

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

DOCUMENTATION AND INCIDENT COMMAND – DECEMBER 16, 2015

On Wednesday December 16, 2015 at 7:00pm 53 members of the New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the Village Hall for monthly training. The December training covered Documentation and Incident Command, with a twist! The twist was that it was planned in "Amazing Race" style, with a Christmas movie theme!

Dan Johnson welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of Documentation and Incident Command in "Twas' the Night Before Christmas" style, made even more realistic with the room darkened and a flashlight held up to his face! Attendees were seated at six tables, representing six teams needed for the training exercise. In lieu of our standard sign-in sheet, everyone utilized "Personnel Resources" forms at the check-in table. In addition, "Assignment Status" forms were placed at all the tables for the teams to complete throughout the exercise. At approximately 7:15, the six teams were sent separately to the following stations:

- "Message" form, run by Shelley Halach with a "Christmas Story" theme.
- "Medical Treatment Area Record" form, run by Randy Halach with a "Home Alone" theme.
- "Damage Assessment" form, run by Lisa Murphy and Emily Serno with "A Year Without Santa Claus" theme.
- "Equipment Resources" form, run by Tricia Pakosz with "A Charlie Brown Christmas" theme.
- "Incident Briefing" form, run by Dan Johnson with a "Christmas Vacation" theme.
- "Incident Status" form, run by Jerry Watts and Stan Huber with "A Christmas Carol" theme.



At the stations, teams were given a disaster-related scenario with a Christmas movie twist. Teams were asked to complete the appropriate form for the station, solve puzzles, and answer movie trivia questions. The station designers were very creative, using movie video clips, poster boards and other means to encourage the teams to complete the appropriate forms. Before moving to the next station, teams were given goodies such as Hershey kisses, hand sanitizer, cookies, candy, and tea light candles.

After spending approximately 10 minutes at each of the 6 stations, everyone met back in the Community Room for a short de-briefing. Following the de-briefing the "Ugly Sweater" contest was held, but was really more like most creative costume contest. By room applause,



Patti Miller took 3rd place, Debi Laine came in 2nd and Debbie Jones was the big winner. Emily Serno provided gift bags with candles and goodies for 1st and 2nd place.



Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who designed and ran each of the stations – they were great! Also, thanks to everyone that attended and made our last training for 2015 a great one!

Our Core Principles:

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

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SAR TRAINING BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS / WILDERNESS FIRST AID – DECEMBER 7, 2015



At 7:00pm on December 7, 2015 seventeen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the Training Room of the New Lenox Police Department for monthly training. The training was led by Randy Halach, Tricia Pakosz and Tammy Pyzek. Collectively, they covered blood borne pathogens as well as wilderness first aid.

The training began with Gary Cook providing a synopsis of 2015's training, including an overall summary of the team's activities for the year. Gary provided a preview of the Annual Meeting, which will be held on January 14, 2016 and asked team members to start thinking about training ideas for the upcoming year.

After a synopsis of blood borne pathogens from Tammy Pyzek and an overview of wilderness first aid from Tricia Pakosz, Randy Halach led the training. Randy prepared a 9-page handout in advance of the training, which was distributed to those in attendance. Randy's presentation included the following:

- Patient assessment and scene safety
- Head, neck and spine injuries
- Heat-related illness
- Chest wounds
- Bone injuries
- Allergies and anaphylaxis
- Shock
- Hypothermia



Randy did an excellent job covering signs, symptoms, and treatment of the above injuries. Throughout the presentation team members asked questions, which prompted good discussion. In addition to Randy's presentation, he also showed the group a number of pieces of medical equipment that he keeps in his pack. Following additional discussion, the training concluded at approximately 8:45pm.

Special thanks to Randy, Tricia and Tammy for the information as well as to those that attended!

CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMONS – DECEMBER 6, 2015

At 12:30pm on Sunday December 6, 2015, fifteen New Lenox CERT volunteers met in the rotunda of the New Lenox Village Hall to assist with Christmas in the Commons. A short briefing was held, which was followed by a walk-thru of the building so everyone had an understanding of where all the activities were being held. Everyone was in place by 1:00pm at the following locations:

- Main entrance, upper level (2 volunteers)
- Main entrance, lower level (2 volunteers)
- Village Board Room (1 volunteer)
- Entrance to Village Board Room (1 volunteer)
- Exit from the Village Board Room (2 volunteers)
- Upper level rotunda, north side (2 volunteers)
- Outside, north side of Village Hall (3 volunteers)
- Floating assignments (2 volunteers)



The event went very well with a steady flow of families throughout the afternoon. Our volunteers greeted visitors at the entrances and directed them to inside activities which included a visit with Santa, coloring contest, free popcorn, free child ID cards, and wonderful musical entertainment in the rotunda. In addition to the inside activities, our volunteers assisted with the horse and carriage rides, including ensuring that pedestrians crossed the street safely. Visitors were also directed to free hot chocolate and cookies in the concession stand as well as the beautiful Christmas trees that were on display. The event ended at 5:00pm with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in the Commons. Special thanks to those that assisted with the event – great job!

