the training at 6:00pm, with all team members arriving by 7:00pm. At that time, NLSAR members were divided into three teams - Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. Each team was sent to one of three training stations for 30 minutes then rotated to the next station.

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NLSAR Training / Communications, AMDR, Critical Spacing & Line Discipline cont'd.

Communications

Rich DeVault led the training at this station which consisted of learning about our SAR radios. Rich covered the following aspects of communications:

Proper Radio Etiquette - All team members must ensure that they communicate appropriately while using their radios as the frequency can be picked-up by other jurisdictions and ham radio operators. SAR members must remember to be clear, concise and informative while using the radio to communicate with each other and other SAR personnel such as Incident Command or other SAR teams in the field.

Changing Frequencies - Our NLSAR radios have multiple frequencies and can communicate on two channels at the same time. This may be used for speaking to their team in the field and command at the same time all from one radio.

Locking and Unlocking - Once the frequencies are established, SAR Members must lock in the channels they will be using. They must also know how to change channels while in the field in case there is heavy radio traffic on their channel.

Antenna Placement - Rich taught the members where you should place your antenna on your vest to ensure the greatest reception. He also covered various antennas that can be used and costs associated with them. All NLSAR members have a standard size antenna on their radio which is suitable for our work in the field, but other versions can be used which will allow messages to be received from much greater distances.

Speaker Microphones - There are different types of mics that can be used. Our NLSAR members use a corded microphone attached to their vest, but there are styles like earpieces with a mic that can also be used.



AMDR and Critical Spacing

Dan Johnson led the training for this station. All team members were trained on how to determine the Average Maximum Detection Range (AMDR) which can be accomplished several ways. The first consisted of dropping a small item like car keys in the grass. The four team members lined up across from each other (12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock) then counted out the number of steps from the keys until they could no longer clearly distinguish them. They walked back the way they came and rotated one spot clockwise then repeated the movement. After four rotations each member gave an average number of steps they took, which was then their AMDR. Another method to perform this is to have all four members step away from the keys (counting their number of steps) then rotate on the perimeter. Each person does this and they walk back to the keys, then rotate and walk away, etc.

The AMDR is then used to determine Critical Spacing for a line search. The AMDR to be used is the lowest number for the team members. For instance, if one person's number is 5 and others are 6 and 7, the AMDR for critical spacing for all members on the line would be 5 or 5 "steps." This means each person will search approximately 5 steps to their left and right while walking forward in the area being searched.

These disciplines are critical to perform before beginning a search and must always be completed under the instruction of the team leader.

Line Discipline and Search Training

Lisa Murphy led the training for this station. Each team was tasked with searching for double yellow flags throughout a wooded area. While conducting this search, team members were required to practice all areas of line discipline. Flankers (located on each end of the line) moved forward ahead of the rest of the search line. The line moved forward when the flankers were flagging and checking their bearing. A full 360° turn was performed by the searchers when they reached the flankers. A "360°" includes searching low, middle and high while rotating in a clockwise direction. The line must move together while maintaining critical spacing. The area that was used for this search was relatively small but there were plenty of hazards such as thick brush, dense tree lines, thorns and uneven ground. These hazards are commonly found in the locations our team has been deployed to search. All three teams performed incredibly well and finished their search in the 30 minutes they were allowed.

At approximately 8:30pm the three teams completed all three stations and met in the parking lot for a debrief. Rich, Lisa and Dan J. provided their feedback to the teams on how they performed and answered questions from the team members. The two NLSAR members were congratulated for successfully completing the physical fitness test before the training and session concluded at 9:00pm.

Special thanks to Lisa, Rich and Dan for leading this training. In addition, thanks to all of our members who participated in this training.



QUESTION, PERSUADE AND REFER (QPR) TRAINING – JUNE 11, 2020

At 7:00pm on Thursday, June 11, 2020 twenty-eight people participated in QPR training that was held via a Zoom video conference. Twelve of the participants were New Lenox CERT members.

