

## Village of New Lenox

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

## SAR TRAINING / CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT – MARCH 18, 2017

At 8:00am on Saturday March 18, 2017 New Lenox SAR members met at the Plainfield Police Department for monthly training with the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) SAR Team and SAR affiliates. Assistant Chief Alan Matza introduced Kathy Borchadt, Psy.D., P.C., who presented "Psychological First Aid/ Disaster Psychology." Dr. Borchadt is a practicing clinical psychologist and having served as a SAR member herself, has a special interest in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). CISM is a program to assist those involved in a critical incident to share their experiences, vent emotions, learn and recognize stress reactions and symptoms, as well as provide referral for further help if needed.

Response to a traumatic event as a survivor or responder elicits the Fight or Flight survival instinct. The adrenalin rush produces acetylcholine that locks details of the event into our memory.

As a responder, we need to understand our own triggers so we can manage ourselves before, during and after an event. Everyone reacts to trauma / disaster differently. Factors that may influence how we respond include:

- Prior or similar events
- Intensity and length of event
- Pre-incident stressors
- Length of time since event
- Exposure therapy (fears, PTSD)
- Personal losses (loved ones, house, pet)

During an event, it is critical first responders display confidence for those they are rescuing. Although it is a natural reaction to identify with the survivors feelings (vicarious trauma) it is recommended that first responders separate themselves emotionally from the "get go." Remind yourself it is the survivor's event not yours.

When rescuing a survivor, introduce yourself, be fully present and do not talk about yourself or compare your experiences, etc. This is their event. Know that survivors are very willing to take direction without protest from someone perceived to be in authority (wearing vest/helmet). Impacted people are likely to be very helpful and compliant during rescue phase. Whenever possible, give them something to do as it allows them feel in control and improve their opportunity of recovery.

The presentation covered a number of things that a responder should NOT say to a survivor. In addition, Dr. Borchadt discussed stress reactions to a Critical Incident including various feelings and cognitive effects. A number of recommendations for responders include:

### Pre - Event:

- Be mentally and physically fit
- Sleep is very important
- Eating balanced diet
- Participate in leisure activity
- Engage in social connections

### Event:

Incident Management:

- Inform teams what they may encounter, disturbing sights, etc.
- Provide instructions based upon findings.
- Rest
- Regroup, rotate shifts

### Post -Event:

- All Pre-Event recommendations
- Avoid alcohol and drugs to relieve stress
- Establish a routine
- Seek out spiritual resources
- Allow yourself to dream (about the events) – know that it is normal / healthy and it will diminish over time. Sleepwalking is also a normal reaction after a traumatic event.

At the end of the presentation, the importance of comradery and inclusion among the various SAR Teams was expressed. As a means of improving relations, each SAR member introduced themselves and explained how and why they became involved SAR. Many expressed interest in attending or combining other SAR Team training events as well as having an occasional social event for all members. Training concluded at 11:00am, after which our team members returned to New Lenox. Special thanks to Mary Ann Cody for writing this summary and to our team members who were in attendance.

### Our Core Principles:

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

### Recent Activities:

SAR Training March	1
MCI Scene Management	2
Traffic Direction & Control	3
Start & Jumpstart Triage	3
SAR/UTM Training	4
Moulage Training	4
SAR Survival Skills	5
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### Upcoming Events:

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## MASS CASUALTY TRIAGE & MCI SCENE MANAGEMENT – MARCH 28, 2017

At 8:30am on Tuesday March 28, 2017 ten members of New Lenox CERT, along with firefighters and paramedics from the New Lenox and Joliet area, met in the EMS Classroom at the Silver Cross Campus. In preparation for the May 20th Region VII Mass Casualty Full-Scale Exercise, a "Mass Casualty Triage & MCI Scene Management Class" was offered to those who will be participating in the exercise. The primary instructor for the class was Steffi Whitten, who was very energetic and kept the class on their toes.

The training started with classroom instruction followed by a simulated exercise. The scenario for the exercise included a commuter train crash at the Laraway station with 120 + victims.