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SAR SEARCH FOR MISSING / ENDANGERED MAN – DECEMBER 1, 2015

At 10:30am on Tuesday December 1, 2015 a mutual aid request for assistance was sent through the Will County Emergency Management Agency's notification system(s). SAR teams were requested to respond to 2500 N. Chapel Hill Road in McHenry, IL to assist with the search for a missing /endangered man. Additional information included that the man was 69 years of age and was mentally disabled. Two New Lenox SAR members met at the New Lenox Police Department at 11:30am and started the drive to the staging area in McHenry.

At 12:00pm an additional request for searchers was sent through the notification systems while our SAR members were still driving to the staging area. At 12:33pm, as our SAR members were 10 minutes from the staging area, another message was sent stating "subject found." Since our SAR members were minutes away from the scene, they continued so they could learn additional details about the search.

Upon arriving at the staging area (golf course parking lot and clubhouse) our SAR members met with WCEMA SAR Division Chief Domingo Kaller who had arrived on scene minutes before the subject was found. Kaller advised that the subject was located (deceased) in the Fox River, just north of the staging area and not far from his home. The subject was identified as Roger Little, M/W/69, who was last seen on November 30, 2015 (afternoon). The subject suffered from a traumatic brain injury which affected his memory as well. After spending some time discussing the search, our SAR members left shortly after 1:00pm, returning to New Lenox at approximately 2:30pm.



*Photo courtesy of
McHenry County
Sheriff's Department*

SAR HIKE ON THE WAUPONSEE GLACIAL TRAIL – NOVEMBER 21, 2015



On Saturday, November 21st four NLSAR members and one family member went on a 3-mile hike at Wauponsee Glacial Trail at Sugar Creek Preserve off Laraway Road in Joliet, IL. On this day our normal SAR training was cancelled due to impending inclement weather (Will County and surrounding counties were expecting 3-6 inches of snow). NLSAR wanted to use this opportunity to test current and new equipment, in less than ideal conditions. The group arrived at Sugar Creek Preserve at 8:30am, and all members were geared up and hitting the Wauponsee Glacial Trail by 9:00am. The snow was coming down hard and continued for the entire walk. There was about 2" of snow on the ground when we began the walk. This walk was a great opportunity for members to test new /alternate gear, like boots, glasses, hats, gloves, layers, etc. Several different pieces of equipment were tried and discussed. There is no better place to get first rate equipment feedback than during live practice. Learned during the hike was the performance of new gear, boots for one, and also the importance of layering, and how to adjust clothing along the way so that too much layering does not precipitate sweat, which can ultimately lead to chilling and freezing effects. The team also learned about our endurance and performance in less than ideal conditions. It was also learned that our radios performed well, even being wet from the snow. The team completed the 3-mile hike and the event was wrapped up by 10:30am.

SAR HIKE AT MIDWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE – NOVEMBER 7, 2015

At 8:00am on Saturday November 9, 2015 eight members of the New Lenox SAR Team met for a hike at the Hoff Road Trailhead at the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie. After checking gear, our team members headed eastbound on the Twin Oaks Trail to get some exercise and do some exploring. Although it was a cool morning, the sun and pace of the hike heated everyone up quickly. Approximately two miles into the hike, our team members stopped to check out some old ammunition bunkers, which were quite interesting.



After returning to the trail, everyone enjoyed some good conversation, including talk about SAR training and equipment. The team took a quick .03 mile trip around Turtle Pond before returning to Twin Oaks Trail. After stopping for a team photo Gary Cook split-off from the team due to time constraints. This provided a good opportunity for the team to test the radios as Gary hiked backed to the parking lot. As the team continued on the trail, radio communications with Gary remained solid at a distance of about 1 1/2 miles.



The team made it back to the parking lot at approximately 10:30am. GPS indicated that the hike (including the bunkers and Turtle Pond) was 6.3 miles. Thanks to everyone that participated - it was a lot of fun!