Dan Martin introduced Gia Washington and Veronica Cullinan from Sertoma Centre, Inc. who were the instructors for this class. Gia Washington, who has taught this course in New Lenox approximately 12 times, started the presentation at 7:05pm by sharing her screen which included the QPR PowerPoint. Some of the highlights of the presentation included, in summary the following:

- In 2018, 48,344 Americans died by suicide, with an average of 132 suicides each day. Every 28 seconds, someone attempts suicide. Males are more likely to die by suicide, while females are more likely to attempt suicide. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death. 18% of all suicides in the US are veterans. A police officer is more likely to die by suicide than in the line of fire.
- Could COVID-19 make the suicide crisis worse? Gia led a discussion about this real possibility.
- Dr. Paul Quinett developed QPR training to help reduce the number of completed suicides. QPR raises awareness, helps dispel myths and misconceptions, and teaches three skills that can save a life. QPR is not intended to be a form of counseling. QPR is intended to offer hope through positive action.
- Gia cited a number of “myths” about suicide. Myth – Confronting a person about suicide will only make them angry and increase the risk of suicide. Fact – Asking someone directly about suicidal intent lowers anxiety, opens up communication and lowers the risk of an impulsive act.
- Direct Verbal Clues – “I’ve decided to kill myself.” “I wish I were dead.” “I’m going to end it all.”
- Indirect Verbal Clues – “I’m tired of life, I just can’t go on.” “Who cares if I’m dead anyway.”
- Behavioral Clues – Putting personal affairs in order, giving away prized possessions, acquiring a gun, stockpiling pills, unexplained anger, aggression and irritability.
- Situational clues – Being fired, loss of major relationship, death of a spouse, child or best friend, diagnosis of serious or terminal illness, anticipated loss of financial security, or unwanted move.
- **QUESTION**
- Tips for asking the suicide question – if in doubt, don’t wait, talk to the person alone or in private, allow the person to talk freely, have resources ready (QPR card, phone numbers, counselor’s name and other information that might help).
- Less direct approach – “Have you been unhappy lately?” “Have you been so very unhappy lately that you’ve been thinking about ending your life?”
- Direct approach – “Are you thinking about killing yourself?” “You look pretty miserable, I wonder if you’re thinking about suicide?”
- How NOT to ask – “You’re not thinking of killing yourself, are you?” “You wouldn’t do anything stupid, would you?” “Suicide is a dumb idea. Surely you’re not thinking about suicide?”
- **PERSUADE**
- Listen to the problem and give them your full attention. Do not rush to judgment. Offer hope in any form.
- Then ask – “Will you go with me to get help?” “Will you let me help you get help?” “Will you promise me not to kill yourself until we’ve found some help?”
- **REFER**
- Take the person directly to someone who can help. Get a commitment from them to accept help, then make the arrangements to get that help. Give referral information and get a good faith commitment not to complete or attempt suicide. Don’t hesitate to get involved.
- **FOR EFFECTIVE QPR**
- Say – “I want you to live.” “I’m on your side, we’ll get through this.”
- Get others involved – family, friends, brothers, sisters, pastor, physician, etc...
- Join a team – offer to work with clergy, therapists, psychiatrists or whomever is going to provide the counseling or treatment. Follow-up with a visit, a phone call or a card. In whatever way feels comfortable to you, let the person know you care about what happens to them. Caring may save a life!

Gia handed off the presentation to Veronica at different points. Both did a great job asking the attendees questions, which generated some excellent feedback and discussion. As planned, the presentation ended at 8:30pm, with everyone thanking both Gia and Veronica for their efforts.



Special thanks to our CERT volunteers who attended this presentation. It was great supplemental material to the CERT Disaster Psychology Unit.

SEARCH FOR A MISSING 83-YEAR OLD FEMALE WITH DEMENTIA / ROMEOVILLE, IL - JUNE 2, 2020

At 2:04am, the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team was requested by the Will County Emergency Management Agency to assist in the search for a missing 83-year old, black / female, with dementia who had walked away from her home at approximately 11:00pm on June 1, 2020. The staging location for this incident was at Grand Haven & Renwick Road in Romeoville, IL.

At 2:55am, two of our team members met at the New Lenox Village Hall and drove together. Our team members arrived on scene approximately 3:30am. When our team members arrived at staging, drones and bloodhounds had already been searching. The search was in the subject's neighborhood and included part of the golf course.