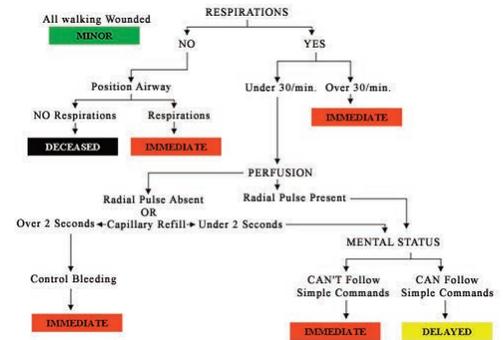
The class was divide into two groups – Command and Triage. The exercise was done in two parts which allowed participants to switch roles. The exercise concluded with a hot wash of what participants experienced during the exercise.

Those performing the initial Triage were given a Triage belt that contain colored ribbons with paper clips that were used or affixed to the victim. Once the victim got to the collection area they were triaged again for a 2nd time and had a Triage Tag completed at that time.

Whiteboards were used during the exercise to record or track various items and actions:

- Command Post
  - Command Position Board – listed positions with the name of the individual serving in particular roles.
  - Hospitals – listed available hospitals and what number of triage levels that they can accept.
  - Resources – listed what equipment (i.e., ambulances, fire engines, etc.) that were called – and what their status / location.
  - Transportation – listed what equipment / ambulances and from where (i.e., town) – that were dispatch and caring what number of triage patients to which location / hospital.
- Triage / Treatment Area –
  - One (1) board was used for each triage level – i.e., Red, Yellow, etc. It listed the Victim's ID number, adult or child, male or female, age, and most severe injury. Once they were placed on an ambulance or vehicle it was so noted.

The training concluded at approximately 2:30pm. Special thanks to our team members who attended this valuable training!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Wednesday April 5, 2017 / 6:30pm – New Lenox SAR Annual Physical Agility Test at Hickory Creek Preserve
- Saturday April 15, 2017 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Tuesday April 18, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Wednesday April 19, 2017 / 7:00pm – Question, Persuade and Refer Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Wednesday April 26, 2017 / 5:00pm – Health & Safety Expo – Severe Weather Spotter Training at LW West High School
- Sunday May 7, 2017 / 1:00pm – Loyalty Day Parade at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Tuesday May 9, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Saturday May 20, 2017 / 7:00am – New Lenox CERT – Region VII Full Scale Exercise at Laraway & Cedar Road
- Wednesday May 24, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Tuesday June 6, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Saturday June 17, 2017 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Thursday June 22, 2017 / 6:00pm – Trinity Triumph 5K at the New Lenox Village Hall



## TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL – MARCH 18, 2017

At 9:00am on Saturday March 18, 2017 eleven members of New Lenox CERT, along with volunteers from New Lenox ESDA and other local emergency services arrived at the New Lenox Public Works Facility for a class on Traffic Direction and Control. Mark Tomany, a retired 33-year veteran police officer, did an excellent job teaching the class and was able to share some firsthand experiences that made the training very interesting.

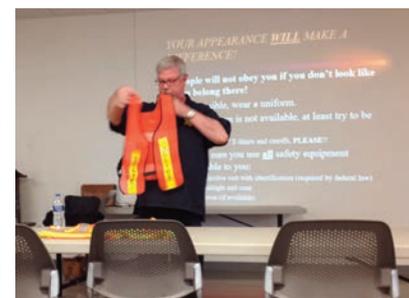
Class began promptly at 9:00am with a combination of a PowerPoint presentation and lecture. The presentation included:

1. What is traffic control;
2. Why we need traffic control in an emergency situation;
3. Appearance and why it matters;
4. Pertinent legal requirements;
5. Personal safety, and
6. Traffic control techniques.

Retired Officer Tomany then presented information on the proper use of flares and cones for hazards and maintaining traffic flow. The class went outside for some hands on training with flares and giving direction in a simulated traffic situation. After a brief question and answer session, class was dismissed at 12:30pm.



Special thanks to New Lenox ESDA for extending the invitation to our volunteers as well as to Mark Tomany for teaching the class. Also, thanks to our volunteers who took time out of their busy lives to learn valuable skills, which will be utilized at numerous events throughout the year.