FIRE SAFETY, UTILITIES AND HAZARDS – NOVEMBER 17, 2015

At 7:00pm on Tuesday November 17, 2015 monthly training was held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village. The topic for this particular training was fire safety, utilities, and hazards. In addition, we were fortunate to have members of the American Red Cross on hand to discuss a program called the "Pillowcase Project."



Training began with an introduction of Sunshine Gills from the American Red Cross who provided an overview of the Pillowcase Project, a course designed to teach 3rd through 5th grade students (ages 8-11) how to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Sunshine explained that the program was first implemented in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The program was inspired by college students carrying their valuables in pillowcases following the evacuation from Katrina. Working with an art therapist, the program was modified to allow children to decorate the pillowcases, which would also serve as their disaster supply kits. The Pillowcase Project became a preparedness education program for elementary school students and was adopted by the American Red Cross. In 2013 the Red Cross received a grant from Disney to design and develop a multiyear effort that would build on the initial success of the program by creating a standardized, state-of-the-art preparedness education program. Following Sunshine's presentation, six of our volunteers signed-up to be volunteer instructors. This is an exciting opportunity for our team as well as our community.

At 7:30pm Trish Buhle provided an overview of fire safety, utilities, and hazards. Trish's overview was done via PowerPoint and was supplemented by handouts as well. Following the overview, everyone in attendance was divided into three teams, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie. Following a grid system that directed teams to rotate every 15 minutes, the teams headed off to their first stations at approximately 7:45pm. The stations were as follows:



- Station #1: Fire Extinguisher Classification and Combustibles, led by Trish Buhle
 - o Teams were given 25 color photographs and had to match them with the proper fire extinguisher classification (A, B, C, D, and K).
- Station #2: Utilities and Fire Extinguisher Nomenclature, led by Tricia Pakosz
 - o Teams shut off a gas main, electricity (breaker and round threaded type), and had to identify the various parts of a fire extinguisher.
- Station #3: Fire Size-Up and Hazards, led by Patty Edgett and Stan Huber
 - o Teams had to identify a hazard placard before entering a room, conduct a size-up, and simulate extinguishing a fire while using P.A.S.S. and verbal commands.

The stations wrapped-up at 8:30pm and a short de-briefing followed in the Community Room. Special thanks to Trish Buhle and members of our Training Committee for providing an excellent training!

CUB SCOUT FIRST AID OVERVIEW – NOVEMBER 3, 2015

On Tuesday November 3, 2015 Patty Edgett (RN), Randy Halach (EMT), and Patricia Pakosz, were invited by the New Lenox Cub Scouts to provide an overview on First Aid which was held at their meeting location, the American Legion. The meeting began at 6:30pm and



our volunteers reviewed basic first aid, safety, burns, bleeding, bandaging, sprains and fractures, and being prepared for emergencies. Our CERT volunteers displayed several of their own first aid kits for the scouts. Each scout was provided with information on first aid and a list of items so they will be able to build their own kits. In addition to first aid, our volunteers also discussed disaster preparedness with the scouts. The presentation ended at approximately 7:45pm. Special thanks to Patty, Randy and Patricia for helping the scouts to "be prepared."



GPS TRAINING AT MIDEWIN NATURAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE – NOVEMBER 12, 2015

At 7:00pm on Thursday November 12, 2015 eight members of the New Lenox SAR Team met at the Hoff Road Trailhead at the Midewin Natural Tallgrass Prairie for monthly training. The purpose of the training was to familiarize team members with GPS units by providing a scenario wherein the team had to locate a search area with GPS coordinates. The scenario included team members utilizing GPS, compass, and additional ground search techniques to locate a lost child. The scenario given to our team members was as follows:

THIS IS AN EXERCISE THIS IS AN EXERCISE THIS IS AN EXERCISE THIS IS AN EXERCISE

On Thursday November 12, 2015, twelve boys (10-12 years old) traveled to the Midewin Natural Tallgrass Prairie with two adults (fathers of two of the boys). The boys were out of school due to a Teacher’s Institute Day. The purpose of the trip was to get in a hike and explore some of the old ammunition bunkers that are at Midewin.

The group arrived at the Hoff Road Trailhead at 1:00pm and set off on their hike at approximately 1:15pm. The group hiked the Twin Oaks Trail to the Bunker Field Trail. After exploring the bunkers they finished the Twin Oaks Trail and returned to the parking lot at approximately 4:45pm, just as it was getting dark.