Our team members were shown on a map which areas had been searched, which were being searched, and which needed to be searched. Our team members were then shown their assignment on a map inside the Mobile Command Center. Our team members were designated as "Team Bravo." There were also three searchers from Romeoville and two from Will County EMA SAR.

Our team member's first assignment at 3:35am, was to search around the huge pond on the golf course. A golf cart was utilized to drive around the pond, searching with flashlights and a flood lamp. After returning to the staging area at approximately 4:00am, our team members were immediately given a second assignment, which was to search a section of the neighborhood on foot. The second search was completed at approximately 4:45am.

Our team member's third assignment was to search backyards and screened-in porches. The third search was completed at approximately 5:20am, at which time our team members returned to the staging area.

Just before heading out for a fourth assignment, SAR Command received notification that female had been located a few blocks from her home.

At 5:27am teams were advised to stand down. Our team members signed out at 5:35am and returned to New Lenox approximately 6:00am. Special thanks to our team members for participating in this search, which ended with a positive outcome.

MISSING MALE - 27 / ST. CHARLES – MAY 29, 2020

At 12:45pm on Friday, May 29, 2020 our team received a call from the Illinois Search and Rescue Council requesting assistance with a search in St. Charles, Illinois. Briefly, we were told that we would be searching for a male/black, 27 years of age, who potentially is bipolar and suicidal. We were advised that staging would be at the old Pheasant Run, located at Route 64 & Kautz Road. A Nixle text message was sent to our team members and six team members indicated that they would participate in the search. At 2:00pm our team members left the New Lenox Village Hall and carpoled to the staging location.

Our team arrived at the staging location at 2:45pm, signed in, and waited for an assignment. Approximately 30 minutes after signing in, our team members received a briefing from Search and Rescue Command personnel. This briefing included a physical description as well as a clothing description of the missing subject. Our team call sign was designated as "Alpha" and we received a search segment that was at the corner of Oak Road and East North Avenue, adjacent to a used car dealership. This area included a farm field which was relatively open as well as some wooded and swampy areas.

Our team notified SAR Command that we were leaving the staging area and walking to our designated search area. Once we arrived at our search area, AMDR was conducted and critical spacing was set. Our team selected flankers, line searchers and notified SAR Command that we would be commencing our search.

At approximately 5:00pm, when our team had completed about 50% of our search area, SAR Command notified all teams to return to the staging area.

After returning to staging, we learned that law enforcement had received information that the subject was no longer in the area. Our team leader completed the necessary paperwork and all team members signed out.

Our team members then packed up their gear and made the drive back to New Lenox, arriving at approximately 6:30pm. Special thanks to those team members that participated in the search. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE WINFIELD, IL – MAY 21, 2020

At 6:00am on Thursday, May 21, 2020, nine members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to a search in Winfield, IL. Our team members departed in four vehicles and arrived at the parking lot of Du Page Hospital on Highlake and Winfield Road at approximately 6:45am.



Everyone signed-in and waited for a briefing regarding the 18-year old female who had been missing for almost a week, after being swept into the DuPage River at the Illinois Prairie Path – Geneva Spur. At approximately 7:20am our team members were summoned to Search Command at which time we were divided into two teams; “Alpha” and “Bravo.” Alpha consisted of three members from New Lenox SAR and four members from Naperville SAR. Bravo consisted of six members from New Lenox SAR. Both teams were asked to search a 1.3 mile section of the West Branch of the DuPage River from Lions Park (Beecher Avenue) north to the Last Known Point (LKP), which was the Illinois Prairie Path – Geneva Spur. Alpha was directed to search the east side of the river while Bravo was directed to search the west side of the river. The teams were transported separately to the starting point and the searches commenced at approximately 7:40am.