## START AND JUMPSTART TRIAGE – MARCH 15, 2017

At 6:00pm on Wednesday March 15, 2017 Patty Edgett and her "moulage team" arrived at the Village Hall to prepare for 10 criminal justice students from the WILCO Area Career Center in Romeoville, IL. Don Malec, one of our CERT Instructors, teaches at WILCO and his students agreed to role play as "victims" as part of the evenings triage training. The students arrived at approximately 6:20pm and were introduced to the moulage team who quickly made them into victims of a gas explosion. Injuries included, burns, cuts and lacerations in the following categories: Red (Immediate), Yellow (Delayed) and Green (Minor).



Our instructor for the evening, Lieutenant Wes Lancaster from the New Lenox Fire Protection District, arrived and met with the students who were receiving the finishing touches on their injuries. Our CERT volunteers began to arrive and our training kicked-off promptly at 7:00pm with over 50 in attendance. Lieutenant Lancaster provided a brief overview of START and JUMPSTART Triage, which was followed by our victims entering the room. One-by-one, each victim stood up and displayed their respective injury. Lieutenant Lancaster added some additional information (respirations, perfusion, mental status) about the victims so our team members could make an informed decision about how they should be categorized. Everyone did a great job with triage and this was even before the Lieutenant taught the class. After the triage exercise ended, Don Malec and his students were thanked for their assistance. Lisa Zuales and her daughter were also thanked as they too played victims for the exercise.

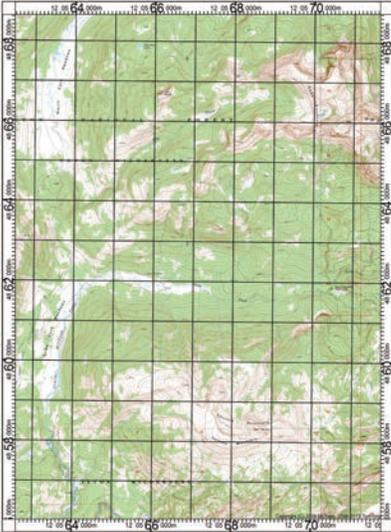
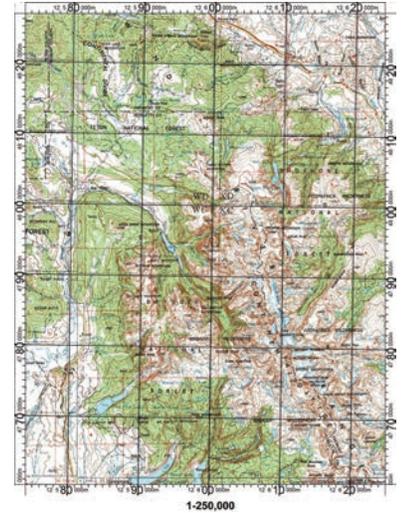


After the victims left the room, Lieutenant Lancaster provided an excellent presentation via PowerPoint. The presentation generated some excellent discussion and included another triage exercise toward the end of the presentation. The presentation was well-received by our CERT members and it was great to have the collaboration with the New Lenox Fire Protection District thanks to Lieutenant Lancaster's presentation. Special thanks to those who arrived early to apply the moulage to the role players and to those who attended this valuable training.



## NEW LENOX SAR / UTM TRAINING IN KENDALL COUNTY – MARCH 11, 2017

On March 11, 2017 three members of the New Lenox SAR Team attended training at the Kendall County Sheriff’s Office / Public Safety Center, in Yorkville, IL. The training topic was “Mapping and UTM Coordinates” (Universal Transverse Mercator), which included what it is and how to use it. Kim Gotte, Illinois Search and Rescue Council Chair, instructed the class of 11 students from various jurisdictions, explaining the different kinds of GPS datum, several scales of maps, and how UTM coordinates are shown on the maps. Several mapping tools were explained and demonstrated, and the class used these tools to locate various points on maps that Kim provided. Students also learned how to calculate the UTM coordinates of several map features. As a final exercise, the class was given five sets of UTM coordinates and small groups of students were tasked with finding what the map feature was for each set of coordinates. This was a very useful and informative class, which was held from 9:00am to 12:00pm.