The group then drove back to New Lenox in two vehicles and arrived at Beggar’s Pizza at approximately 5:15pm. After sitting down, the fathers realized that one of the boys was missing. Each father thought the boy was in the other vehicle. The Will County Sheriff’s Police were contacted and the initial Sheriff’s Deputies arrived at the Hoff Road Trailhead at approximately 5:30pm. Incident Command was established in the parking lot at the Hoff Road Trailhead.

The Will County Emergency Management Agency SAR Division was contacted at approximately 5:45pm and requested to assist with the search. At 6:00pm a Mutual Aid Request was sent to area SAR teams via “I Am Responding,” text message, and email. Teams were requested to respond to the Hoff Road Trailhead for staging and assignments.

A hasty search of the Twin Oaks and Bunker Field Trails has been completed by Emergency Management personnel via ATVs. New Lenox SAR has just arrived on scene with eight members. Search Managers at Incident Command have begun assigning teams search areas. New Lenox has been assigned two search areas just off of the Twin Oaks Trail, east of the staging area. New Lenox has been provided maps of the search area, which include GPS coordinates of the areas to be searched. The areas have been identified as “Area A” and “Area B.”

The description of the lost child is as follows:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Jimmy Getzlost</i>
<i>Age:</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Height:</i>	<i>5”06</i>
<i>Weight:</i>	<i>90lbs.</i>
<i>Ethnicity:</i>	<i>White / Caucasian</i>
<i>Last Seen Wearing:</i>	<i>Black jacket, blue t-shirt, blue jeans, gym shoes (unknown description, about a size 6)</i>
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>	<i>Jimmy has asthma and does not have an inhaler with him. Jimmy did not have any water or food with him as the adults had been carrying everything for the boys.</i>



THIS IS AN EXERCISE THIS IS AN EXERCISE THIS IS AN EXERCISE THIS IS AN EXERCISE

Following the briefing the team hiked approximately ½ mile to the first GPS coordinate, arriving at approximately 7:30pm. The team then began searching the field from north to south. Team members utilized GPS, compass, natural boundaries (old Joliet Army Ammunition Plant roads), and biodegradable flagging tape (removed on each pass) to navigate the search area. At approximately 8:15pm the team located the “victim” who was conscious and had a sprained or broken ankle. Team members rendered first aid to the victim and transported him back to Incident Command.

A de-briefing of the exercise was held, which led to some excellent discussion about GPS and compass navigation, as well as flagging concepts. Similar to all SAR trainings, this scenario also provided an opportunity for team members to test gear and clothing. Training concluded at 8:45pm. Special thanks to everyone that participated!

CERT CLASS #10 FINAL EXERCISE AND GRADUATION – OCTOBER 31, 2015

CERT Class #10 started on Thursday September 17, 2015 with Unit 1, Disaster Preparedness. The class met at 6:30pm each week at the New Lenox Police Department, which was the first time a CERT class was held at the new police facility. Like all of our CERT classes, this group was engaged in the course content right from the start and did an excellent job each week.

Twenty-eight students arrived at the New Lenox Police Department at 8:30am on Saturday October 31st to participate in their final exercise prior to graduation. During their last class, students selected an Incident Commander and established preliminary search teams to prepare for the scenario. Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief and CERT Program Coordinator, briefed the team at 8:50am. At this time the class was informed that in the interest of safety and the well-being of the role players ("victims"), the final exercise would be held indoors due to the pouring rain outside.



At this time the 28 students were divided into four teams of seven. Students were provided with a schedule that included four stations that would run for 30 minutes each, starting at 9:15am. The stations included Search, Triage, Transport, and Treatment. Following the briefing the students were given a few minutes to go over assignments while the "victims" were placed in the Triage and Treatment stations. The teams were then directed to the lower level of the police department where they started their first stations promptly at 9:15am.

There were over 20 role players involved in the final exercise along with 15 veteran CERT / SAR members that ran each of the stations while also serving as evaluators and safety officers. Teams were provided with instructions and a safety briefing at each of the

stations. In addition, teams were given a de-briefing, which included constructive feedback and an opportunity for team members to ask questions. The last exercise ended at 11:10am at which time everyone chipped in by bringing all the equipment and supplies to the garage where the victims and evaluators were thanked for their assistance. CERT Class #10 was then directed to return to the upper level Training Room for a de-briefing of the final exercise.