Collectively, the teams searched from the river’s edge and onto land approximately 100 feet. Each team had the person closest to the river wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) aka – life jacket. The next one or two team members carried throw bags. All New Lenox searchers were wearing proper footwear, long sleeve shirts, eye protection, Petzel helmets and their load bearing vests (except those wearing PFDs). The terrain varied from open backyards to dense woods. Although the water level had receded since the time the female was swept into the water, many areas were still left with standing water. In addition, the high volume of rushing water left large debris piles along the river’s banks. In addition to searching along the banks of the river, the teams also searched open areas where the water had flowed at one point. These were often the areas where the large debris piles were left behind. Alpha and Bravo completed the first search and walked to the pick-up location on Winfield Road & Waterford Drive. The teams arrived back at staging at approximately 1:00pm and after a break, went out on a second search at approximately 2:00pm.

The second assignment was to search south from the LKP to an old bridge, which is approximately 975 feet from the LKP. This time Alpha took the west side of the river while Bravo took the east side. The teams searched south to the bridge then search again north back to the LKP. The search did not result in any clues and the teams were instructed to walk to Winfield Road & Waterford Drive for pick-up. After arriving back at the staging area, our teams were de-briefed and signed out at approximately 4:00pm. Our team members arrived back at the New Lenox Village Hall shortly before 5:00pm.



Special thanks to everyone who put in a long day on this search. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by many!

On May 27, 2020 Anna DeJong was found deceased in the DuPage River, just south of Mack Road.

CERT VOLUNTEERS SERVED AS EXTRA EYES AND EARS FOR OUR COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

From March 22nd to May 24th, a pool of 75 New Lenox CERT volunteers spent a total of 2,296 hours serving as extra eyes and ears for the New Lenox Police Department. These dedicated volunteers were strategically placed at 18 locations throughout the Village, during overnight hours, to ensure that businesses were not burglarized or vandalized. This initiative was completely proactive and as a result, ZERO incidents occurred at any of the establishments while the CERT volunteers were present.

“Our volunteers did an amazing job and are to be commended for their willingness to serve our community in this capacity,” said Daniel Martin, who is the Program Coordinator for New Lenox CERT. Martin went to say that “it’s difficult to measure preventative patrol, but having CERT volunteers highly visible at each of these locations likely contributed to a reduction in crime.”

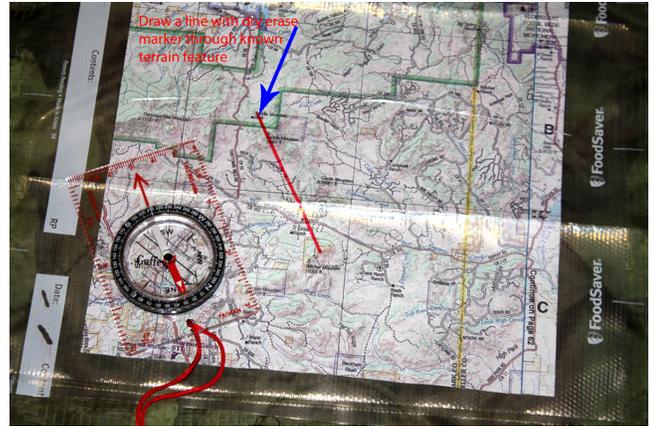
In addition to being a visible deterrent to crime, the volunteers reported a number of suspicious vehicles and subjects at their assigned locations. By having the volunteers at these businesses, it allowed the police officers to concentrate on other areas in the Village. As such, having 18 extra sets of eyes and ears at these locations served as a force multiplier for the police department.

Special thanks to each of our volunteers who assisted with this detail. Everyone did an outstanding job!

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

BASIC LAND NAVIGATION (BNAV) – MAY 19, 2020

At 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 training for the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team was held via Zoom. The topic for this particular training was Basic Land Navigation, which is also commonly referred to as "BNAV." Although New Lenox has a dedicated (Ground) Search and Rescue Team, having a basic understanding of land navigation is important. If needed, CERT volunteers can be a force multiplier during a search. In addition, having basic land navigation skills can be advantageous for our volunteers when they go hiking or camping. Dan Martin introduced Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue – Kendall County Emergency Management Agency. Dan also noted that Kim is an Illinois Search and Rescue Council Board Member who has approximately 40 years ground search and rescue experience.