Special thanks to our team members who attended and learned some valuable information.

## MOULAGE TRAINING AT PATTY EDGETT’S HOUSE – MARCH 7TH, 8TH AND 9TH

Patty Edgett was kind enough to offer moulage training at her home from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on March 7th, 8th and 9th. A total of 16 team members were trained over the course of three days. Patty provided the training for three primary reasons:

1. To provide live “victims” during the final exercise for our 20-Hour Basic CERT Classes;
2. To provide live “victims” when our team holds a disaster exercise or training in the areas of “triage” or “treatment;” and
3. To assist with the May 20th Region VII EMS Full-Scale Interoperable Mass Casualty Exercise (moulage of 90-100 live “victims”).

Special thanks to Patty for opening up her home to our team members and for doing a wonderful job with the training. Also, thanks to those who took time out of their busy lives to learn the art of moulage.



## SAR TRAINING / SURVIVAL SKILLS – MARCH 7, 2017

At 7:00pm on Tuesday March 7, 2017 fifteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at Pilcher Park for monthly training. The topic for March was survival skills, which included the following disciplines:

- Shelter Building and Knots – led by Joe Frigo and Lisa Murphy
- Fire Starting and Emergency Food – led by Rich DeVault
- Cooking and Making Cookware – led by Tricia Pakosz and Linda Tomnitz

Those in attendance were split into two groups. One group went to Shelter Building while the other group went to Fire Starting, Emergency Food, Cooking and Making Cookware.



### Shelter Building and Knots

Joe Frigo demonstrated how to tie knots such as the trucker’s hitch and bowline, which can be useful in constructing a ridge line to hang a shelter from. Prior to the training, Joe and Lisa set-up three shelters as follows:

- “V” shape tarp hanging over a ridge line, approximately one foot off the ground
- A “lean to” tarp shelter that can be used as shade
- A military poncho suspended from a tree



Joe and Lisa led everyone from shelter to shelter, explaining how the shelter was constructed and how it can be modified. All three shelters can be used in different scenarios depending on variables such as the weather (rain, wind, heat, cold). Throughout the demonstration our team members asked questions and were provided an opportunity to practice knots.

### Fire Starting, Emergency Food, Cooking and Making Cookware

Linda Tomnitz started this station off by showing everyone how to make a cooking “pot” from a piece of aluminum foil that was approximately 12” X 14.” Linda quickly shaped the foil into a small pot that could be used for boiling water or cooking food such as rice. Tricia Pakosz showed everyone some rice that was cooking over a fire that she and Linda started approximately 5 minutes earlier. Tricia discussed different types of foods that can be cooked in emergency situations and added information about seasonings.



Rich showed everyone various types of emergency food and opened an MRE for everyone to sample. This particular MRE was self-heating and it was surprising how hot the food gets from the chemical reaction used to heat the pouch. Rich also had on display various fire starting implements (magnesium, matches, cotton balls with petroleum jelly, fire starting cubes, etc...). Everyone was then directed to collect some fire starting materials and start a fire. Our team members used dry grass, dryer lint and cotton balls, followed by small sticks once the fire was started.

The training ended at approximately 8:30pm following an overview of what had been presented. Special thanks to those that led this training as well as those who were in attendance.



### CUB SCOUT PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATION – MARCH 1, 2017

On Wednesday March 1, 2017 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm Trish Buhle delivered a preparedness presentation to Cub Scout Pack 268. Trish went over making a family emergency plan with the Cub Scouts and their families. This portion of the presentation also covered making 72-hour kits.

Trish also completed a first aid review, which included the 3 "killers" or "hurry cases" as the Cub Scouts call them.

Lastly, Trish led a discussion regarding what to do during severe weather. This part of the presentation included using a NOAA Weather Radio as well as how to get help in an emergency. Ready.gov literature was provided to the scouts and their families.

Special thanks to Trish for providing some valuable information to these boys and their families.



### NLSD #122 PTO FUN FAIR – FEBRUARY 25, 2017

On Saturday February 25, 2017 at 10:00am several CERT members arrived at Liberty Jr. High to set-up our informational table for the New Lenox School District #122 Fun Fair. Trish Buhle took the lead on this event and also brought her service dog "Buddy," who was a big hit with the kids.