At 11:30am the graduation luncheon was held with food catered from Beggar's Pizza. The luncheon was followed by the graduation ceremony, which included remarks from Mayor Tim Baldermann who was in attendance for his 10th CERT graduation. Mayor Baldermann stayed to assist



with the graduation ceremony by handing each of the graduates a "CERT Kit." The "CERT Kit" is a green backpack which contains medical supplies, a non-sparking wrench to turn off utilities, CERT vest, CERT hard hat, goggles, gloves, a 10' X 10" tarp, and additional items needed to respond to a disaster. The "CERT Kit's" were purchased through a "Powering Community Safety" grant from ComEd, in partnership with the National Safety Council. The intent of the grant is to empower communities to reduce day-to-day risks and to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations. As such, completion of the 20-Hour Basic CERT Class is clearly a major step in this direction as well as a step toward prevention of injuries and deaths in our community.

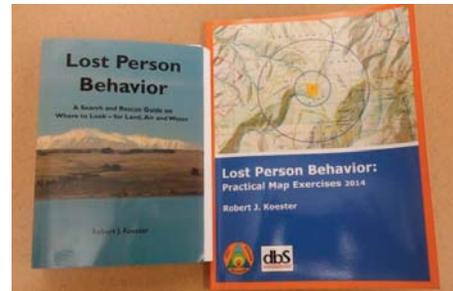
Special thanks to everyone that assisted with the final exercise for our 10th graduating class. In addition, congratulations to the graduates and welcome to the team!



LOST PERSON BEHAVIOR – OCTOBER 24, 2015

At 7:00am on Saturday October 24, 2015 five members of the New Lenox SAR Team met at the New Lenox Police Department for the purpose of carpooling to a "Lost Person Behavior" class at the Kane County Government Building in Geneva, IL. Our team members arrived the facility at 8:00am and the class began at 8:30am.

Domingo Kaller, Division Chief for the Will County Emergency Management Agency SAR Team taught the class with Val Sye-Haritos, Captain at Naperville EMA / SAR. Both Domingo and Val are certified Lost Person Behavior Instructors who taught the class via PowerPoint, lecture, and through tabletop exercises with the class.



Each student in the class purchased a Lost Person Behavior book along with an accompanying workbook, which provided the scenarios and maps for the exercises. In short, Lost Person Behavior is driven by statistical data from searches that have been conducted in the United States as well in other countries. The statistical data helps search managers with planning efforts prior to deploying searchers into the field. One of the most significant features of Lost Person Behavior and the book itself, is that it is organized by victim categories. For example, search managers can reference the book for guidance based on who is lost (children, elderly, hikers, campers, elderly with Alzheimer's, children with Autism, etc...). Again, driven by statistical data, the book provides search managers with likely scenarios of where the lost person might be found along with investigative tips provided in checklist fashion.

Following a written exam, the class ended at 3:00pm and following the drive back to New Lenox, our team members ended their day at approximately 4:00pm. This was an excellent class and one that all of our members should complete.

PRAIRIE STATE CERT CHALLENGE RECAP – OCTOBER 21, 2015

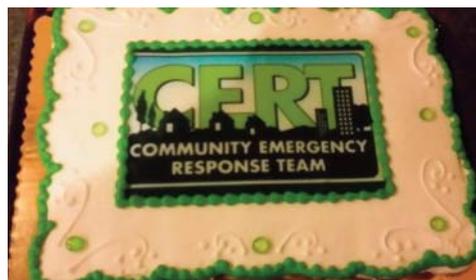
At 7:00pm on Wednesday October 21, 2015 monthly training was held at Beggar's Pizza in New Lenox. This particular training has become somewhat of a tradition and follows our Prairie State CERT Challenge Team's participation in the annual event. It's provides an opportunity for our PSCC team members to share their experience at the event, including how they trained and prepared. In addition, it's a nice opportunity for everyone to have dinner together while creating esprit de corps amongst team members.



Following dinner, our PSCC team members spent about 5 minutes discussing each of the following stations: Networking, Team Building, Triage, Treatment, Transport, Indoor Search, Disaster Psychology, Documentation, Exterior Search, and Fire/Utilities/Hazards. During each presentation there was an opportunity for Q & A, and the 2015 PSCC team members were very encouraging of others to consider participating in next year's event.



In addition to the re-cap of the 2015 Prairie State CERT Challenge, Mike English provided a quick overview of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Mike provided everyone in attendance with an informational handout and Randy Halach also provided information on the topic as well. Special thanks to all our PSCC team members for providing the information as well as for doing a great job at the October 3rd event!



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SAR ROPES TRAINING – OCTOBER 17, 2015

At 9:00am on Saturday October 17, 2015 New Lenox SAR members met with Chris Gregory, Boy Scouts of America, at Rainbow Council's climbing / rappelling tower in Morris, IL. Team members attended this training to learn basic ropes safety, how to set-up the ropes to rappel, and to get comfortable going over the edge.