- Kim then delivered her training via PowerPoint, taking her time to explain each of the slides. Kim noted that this course is typically 8 hours and includes field exercises. In summary, Kim covered the following:
- Land navigation definition, including sense of direction, reading a topographic map, map association, spatial skills, planning safe routes and navigational skills.
- Expressing direction, including degrees, minutes and seconds.
- True north, magnetic north and grid north.
- Azimuth – a horizontal angle measured clockwise from a north base line.
- Back Azimuth – opposite direction of an azimuth. Add 180 degrees if the azimuth is 180 degrees or less. Subtract 180 degrees if the azimuth is 180 degrees or more. So, an azimuth of 115 degrees would have a back azimuth of 295 degrees.
- Current bearing, compass following, and navigating obstacles.
- Compass overview – inspection, accuracy, protection and handling.
- Compass types – lensatic, orienteering, sighting, mirrored orienteering, and prismatic. A comprehensive overview was provided for each of these compass types. This included covering parts, features and sighting for each of the compasses.

Topographic maps – utilizes contour lines, symbols, colors to show terrain and structures. "Topo" map colors, symbols, lines, scales, contour lines, terrain features (ridges, hills, saddles, valleys, depressions, spurs, draws, cliffs), map orientation, and triangulation (included a topo map exercise)

Kim concluded the training at 8:25pm and then took questions from our CERT volunteers. Following the Q & A, the Zoom videoconference was left open to provide everyone an opportunity to visit. The call was concluded at 9:00pm.

Special thanks to Kim Gotte for providing this excellent training for our team. In addition, thanks to the 70 or so CERT members that participated. It's great that we've found a method to train and communicate. Thanks Zoom!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 11, 2020 / 9:00am	Multi-Agency SAR Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19
July 21, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox SAR Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19
July 27, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox CERT Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19
August 8, 2020 / 9:00am	Multi-Agency SAR Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19
August 11, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox SAR Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19
August 19, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox CERT Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19
September 12, 2020 / 9:00am	Multi-Agency SAR Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19
September 23, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox SAR Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19
September 29, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox CERT Training	Topic and Location TBD due to COVID-19



New Lenox CERT Activity

New Lenox SAR Activity

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE WINFIELD, IL – MAY 16, 2020

At 5:30am on Saturday, May 16, 2020, eight members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to a search in Winfield, IL. Our team members departed in four vehicles and arrived at the parking lot of Du Page Hospital on Highlake and Winfield Road at approximately 6:15am.

After signing in, our team members were briefed and learned in summary the following regarding the missing subject: 18-year old, autistic female, walking two dogs in the Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve, was swept into the DuPage River on 5/15/2020. One dog found alive, one dog found drowned.

Following the briefing, our eight team members were designated as "Team Bravo." Our team brought throw bags and life vests for this search, which consisted of three assignments in the course of the day.

First Assignment: Team Bravo parked at Currier Elementary School on Gary Mills Road and at 7:55am began searching the east side of the DuPage River with limited views of the west bank. The team traveled north 1.7 miles along the riverbank until it became impassable due to the swollen river. The team ended the search at 9:50am, exiting the search route at Bauman Ct. and River Glen Rd. The team then requested transport back to their vehicles and then returned to staging by 10:33am.

Second Assignment: Team Bravo parked at Lions Park and at 11:13am began searching the east side of the DuPage River with partial views of the west bank. The team traveled as far south along the river as possible. Due to swollen river and dense terrain, the area became impassible. The team ended the search at 12:35pm, walked the roads back to their vehicles and returned to staging by 1:00pm.



Third Assignment: This search segment was the west side of the DuPage River between Edgewood Walk (adjacent to Rt. 59) and Mack Road. At 1:40pm, the team split into two groups. One team started at Edgewood Walk and traveled south along the river. The second team parked at Blackwell Forest Preserve and after scouting the bridge on both sides, began traveling north on the east side of the river. Although teams intended meeting in the middle and then back tracking, due to the swollen river and wire fencing the area was impassable. At 2:38pm the teams returned to their respective vehicles and returned to the staging area at 3:00pm.

Following a de-briefing our team members departed staging at 3:15pm, arriving back at the New Lenox Village Hall at 4:00pm.