Tom Chojnacki set-up computers with his wife Melissa who works in the Information Technology Section for the District. This added feature allowed kids to play preparedness games at the Ready.kids web site.

In addition to literature, our table featured a prize wheel where kids spun the wheel and answered a preparedness related questions to win a small prize.

Dozens of kids and their families visited the CERT table throughout the event, right up to its conclusion at 3:00pm. The table was then taken down and packed for our next event.

Special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who assisted at this great event!



## SHELTER OPERATIONS EXERCISE – FEBRUARY 23, 2017

At 6:30pm on Thursday February 23, 2017 forty-eight (48) members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. This particular training was a follow-up to the team’s November 15, 2016 Shelter Operations classroom training, which was instructed by the American Red Cross (ARC).



Kaleena Wright from the ARC was on hand to provide a quick overview of what was presented at the last training, which was quickly followed by hands-on activities. Everyone in attendance helped to clear the room of tables and chairs, after which a line was formed out to the loading dock where the ARC supply trailer was parked. In assembly line fashion, our volunteers quickly passed cots, blanket and toiletry kits needed to set-up the dormitory.

Those in attendance were broken into two groups; one group to play shelter clients and the other to play shelter staff. The role players (shelter clients) were led to the 2nd level of the Village Hall where Kaleena provided them with their respective roles. Those staffing the shelter set-up the dormitory and established the intake area as well as the medical area. Roles were assigned to all the shelter volunteers and shortly thereafter the shelter clients began to arrive.



The scenario included an apartment building fire where 40 residents were displaced and in need of shelter. Some of the clients were non-English speaking, others had medical needs, functional needs and some displayed unruly behavior. In addition, there was a reporter introduced into the scenario who was determined to get into the shelter for the purpose of videotaping. The shelter workers did an excellent job handling the various “injects” that were presented. After approximately 45 minutes the groups switched roles and again did an excellent job.

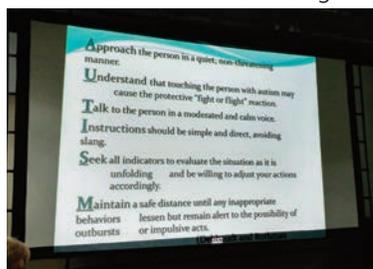
At approximately 8:40pm everyone helped disassemble the shelter and return the items to the ARC trailer. Kaleena then led a “hot wash” of the exercise, which generated some excellent questions and discussion. Training concluded shortly after 9:00pm after thanking Kaleena and the ARC for the training and partnership. Special thanks was also given to John Schuld who coordinated everything with the ARC in advance of the exercise.

## NEW LENOX SAR TRAINING / AUTISM AWARENESS – FEBRUARY 11, 2017

At 7:45am on Saturday, February 11, 2017 six members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Police Department to carpool to the Kendall County Sheriff’s Office for multi-agency monthly Search and Rescue training. The subject was Autism Awareness and the proper techniques for handling missing persons that are autistic.

The training session started at 9:00am and was presented in lecture format. It began with an overview of the topic including typical signs to look for and different levels of autism. Different types of communication including non-verbal and making eye contact should be understood and language delays could also be possible. Some statistics were discussed including the fact that in 1970, one in 10,000 people were diagnosed with autism. In 2001 it was estimated as one in 250 and now it is estimated that one in 42 are affected. This is due to the fact that only the most extreme cases were reported years ago (think Dustin Hoffman in the movie Rain Man) and we have learned over the years that there are various degrees of this condition.

Important for Search and Rescue personnel is knowing what to do when dealing with autistic behavior. A First Responder Checklist was covered which includes being aware of challenges in communicating and social interactions, treating each case as critical, interviewing caregivers before searching, asking if the missing person had a tracking device and likes/dislikes they may have. Knowing as much as you can is key and providing detail to arriving SAR personnel about their behaviors will help the search effort. Knowing if they have a favorite song, movie or Disney character will help you when searching as you can leverage this information through “callouts” and even play their favorite song / music to have them come to you.