Initially the team started on the practice platform (just a couple of feet off the ground). Everyone's experience level was a bit different and they worked together with Chris to get comfortable with leaning out over a void. Chris then showed our SAR members various emergency harnesses and rappelling methods. The team collectively agreed that using only a rope in an emergency is a last option.

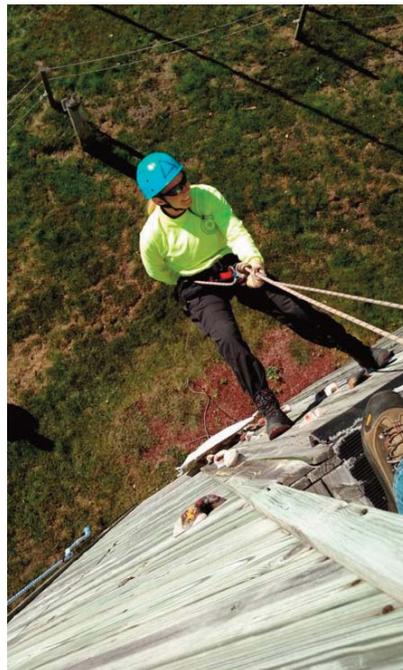
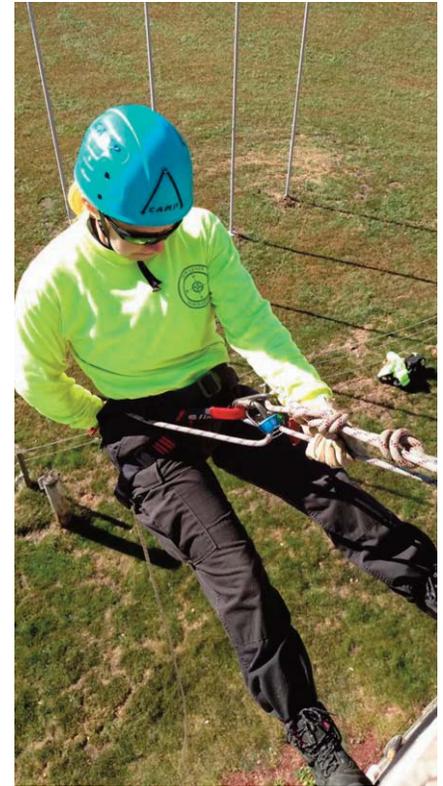
Once everyone was comfortable working with the ropes, they moved up to the thirty foot tower. All six team members were able to rappel to the ground (with Chris as emergency back-up) fairly easily.

Once comfortable with basic rappelling they began to change things up for a bit of a challenge. Moving from a high anchor point to a lower point makes you go over the edge a bit faster. Rappelling while adding SAR packs was easier than initially thought.

Two of the team members demonstrated a "fireman's belay." Essentially the rope is anchored above the person secured into the ropes and the person on belay (the person working the ropes) stands at the bottom holding the rope. The person on belay then controls the descent of the person rappelling. Trust in your fellow team member is an important part of this maneuver.

To finish off the training, Joe Frigo successfully did an Australian Rappel (walking off the tower harnessed from his back).

At the end of training Chris discussed further training with the team. By achieving certification, team members can help the Scouts with ropes events while having the ability to practice as well. Special thanks to Tricia Pakosz for making the arrangements for this outstanding training event.



ASSIST CUB SCOUT PACK 6 – OCTOBER 16, 2015

On Friday, October 16th Patricia Pakosz met with the Pack 6 Wolf Den. As part of their advancement, the Cub Scouts needed to talk with someone who helps in the community.

The meeting started at 7:00pm with opening flags and then the boys gathered around for a discussion about CERT. They started with a general talk about how CERT helps in the community and how CERT can be called to help during a disaster. They also covered personal safety and scene safety. To help facilitate the talk, Patricia took various items out of her CERT bag. The boys enjoyed having the hands-on opportunity.

After the discussion the boys were given basic guidelines for doing an interior search. Following the discussion the scouts were given flashlights and paired up to find six stuffed animals. The boys maintained their buddy system and looked high, low, in, and around obstacles. They successfully recovered all six stuffed animals. They were excited and after a short discussion regarding the search, the meeting ended. encourage those that completed the course!



MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MONTHLY TRAINING / GPS AND COMPASS – OCTOBER 17, 2015

On Saturday October 17, 2015 two members of the New Lenox SAR Team met with several other SAR agencies at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve for GPS & Compass Orienteering training. The training was conducted by the Will County Emergency Management Agency SAR Team. There were about 30 in attendance from several agencies. First, there was an hour review of using a compass with a map and how to use a GPS. We broke into teams of 4-6 and were given a map and locations to find on the map. These locations were already marked by Orienteer’s not associated with Will County SAR. Before the exercise began we calculated everyone’s pace count for 100 meters and 100 yards in similar terrain where the exercises were held.



The initial challenge for our team (“Bravo”) was to use the provided GPS coordinates to find our first marker. Once the marker was found we radioed the post number. From there we used our map and compass skills to find the next three markers. At one of the markers we needed to provide command with a bearing of the cell tower and GPS location.

All challenges were completed successfully and everyone learned a little more about using the compass with a map and GPS.



SAR SURVIVAL TRAINING – OCTOBER 7, 2015

At 7:00pm on Wednesday October 7, 2015 New Lenox SAR members met in the New Lenox Community Park District pavilion, located just to the north of the New Lenox Police Department. The pavilion provided a nice location for survival training as it was outdoors and had several trees nearby. Joe Frigo kicked-off the training by showing everyone two different shelters, one constructed from a tarp and the other from a poncho. For the first, Joe drove two tall stakes into the ground and stretched a guide line from stake-to-stake, approximately 5-feet from the ground. Joe showed the team suitable knots that can be utilized to stretch the guide line from stake-to-stake and to secure the tarp to the ground with stakes. Joe then showed the team another shelter that he set-up with a poncho hanging from a tree. Joe had the poncho secured to the ground with stakes at all 4 corners using 550 Paracord. The poncho was then suspended from a tree, which formed a tent shape. Once again, Joe demonstrated knots that can be utilized to raise and secure the poncho in the tree.



Following Joe's shelter segment, Gary Cook showed those in attendance how to construct a hammock from a 10' X 10' tarp. Gary also showed the team several knots that can be utilized to shape the tarp into a hammock as well as suspend the hammock from two fixed objects, in this case two pavilion pillars. Gary tested the hammock, which was suspended approximately two feet off the ground and it worked great. At this time team members were provided an opportunity to practice several knots, with assistance from Gary and Joe.



Following the hammock and knot tying session, Gary then showed the team a makeshift alcohol burning stove. The stove utilized a roll of toilet paper soaked in rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol, which was placed in a metal coffee can. Gary lit the roll of toilet paper and it produced a nice flame as well as some decent heat. Gary also explained several other methods to produce light and heat from a fire in a survival environment.

Rich DeVault also showed those in attendance some commercially produced heating and cooking products such as a Jet Boil stove and fire starting cubes. Rich lit the stove, which produced an excellent flame and has the ability to bring two cups of water to a boil in 2-3 minutes. Following Rich's demonstration team members spent some time discussing equipment and gear. The training ended at approximately 8:30pm. Special thanks to Joe, Gary and Rich for sharing their knowledge with the team.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Thursday January 14, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Annual Meeting at the New Lenox Police Department
- Saturday January 16, 2016 / 8:00am – SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Tuesday January 19, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Semi-Annual Meeting at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Monday February 8, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Wednesday February 17, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday February 20, 2016 / 8:00am - SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Tuesday March 8, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Saturday March 19, 2016 / 8:00am - SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Wednesday March 23, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Thursday April 7, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Tuesday April 12, 2015 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall



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NEW LENOX TOP HONORS AT 2015 PRAIRIE STATE CERT CHALLENGE

We couldn't be prouder of our New Lenox Prairie State CERT Challenge Team! They took 1st place at the 2015 Prairie State CERT Challenge, which was held on Saturday October 3, 2015 at the College of DuPage Homeland Security and Education Center in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Twelve dedicated members of our team literally started training for this year's event, shortly after last year's. As the event got closer, several evenings were spent brushing up on team building, triage & treatment, transport, interior search, fire safety & utility controls, disaster psychology, documentation and exterior search. Each team member volunteered to take the lead on one or more of these disciplines. Team members taught each of the topics at one of the training sessions and then took the lead at the respective "stations" during the event.

The event, sponsored by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, in collaboration with the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, created an environment where 8 Community Emergency Response Teams rotated through 10 stations (approximately 30 minutes each), which tested their emergency response skills. Over 200 volunteers participated in this year's event, which included volunteers from the 8 teams as well as volunteers that served as role players, evaluators, station assistants and planning team members.