**On May 27, 2020 Anna DeJong was found deceased in the DuPage River, just south of Mack Road.*

NLSAR ANNUAL PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST – MAY 14, 2020

At 5:25pm on Thursday, May 14, 2020 the New Lenox Search and Rescue team held their annual physical fitness test. This test consists of walking 3 miles in 50 minutes or less while wearing full uniforms and gear. Due to the current social distancing protocols, this year's event looked very different compared to all previous ones. Each team member had their own start time and those times were staggered 5 minutes apart. To further ensure safety, members were allowed to arrive no sooner than 10 minutes prior to their start time and were required to depart directly after crossing the finish line. Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie was chosen over Hickory Creek for this year's test because the path is incredibly wide to accommodate social distancing protocols. Considering all of the changes, the test ran incredibly smoothly. All members of the team passed – congratulations and great job!

Thank you to NLSAR members Lisa Murphy and Joe Frigo for setting-up and administering the test. Also, thank you to New Lenox CERT members Ryan and Sean Murphy for helping marshal the course and record finish times.



NLSAR TRAINING / MAP READING – APRIL 16, 2020

At 7:00pm on Thursday, April 16, 2020 nineteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met via Zoom for the team's monthly training. This particular training was on Map Reading and was led by Terry Hartigan. This was the team's first video conference type training, which was necessary due to COVID-19 outbreak. Team members took a few minutes to get accustomed to the Zoom platform with the help of Scott Thompson, who was the host for the meeting.

Terry Hartigan began his presentation not long after 7:00pm, which in summary, covered the following:

- Contour maps – adjoining sheets, bar scales, contour intervals, grid reference boxes, legends, and topographic symbols.
- Map colors – black (man-made, such as buildings and roads), red-brown (combined to identify cultural features, relief features, and non-surveyed spot elevations), blue (identifies hydrograph or water features such as lakes, swamps, rivers and drainage), green (identifies vegetation such as woods and grasslands), brown (identifies all relief features and elevation, such as contours on older maps and cultivated land on non-red light readable maps), red (classifies cultural features, such as populated areas, main roads and boundaries, on older maps, other (occasionally other colors may be used to show special information).
- Terrain features – 5 major (ridge, hill, saddle, valley, depression), 3 minor (spur, draw, cliff) and 2 supplementary (cut, fill). Terry's PowerPoint included depictions / examples of each of these.
- Four-digit grid coordinate – read right, then read up. Remember to always orient each grid square from the lower left-hand corner.
- Six-digit grid coordinate – steps explained and example provided.
- 100,000-meter square identification.



Terry did an excellent job presenting the material and answering questions. Other team members, such as Joe Frigo who also has a military background, assisted everyone in understanding the map reading concepts. Terry's training was approximately one hour, which left time at the end for everyone to talk about COVID-19, the shelter at home orders, and our NLSAR training moving forward.

Special thanks to Terry Hartigan for doing this training and to Scott Thompson for hosting via Zoom. In addition, thanks to everyone else for participating. We had 100% attendance and it was great to see everyone, given the circumstances!

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

DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING – APRIL 30, 2020

At 7:00pm on Thursday, April 30, 2020 approximately 80 New Lenox CERT members joined a Zoom video conference. The purpose of the video conference was to provide an update on [CERT Unit 5: Disaster Psychology](#). Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked Scott Thompson for hosting the call. In addition, Dan also thanked Carrie Williams for assisting with technical support. The training was then delivered via PowerPoint with everyone in attendance on mute until the end of the presentation. Dan reminded everyone to be sure to download ALL the new materials at www.ready.gov/cert.

Some key points covered in the presentation were as follows:

- How victims (and volunteers) *may* react to a disaster.
- Definition of “Vicarious Trauma.”
- “Five Fs” – Freeze, Flight, Fight, Fright and Faint.
- *Possible* Psychological Symptoms of Trauma – Emotional, Cognitive and Spiritual.
- *Possible* Physical Symptoms of Trauma – loss of appetite, headaches, chest pain, nausea, increase in alcohol or drug consumption, nightmares, inability to sleep, and fatigue.
- Team Well Being – take actions before, during and after an incident to help manage the emotional impact.
- How team members can reduce stress – get enough sleep, exercise regularly, eat a balanced diet, spiritual resources, etc...
- Team members should inform family members and friends that they may need to talk, but not to force them to talk if they don’t want to.
- Self-Care Toolbox / Toolkit – summarized and team member were encouraged to complete Exercise 5.1.
- Team Leaders Role – brief CERT personnel, ensure teams get breaks (away from incident site), ensure teams eat properly and stay hydrated, look for changes in team members’ behavior, rotate teams and duties, phase out workers gradually, assign low stress duties before team members leave, etc...
- Emotional Phases of a Crisis – Pre-Disaster, Impact, Heroic, Honeymoon, Disillusionment, and Reconstruction (definitions and examples provided).
- Traumatic Crisis – an event experienced or witnessed in which people’s ability to cope is overwhelmed.
- Effects of Traumatic Stress – Cognitive Function, Physical Health, and Interpersonal Relationships (defined).
- Mediating Factors – Prior experience with a similar event, intensity of disruption, individual feelings about event, emotional strength of individual and length of time since event.
- Stabilizing Survivors – Listening and Empathizing were stressed.
- Listen, Protect and Connect (defined).
- Being an Empathetic Listener – Making a connection with the survivor, putting oneself in the survivor’s shoes, listening for meaning and using paraphrasing skills.
- What Not to Say – “I understand,” “Don’t feel bad,” “You’re strong,” “Don’t cry,” “It’s God’s will,” “It could be worse,” “Everything will be okay.”
- Say This Instead – “I’m sorry for your pain,” “I’m so sorry this happened,” “I can’t imagine what this is like for you,” “What do you need?”
- Managing Death Scene – local protocols discussed and making a death notification was added.
- Unit Summary – a summary of Unit 5 was provided

Following the summary, approximately 15 minutes was spent on Q & A and discussion of key points with the training ending at 8:30pm. Following the training, team members stayed on the call for an additional 30 minutes just to chat and see how everyone was doing. The call ended at 9:00pm after Dan thanked everyone for participating.



Additional Information

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Safe Community Coordinator

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

CERT Class #15 graduated at 12:00pm on Saturday October 26, 2019 after completing their Final Exercise earlier in the morning. Twenty-seven citizens completed the class, which brings our graduation total to 448! Tentatively, CERT Class #16 will take place on Thursday evenings (6:30pm to 8:30pm) in the Community Room at the Village Hall starting on September 3, 2020. The class will meet for seven weeks on Thursday evenings until October 15th. The Final Exercise and Graduation will be on the morning of Saturday October 17th. 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 2 Graduation 12/05/2009
- Class 3 Graduation 02/27/2010
- Class 4 Graduation 10/30/2010
- Class 5 Graduation 04/09/2011
- Class 6 Graduation 11/12/2011
- Class 7 Graduation 10/20/2012
- Class 8 Graduation 10/19/2013
- Class 9 Graduation 10/25/2014
- Class 10 Graduation 10/31/2015
- Class 11 Graduation 03/12/2016
- Class 12 Graduation 10/29/2016
- Class 13 Graduation 10/28/2017
- Class 14 Graduation 10/27/2018
- Class 15 Graduation 10/26/2019

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



Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT>

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<https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxSAR>

**SPOTLIGHT MEMBER –
ELENI BOSCH**

In 2014, with the encouragement of my husband, I joined a remarkable organization in my community; the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

After a 20-hour class, I graduated. In those 20 hours we learned how to respond to various situations to help first responders or actually be the first responder. We were taught the proper usage of fire extinguishers and additional fire safety skills. Triage, incident command set-up, bleeding control, choking, active shooter, drug overdose, sand bagging, search and rescue, disaster psychology, terrorism, and cribbing are just a few of the things that we've learned.

In our community, we also serve in non-emergency roles. In doing so, I have made many new friends and they were there in my time of need.

Our community was able to rest a little easier at night during the COVID-19 outbreak. It was a pleasure helping our police officers with nightly watches, which helped to ease the minds of the business owners as well. We were stationed at various locations overnight, serving as a deterrent to potential burglaries or damage to property.

I believe we are making a difference in our community. We were trained to be ready when called upon. We are all in this together. I am proud to be even just a small part of this wonderful organization.

Sleep well New Lenox, C.E.R.T. is watching and keeping you safe.



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