The meeting concluded with a Q & A session and training ended at approximately 12:30pm. Special thanks to Kim Gotte, Assistant Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency, for hosting this important training.

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

# NEW LENOX SAR (CPR / AED) TRAINING – FEBRUARY 9, 2017

At 6:30pm on Thursday February 9, 2017 seventeen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team arrived at New Lenox Fire Protection District Station #1 for monthly training. This month’s training included training and certification in CPR / AED, pursuant to American Heart Association Heartsaver® guidelines. The training was presented in lecture format, with an opportunity to ask questions, which led to some excellent discussions. In addition to the lecture, everyone had an opportunity to practice with the mannequins. It was easy to see how strenuous it is to do two straight minutes of chest compressions. This really drove home the point of how important it is to dial 9-1-1 for additional assistance.



In addition to CPR, our SAR members received step-by-step AED training. Much like with CPR, the AED instruction generated some good questions and discussion. Moving forward, our team will ensure that we have an AED at all of our trainings. In addition, the team will take steps to have an AED available during activations as well.



Following the skills testing and related paperwork, training ended at approximately 9:00pm. Special thanks to Chris Robert and Ryan Hall from the New Lenox Fire Protection District for doing an excellent job training our team. In addition, we had 100% attendance at this training so thanks to all of our SAR members for participating.

# “BICO” (BABY IT’S COLD OUTSIDE) TRAINING – SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2017

At 8:00am on Saturday January 21, 2017 New Lenox SAR members met at the Plainfield Police Department for monthly training with the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) SAR Team and SAR affiliates. WCEMA SAR Chief Kaller began the “BICO” (Baby It’s Cold Outside) training with an introduction of the class material and an explanation of the effects of cold on the human body.

The class was structured in such a way to promote open discussion. Those in attendance received handout material, viewed video clips of six different cold weather scenarios, and completed a quiz after each scenario. Between each scenario was an educational segment on varying aspects of cold weather fundamentals, such as: Four Levels of Cold Weather Stress, Mechanisms of Heat Transfer (Loss), Thermo-Regulation, Principles of Treatment, The “1-10-1” Principle, and Cold Water Immersion.

Some of the scenarios had alternate versions. One version would play (and finish) and the class would discuss the decisions of the care / treatment choices made by the rescuers. This made for lively conversation. Chief Kaller then offered different versions of the same scenario with a completely different set of treatment options made by the rescuers. The scenarios were shown in no “correct / incorrect” order. The “best” way may or may not have been played first.

**ASSESS COLD PATIENT**

1. From outside ring to centre: assess Consciousness, Movement, Shivering, Alertness
2. Assess whether normal function, or impaired or no function
3. Treat according to appropriate result quadrant
4. Treat all treated cold patients with active warming to upper trunk

**COLD STRESSED, NOT HYPOTHERMIC**

1. Reduce heat loss (e.g. add dry clothing)
2. Provide high-calorie food or drink
3. Increase heat production (e.g. exercise)

**MILD HYPOTHERMIA**

1. Handle gently
2. Keep horizontal
3. No standing/walking for at least 30 min.
4. Insulate/vapour barrier
5. Heat applied to upper trunk
6. High-calorie food/drink
7. Monitor until improvement (at least 30 min.)
8. Evacuate if no improvement

**SEVERE HYPOTHERMIA**

1. Treat as Moderate Hypothermia, and
2. If no obvious vital signs, THEN no second attempts / pulse check, or assess cardiac function with cardiac monitor
3. If no breathing / pulse, THEN Start CPR
4. Evacuate carefully ASAP

**MODERATE HYPOTHERMIA**

1. Handle gently
2. Keep horizontal
3. No standing/walking
4. No drink or food
5. Insulate/vapour barrier
6. Heat applied to upper trunk
7. Vapour encasement with warm insulating fluid
8. Evacuate carefully