The event ended at 3:30pm with the completion of the last station, followed by a Closing Ceremony in the auditorium of the Homeland Security and Education Center's Auditorium. After thanking all of the teams and volunteers for participating, the scores for the event were posted as follows:

New Lenox	948	Naperville	861
Carol Stream	906	Milton Township	847
Buffalo Grove	884	North (EGV/F)	800
Chicago	864	Huntley	706



A BIG thank you to the 2015 New Lenox Prairie State CERT Challenge team (pictured left to right):
 Tricia Pakosz, Patricia Edgett, Randy Halach, Lisa Murphy, Rich DeVault, William Gill, John Schuld, Trish Buhle, Shelley Halach, Dan Johnson, Joe Frigo, Dave Lauer

New Lenox scores for each of the stations were as follows:

Station #1	Networking	100
Station #2	Team Building	98
Station #3	Triage	90
Station #4	Treatment	90
Station #5	Transport	100
Station #6	Indoor Search	94
Station #7	Disaster Psychology	92
Station #8	Documentation	87
Station #9	Exterior Search	100
Station #10	Fire / Utilities / Hazards	97
	Total	948



Our 2015 Prairie State CERT Challenge Team performed exceptionally well at the event which has brought a great deal of credit and recognition to our program (and community). The event, as well as the training leading up to the event, has raised the skill level of our 2015 PSCC Team Members. As such, these team members will be able to pass along their experience to others in our CERT program. This increases our team's level of preparedness for WHEN a disaster strikes our community. Ultimately, lives are saved and injuries are prevented or treated in a more effective manner because of the dedication of these volunteers.



Additional Information**Daniel Martin**

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 New Lenox Police Department
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**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
20-HOUR BASIC CLASSES**

We are now accepting applications for our (FREE) 20-Hour Basic CERT Class – dates and times TBD. Classes are typically held on weeknights from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Contact Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, at the New Lenox Police Department (815) 462-6100 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net, to register for a 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

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



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SPOTLIGHT MEMBER – GARY COOK

There is nothing better than the good feeling you get inside when you know you've helped somebody out, especially when that somebody is at a major disadvantage. Within all the New Lenox Police Department volunteer programs to which I'm associated (CERT, SAR, MRC), it's incredible to see the nearly 200 volunteers that share the same passion I do for coming to the aid of others in times of their greatest needs. My first big volunteer commitment was to the USAF, where I worked with electro-optics on reconnaissance aircraft for the 363 Tactical Fighter Wing. One of my fondest memories was coming to the aid of our community in Sumter, SC after the devastating impact of Hurricane Hugo in September of 1989. Sumter was the last area that the eye of the Hurricane went through before it started dissipating. Hugo was deepest inland penetrating, and most costly hurricane our country had ever seen. To live through that experience and see the very basic human needs that people required (food, water, shelter, etc.), was very humbling. Looking back, the area of Sumter was very fortunate to have hundreds and hundreds of volunteers from our Air Force base to aid in that recovery. After my honorable discharge from the service, I married my beautiful girlfriend, had two wonderful kids, and moved to rural New Lenox in 2000, which was known for its great school district. Since then, I have been volunteering through several of our community churches and eventually caught wind of the new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) that was being developed. I had a natural draw to this new movement and now I am proud to be part of a CERT organization that logs "thousands" of annual volunteer training hours spread over more than 100 people, who like me, have volunteered much of their personal time for our community. More recently, New Lenox developed its own Search and Rescue (SAR) team, to which I also belong. This team has, by far, some of the greatest and most committed people I have ever worked with. This small group of highly trained volunteers alone puts in over 1000 hours of training per year, in conjunction with participating in real world SAR activations under the jurisdiction of the Will County Emergency Management Agency's SAR group. Our New Lenox SAR team participates in many real world activations each year, including searches for missing persons and critical evidence. Our New Lenox team has been instrumental in the recovery efforts on some of these real world events. All this training has benefited me personally too, as I was able this year to take control of a fresh head-on accident scene and provide basic medical treatment until first responders arrived. It was again a great feeling being able to have the skills and act instinctively from all the training that our groups have provided. My family also spends as much time as possible in the very rural North woods of Wisconsin and I often consider how my training might come into play for a missing person, especially if it's a family member. I have the Village of New Lenox to thank for my training and confidence. In the end, all the people of New Lenox should be as proud as I am knowing that we have an incredible group of highly trained volunteers ready to aid our community in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist event. I am proud to call New Lenox my home, The Home of Proud Americans!



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