**CARE FOR COLD PATIENT**

**SUGGESTED SUPPLIES FOR SEARCH/RESPONSE TEAMS IN COLD ENVIRONMENTS:**

- 1 - Tarp or plastic sheet for vapour barrier outside sleeping bag
- 1 - Insulated sleeping bag (or equivalent)
- 1 - Plastic or foil sheet (2 x 3 m) for vapour barrier placed inside sleeping bag
- 1 - Source of heat for each team member (e.g., chemical heating pads, or warm water in a bottle or hydration bladder) or each team (e.g., charcoal heater, chemical or electrical heating blanket, or military style Hypothermia Prevention and Management Kit (HPMK))

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR HYPOTHERMIA WRAP "The Burrito"**

1. Dry or damp clothing: Leave clothing on IF Shelter / Transport is less than 30 minutes away, THEN Wrap immediately.
2. Very wet clothing: IF Shelter / Transport is more than 30 minutes away, THEN Protect patient from environment, remove wet clothing and wrap.

One example of this “alternate scenario” format was of two lost paddlers. In the first version, one paddler was found to be mildly hypothermic, treated for cold feet and transported for definitive care. After 2 additional hours of searching, now six hours in the cold, the second paddler was found near a stream by two searchers who had the “victim” walk with them to safety. The three set out for staging, a short distance from their location, when very quickly into the hike, the paddler collapsed. He was then reassessed where it was found that both of his feet were frozen. He was then packaged for transport to definitive care.

In the second version of this scenario, all was the same regarding the first paddler, but with regard to the second paddler, a more thorough initial assessment was made and he was found to have frozen feet so the decision was made to package and transport even though he told rescue personnel he was able to and wanted to walk out. One by one, the class watched and discussed the various versions of the scenarios, which was a great way to learn.

The class ended at approximately 12:00pm, at which time New Lenox SAR members signed out along with others who were in attendance. Special thanks to our team members who attended this important training.

## CERT SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 18, 2017

At 7:00pm on Wednesday January 18, 2017 sixty-three members of New Lenox CERT were in attendance for our Semi-Annual Meeting. Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief and CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided opening remarks. Included in the comments was a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to a very successful 2016.



Following opening remarks, Dan jumped right into the agenda which outlined the discussion points for the evening.

2016 volunteer hours were broken down as follows:

Training:	CERT – 2,559.5 hours	SAR – 921 hours	= 3,480.5 hours
Community Events:	CERT – 1,780.5 hours		= 1,780.5 hours
Meetings:	CERT – 302 hours	SAR – 70 hours	= 372 hours
Activations:	SAR – 209 hours		= 209 hours
All Activities:	CERT – 4,642 hours	SAR – 1,200 hours	= 5,842 total hours

In addition to summarizing the volunteer hours, Dan thanked Dave Klingensmith for his outstanding work with the design of our team’s Microsoft Access database, which tracks all of the data.

A short discussion regarding the December 14th 2016 Presidential Service Awards was held, including the fact that approximately 125 team members, friends, and family were in attendance. Given the fact that the event was such a huge success, it will be an annual event moving forward. Much like the 2016 event, the 2017 Presidential Service Awards will also include a holiday party following the awards presentation.

The 2017 Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo was announced. The event will be held on Wednesday April 26, 2017 at Lincoln-Way West High School. The Expo will be held from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, followed by the Spotter Training from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Everyone was encouraged to attend the event and assist at our informational table during the Health and Safety Expo.

A discussion was held regarding 2017 community events, including the importance of team member participation. In addition to providing needed services for a variety of community organizations, participation in community events helps to improve trust and cohesiveness amongst team members. Knowing and trusting fellow team members is important when working side-by-side in a disaster environment as well as during realistic training activities.

The Region VII EMS full-scale exercises scheduled for Saturday May 20, 2017 was announced. The exercise will be held in New Lenox and will involve a scenario that will evaluate surge capacity at Silver Cross Hospital and Presence St. Joseph Medical Center. New Lenox CERT will have an active role during the simulation, including helping with moulage, triage, treatment and transport. Training will be held in the months of March and April to help prepare team members for the May 20th exercise.

Dan thanked Tricia Pakosz for her work as Chair of the Training Task Group and explained that due to a number of other commitments, Tricia would be “passing the baton” to Dan Johnson who has graciously agreed to lead this group. Dan (Johnson) outlined a recent Training Task Group Meeting where members developed the training curriculum for 2017. Everyone in attendance received a copy of the training schedule, which was outlined.

John Schuld, Chair of the Shelter Operations Task Group, outlined the training that is being planned for February 23rd. John advised the training will include a shelter drill, which will include team members playing roles as shelter clients as well as intake volunteers. A shelter, complete with cots and toiletry items, will be stood up during the exercise.

A discussion regarding the Public Information and Emergency Preparedness Task Groups was held. Catherine Johnston agreed to take the lead for community presentations and a number of team members expressed interest in lending a hand. Along the same lines, Eleni Bosch agreed to help with the Pet Preparedness Task Group and met with several others following the meeting who were also interested in helping.

CERT Class #13 was announced. The class will start on Thursday September 14th and will graduate on Saturday October 28th. CERT members were encouraged to attend any of the classes as a refresher and were asked to start thinking about recruiting candidates for the class. On a related note, in February Steve Wise and Don Malec will be attending a CERT Train-the-Trainer class in Romeoville. Completion of the course will allow Steve and Don to teach the 20-Hour Basic CERT Class moving forward.

A brief discussion was held regarding marketing of our team. The discussion included positive comments regarding our quarterly newsletter as well as our Facebook page. Everyone was encouraged to share our newsletter widely as well as invite Facebook friends to “Like” our page.

The Semi-Annual Meeting concluded at 8:30pm, but not before everyone was thanked for their attendance and contributions.

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

**Additional Information**

**Daniel Martin**

Safe Community Coordinator

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Visit us on Facebook

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

<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

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

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

We are now accepting applications for our (FREE) 20-Hour Basic CERT Class, which will be held on Wednesdays starting September 13th at the New Lenox Village Hall. Classes will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm thru October 25th, with the Final Exercise and Graduation on Saturday October 28th. Contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, at (815) 462-6493 or via email at [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net) to register for the class.

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

To learn more about the CERT program and the 20-Hour Basic Class, visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>

**NEW LENOX SAR ANNUAL MEETING –  
JANUARY 12, 2017**

At 7:00pm on Thursday January 12, 2017 members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue (NLSAR) Team met at the New Lenox Police Department for their Annual Meeting. In addition to NLSAR members, Lieutenant Bill Evans from the Will County Emergency Management Agency SAR Team was in attendance as a special guest.

Gary Cook provided a synopsis of 2016 training, which included 1,200 volunteer hours. Gary also summarized 2016 activations, which included 209 volunteer hours during eight “boots on the ground” activations. In addition, during 2016 NLSAR members spent 70 hours attending meetings, which included one annual meeting and one “special” meeting. Gary was kind enough to prepare the “NLSAR 2016 Participation Log,” which outlined volunteer hours for meetings, training and activations. The log has been utilized for the last few years to help establish minimum goals for team members.

During the meeting everyone welcomed Patrick Galligan to the team. Patrick recently completed his 16-Hour GSAR Class and has met all the requirements for SAR membership. Patrick will complete his fit test in the near future.

An excellent discussion was held regarding training in 2017. A month-by-month discussion of potential training topics was held until all training topics were agreed upon. The discussion also included which team member(s) would be leading each of the respective trainings. Following the meeting all team members were sent an electronic copy of the 2017 training schedule.

A short discussion was held regarding needed equipment for the upcoming fiscal year. Team members were encouraged to submit recommendations for review and approval.

The team’s policy manual was discussed and the following items were agreed upon:

- Twenty (or slightly less) team members is a good size for NLSAR.
- Three miles in under 50 minutes (walking with all necessary gear) is a good minimum standard for ALL team members for the fit test.
- Thirty hours (minimum) is a good number for annual training hours.
- Thirty percent participation in activations is a good number in a calendar year.
- Forty hours (minimum) is a good total number for annual participation hours.
- Language for selection of new team members was discussed and agreed upon. A revised policy manual will be sent electronically to all team members with the revisions.

After discussion miscellaneous items, the meeting wrapped-up just short of 9:00pm. Special thanks to Gary Cook for leading the meeting and to those who attended!



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NEW LENOX, IL  
NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL