

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM, MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS *and* SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

## TOUR OF NLFPD STATION #1 – DECEMBER 17, 2013

On Tuesday December 17, 2013 New Lenox CERT / MRC / SAR held monthly training which included a behind the scenes tour of New Lenox Fire Protection District (NLFPD) Station #1. Volunteers began arriving at Station #1 at approximately 6:30pm and by 7:00pm the station's training room was filled with 50 of our volunteers. Lieutenant Jer Naughton welcomed everyone and began with a presentation on their 12-lead monitors which are on each of the ambulances and fire trucks. Following the



Powerpoint and lecture, Lieutenant Naughton had everyone break-up into smaller groups for the station tour. Lieutenant Naughton and his shift provided a grand tour of Station #1 which included a look at their sleeping quarters, kitchen, workout room, supervisor's office, communications center, training room and bays where vehicles and equipment are stored. Our volunteers had a great look at their new ladder truck, Advance Life Support (ALS) ambulance and tactical water rescue trailer. In addition, a great explanation of



how all the tools and equipment are utilized was provided. The station tour concluded at approximately 8:45pm at which time everyone in attendance thanked Lieutenant Naughton and his staff for the tour which was very impressive!

### Our Core Principles:

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

### Recent Activities:

Tour of NLFPD #1	1
Train the Trainer	1
Evidence Search	2
Missing Person Search	2
Tornado Victims	2
Nelson Ridge	
Family Night	3
Monthly Training Nov.	3
Search Exercise	3
Cert Family Night	4
Wide Area Search	4
Prairie State Challenge	
Debriefing	4
Chicago Marathon	5
NLFPD Open House	5

### Upcoming Events:

Mark Your Calendar	5
--------------------	---

### Member Spotlight

Randy Halach	6
--------------	---

## CERT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER – DECEMBER 7-8, 2013

On Saturday December 7th and Sunday December 8th a 16-hour CERT Train-the-Trainer Course was held at the Grundy County Emergency Management Agency in Morris, IL. Patty Edgett and Randy Halach were two of the twelve students that had enrolled in the class which is only offered approximately two times each year. The first day was spent discussing administrative aspects of the CERT program, instructor roles / responsibilities and adult learning / educational methodology. In addition, the first day also included an overview of each of the CERT units, including the challenges that instructors face with each of the units. Lastly, students were given their "teach-back" assignments for the 2nd day.



On the second day of the Train-the-Trainer Course, the morning was spent with 20-minute teach-backs. Both Patty and Randy did an excellent job with their presentations! Following the teach-backs and a break for lunch, a block of instruction on Program Management was covered by Daniel Martin (Public Safety Division Chief and CERT Program Coordinator – New Lenox Police Department) who was one of the instructors for the Train-the-Trainer Course. Following a short summary of the course, the students were given the final exam. Everyone did very well on the 50-question written exam, including Patty and Randy – both passing with flying colors. Patty and Randy are now certified to instruct the 20-hour Basic CERT Course for our program as well as any CERT program in the State of Illinois. Great job Patty and Randy – well done!



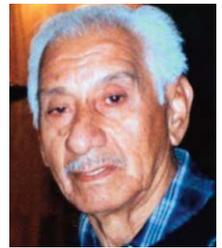
## EVIDENCE SEARCH NAPERVILLE, IL – DECEMBER 1, 2013

On Sunday December 1, 2013 at approximately 5:15pm the Will County Emergency Management Agency (Search and Rescue Division) sent out a request for mutual aid to its Search and Rescue (SAR) affiliates. The request was on behalf of the Naperville Police Department, Naperville Emergency Management Agency and Naperville SAR for an Evidence Search. New Lenox SAR members Rich DeVault and Randy Halach responded to the request and learned that the Evidence Search was for a pistol that was allegedly discarded by a suspect during a foot chase. New Lenox SAR members along with SAR members from additional jurisdictions conducted a search of a residential area as well as an adjacent wooded area but were unable to locate a weapon. The search concluded at approximately 9:15pm at which time searchers were released after a short debriefing.



## MISSING PERSON SEARCH AURORA, IL – NOVEMBER 24, 2013

On Sunday November 24, 2013 at approximately 3:15pm the Will County Emergency Management Agency (Search and Rescue Division) sent out a request for mutual aid to its Search and Rescue (SAR) affiliates. The request was on behalf of the Kane County Sheriff's Department and the Kane County Emergency Management Agency for a Missing Person. Six members of the New Lenox SAR Team met in the parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall at 4:00pm, checked their gear and car pooled to the Oakhurst Forest Preserve in Aurora, IL. After an initial briefing, search teams learned that an 85-year old male had been last seen on November 22, 2013 by family members. Family members advised that the man regularly walked the forest preserve and it was possible that he might have become lost and / or developed a medical issue. The New Lenox SAR Team deployed at 5:25pm and conducted a search of a large wooded area with hilly terrain. Other SAR teams were assigned other areas to search as well. At 10:30pm the search of the forest preserve was concluded without finding the man. A short de-briefing was held and New Lenox SAR Team members were released at 11:00pm, returning to the New Lenox Village Hall just before midnight. A second search was conducted the following morning which Tricia Pakosz participated in. Following the conclusion of the second search, the man was still not located.



Enrique Huerta-Ruiz

## DIAMOND / COAL CITY TORNADO VICTIMS DONATIONS – NOVEMBER 18TH THRU 22ND

As many are aware, dozens of tornados tore across the Midwest on Sunday November 17th. Some tornados ranged from EF2 to EF4 and caused devastation throughout Illinois from Washington, IL to Frankfort, IL. The nearby communities of Diamond and Coal City were hit particularly hard with dozens of homes completely demolished. A decision was made to assist the victims by accepting donations at the New Lenox Police Department. A press release was sent out on November 18th and by early afternoon New Lenox residents were dropping off clothes, cases of water, paper towels, cleaning supplies food and a host of items that the tornado victims needed. A schedule was then developed for New Lenox CERT / MRC / SAR volunteers starting on Tuesday November 19th. Volunteers arrived at the New Lenox Police Department at 8:30am and assisted in unloading vehicles that were filled with donations. The Village of New Lenox 10-passenger van was filled six times throughout the week and driven to Wilmington, IL where the donations were being accepted. The New Lenox Community Park District donated their 14-foot box truck which was filled and driven to Wilmington, IL four times throughout the week. CERT / MRC / SAR volunteers worked at the police



department, in Wilmington and in Coal City throughout the week, unloading and sorting donations for the tornado victims. Some volunteers worked a couple hours on one or two days while others worked eight hours or more on multiple days. By the end of the week 80 volunteers donated over 300 hours of their time assisting with this incredibly successful effort! Special thanks to all the volunteers and family members who donated their time, donated items or drove items to Wilmington, IL in their personal vehicles.



## NELSON RIDGE FAMILY NIGHT – NOVEMBER 21, 2013

On Thursday November 21, 2013 Nelson Ridge School held "Family Night." As many folks are aware, Patty Edgett is a School Nurse at Nelson Ridge and she often shares preparedness information with the students. "Family Night" provided a great opportunity for kids (and parents) to learn about disaster preparedness in a fun way! Patty utilized a computer lab and logged the computers onto the Ready.gov (kids) web site so the kids could play the "Disaster Master Game." In addition to the web site game, each family was given a packet of emergency preparedness information along with links to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), [www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov), and [www.safenewlenox.org](http://www.safenewlenox.org). Lastly, students and parents had an opportunity to view a NOAA Weather Radio which Patty had on display. In addition to the hugely successful "Family Night," Patty will be giving an emergency preparedness presentation to staff in January 2014. Great job Patty – thanks for your continued efforts in keeping our community prepared!



## MONTHLY TRAINING – NOVEMBER 16, 2013

On Saturday November 16, 2013 at 8:00am thirty members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC / SAR met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. The topic for the month of November was "Traffic Direction for the Local Emergency Worker" which was instructed by Mark Tomany, Illinois State Police (ret.). Mark provided those in attendance with a Student Manual and began his instruction with a Power Point presentation. The Student Manual and Power Point defined



"traffic control," touched on appearance and covered the Illinois Compiled Statutes related to traffic control. In addition, Mark discussed the basics of traffic control which included vehicular and pedestrian movement. Mark also talked about the various pieces of equipment needed to safely direct traffic. Examples included an ANSI approved vest, flashlight with cone, whistle, fusees/flares and traffic cones. A video illustrating proper traffic control techniques was played for the class and Mark spent considerable time speaking about safety. Following the classroom presentation, the class went

outside for some hands-on training which included proper traffic cone placement, lighting fusees/flares and traffic direction using hand gestures. The class ended at approximately 1:00pm and was enjoyed by those in attendance.



## FULL-SCALE SEARCH EXERCISE KENDALL COUNTY – NOVEMBER 15, 2013

At 5:00pm on Friday November 15, 2013 eleven members of the New Lenox SAR Team met in the parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall. At this point gear was checked and arrangements were made to car pool to 13608 Fox Road in Yorkville (Kendall County), IL for a Full-Scale Search Exercise. Our team arrived on-site at approximately 6:00pm and awaited a briefing from Kendall County Emergency Management Agency personnel who were responsible for the HSEEP (Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program) approved exercise. In short, the exercise involved an earthquake that affected hikers that were known to be in a wooded area. Participants were told that at least one hiker had been injured but his location was unknown. There were a number of agencies that participated in this exercise, several of which had mobile command centers on site. Unified Command was established which included representation from the Kendall County Sheriff's Office, local fire department and local SAR team. In addition, Operations, Planning and Logistics was established as the SAR teams were preparing for deployment. SAR teams were sent out to conduct searches of defined areas within a pre-established boundaries. Throughout the evening "injects" were given which included a lost hunter, another lost hiker and a suspicious person. The exercise concluded at 1:30am at which time searchers had their vitals taken at the Medical Mobile Command Center. A briefing then ensued which included an opportunity for each of the participating teams to provide feedback. All SAR teams then departed the area and our New Lenox team arrived back at the Village Hall just shy of 3:00am. Although physically exhausting, our SAR team members learned a great deal from this well planned and executed exercise.



## CERT FAMILY NIGHT – NOVEMBER 13, 2013

At 6:30pm on Wednesday November 13, 2013 New Lenox CERT, MRC and SAR members started showing up for "Family Night" which was created by Al Murry. Al spent several weeks planning the event and as the evening played out, Al's hard work really paid off! The evening started with many folks bringing in a variety of dishes and desserts for everyone's enjoyment. There was good conversation during dinner which provided those in attendance an opportunity to get to know each other as well as family members that came to enjoy the evening as well. At 7:30pm Al invited each of the committee chairs up to speak about the good work being done by their respective committees. At 8:00pm Al served as moderator for a good old fashion game of Jeopardy – CERT style! Al's Jeopardy boards were filled with various categories related to the Basic CERT curriculum, arranged by "dollar" amount which was based on level of difficulty. Al provided everyone with a raffle ticket at the door and drew numbers to determine who had the opportunity to answer questions. Everyone did an outstanding job and each participant was rewarded with their choice of prize (donated by Al and other team members). The Jeopardy game wrapped up just shy of 9:00pm, bringing Family Night to a close. As a final gesture of kindness, Al made up a quick game to determine who would take home a poinsettia plant which adorned each of the tables. The plants were a gift from Al and his family who were also in attendance. Much thanks to Al for doing a terrific job with "Family Night" and for those (about 100 throughout the evening) that were in attendance.

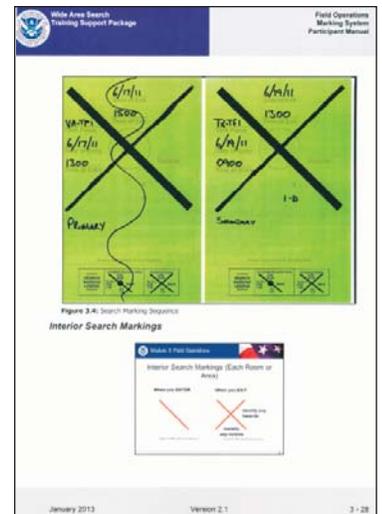


Tricia Pakosz, Dave Klingensmith and Rich DeVault attended a 3-Day Wide Area Search Class (PER-213) on October 18th, 19th and 20th. The course was held at the Local 150 Operating Engineers Training Facility in Wilmington, IL and was taught by instructors from the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). The course covered preparedness, search management, planning, field operations and included a field exercise. In addition to the course topics, course objectives included:

## WIDE AREA SEARCH TRAINING – OCTOBER 18TH – 20TH

1) Plan a response to a wide area search incident.  
2) Use information / intelligence to formulate strategies for wide area searches.  
3) Conduct and perform operations to support wide area searches.

There were approximately 32 participants coming from as far as southern Indiana. Backgrounds covered EMA, Fire, CERT and Emergency Services. The course was well run and covered nation-wide standards in search, markings, mapping, planning and more. Much of what was taught in the course was developed through lessons learned during Hurricane Katrina.



## DE-BRIEFING OF THE 2013 PRAIRIE STATE CERT CHALLENGE – OCTOBER 16, 2013

On Wednesday October 16, 2013 approximately 40 members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met at Beggar's Pizza, 650 W. Maple Road New Lenox, IL for monthly training. The training started at 7:00pm and included a de-briefing of the 2013 Prairie State CERT Challenge (PSCC) which was presented by 2013 PSCC Team Members. The synopsis and discussion included the following:

- Staging / Incident Command
- Terrorism
- Search
- Triage / Treatment
- Team Building
- Size-Up / Hazards
- Transport
- CERT Jeopardy



The 2013 PSCC Team Members did a great job explaining the objectives of each of the stations while encouraging those in attendance to give it a try in 2014. In addition to the de-briefing, each of the 2013 PSCC Team Members were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for their time and outstanding efforts. Those in attendance were also treated to pizza and soft drinks which was a nice change of pace for a monthly training event!

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

## CHICAGO MARATHON – OCTOBER 13, 2013

On Sunday October 13, 2013 nine members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met at 4:00am at the New Lenox Village Hall in preparation for their journey to volunteer for the 2013 Bank of America Chicago Marathon. The Village of New Lenox passenger van was utilized as transportation to the North Parking Garage at Soldier Field. After a 15-minute walk, our volunteers arrived at the Harrison Volunteer Compound via the Harrison Avenue Bridge at Michigan Avenue. Despite tight security, check-in was completed by 5:30am which was followed by the issuance of official Bank of America Chicago Marathon warm-ups and hats, both in red to represent "medical volunteers." New Lenox volunteers attended a briefing at the Medical Tent followed by another briefing back at the Harrison Volunteer Compound. After receiving assignments and equipment, medical volunteers walked to Michigan Avenue & 12th Street at approximately 9:30am for one last briefing.



Following the elite runners passing by, Pre-Finish Area Medical Volunteers were deployed on Michigan Avenue from 13th Street to 12th Street, on 12th Street between Michigan Avenue & Columbus Drive and on Columbus Drive from 12th Street to the Finish Line. New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers worked with other medical volunteers, including doctors, nurses, paramedics and EMTs. Pre-Finish Area Medical Volunteers were given the task of watching out for runners in distress and assisting them as needed. Given the fact that runners were around the 26 mile mark, there was a lot of leg (calves / thighs) cramping that typically required a few minutes of rest. Fortunately no runners at the Pre-Finish Area required any serious medical attention. All medical volunteers stayed at their assigned locations until 3:30pm at which time the course was closed.

All checked-out equipment was returned to the Incident Command Post at 12th Street & Michigan Avenue at which time our volunteers started their walk back to the North Parking Garage at Soldier Field. The drive back to New Lenox then ensued with arrival back at the Village Hall at approximately 5:00pm. Although a long day (13 hours), our volunteers found it to be a lot of fun as well as a rewarding experience!

## NEW LENOX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE – OCTOBER 12, 2013

On Saturday October 12, 2013 New Lenox CERT / MRC and SAR participated in the New Lenox Fire Protection District's Open House which was held at Fire Station #1 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Tania Mora took the lead on this event and was assisted by Patty Edgett, Randy Halach and Dale Alexander. Our team members set-up a great table with information that represented all three organizations. The table also included preparedness literature from Ready.gov which was handed out to many visitors.



Families with children enjoyed the Prize Wheel which had many questions related to disaster preparedness. Regardless of the answer, kids learned something and walked away with some neat prizes. The Open House featured several fire safety related demonstrations and families were treated to free hot dogs and snacks. Special thanks to our volunteers for attending the event and sharing their knowledge about CERT, MRC and SAR as well as the New Lenox Fire Protection District for extending the invitation!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Tuesday January 14, 2014 / 7:00pm – Monthly Training in the Community Room at the Village Hall
- Saturday January 18, 2014 / 9:00am – SAR Monthly Training at the Plainfield Police Department
- Saturday February 15, 2014 – SAR Monthly Training, location TBD
- Wednesday February 19, 2014 / 7:00pm – Monthly Training in the Community Room at the Village Hall
- National Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 2-8, 2014 (State Tornado Drill March 4th at 10:00am)
- Saturday March 15, 2014 – SAR Monthly Training, location TBD
- Thursday March 20, 2014 / 7:00pm – Monthly Training in the Community Room at the Village Hall



**Additional Information**

**Daniel Martin**

*Public Safety Division Chief*  
 New Lenox Police Department  
 Phone: 815-462-6100  
 Fax: 815-462-6101  
 Email: dmartin@newlenox.net

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

Thirty-one residents from CERT Class #8 graduated the 20-Hour Basic CERT Course on Saturday October 19, 2013. Much like those from Class #1 thru #7, CERT Class #8 did an outstanding job during the Final Exercise and throughout the course. In fact, one student just two weeks after graduation utilized her newly learned skills when her son collapsed during a High School Cross County Meet. Through the skills learned in Med Ops 1 & 2, she was able to recognize the signs of shock, remained calm, called for assistance and treated her son until professional responders arrived on scene. Due to her quick reactions and appropriate response, her son made a full recovery and is doing well. For additional information about the New Lenox CERT Program or to register for the next class, contact Public Safety Division Chief Daniel Martin at the New Lenox Police Department by phone (815) 462-6100 or email 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

To learn more about the CERT program and the 20-Hour Basic Class, visit <http://www.citizen corps.gov/cert/> and [www.safenewlenox.org](http://www.safenewlenox.org)



Visit us on Facebook

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

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

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:  
 RANDY HALACH**



My wife Shelley, also a CERT member, and I moved to New Lenox from Oak Lawn, IL in January of 2000. We fell in love with New Lenox the first time we drove through the neighborhoods.

I have been with the phone company for 27 years; Illinois Bell, Ameritech, SBC, and most recently AT&T. Like the many changes in the phone company I have worn many different hats within AT&T. Currently, I am a Customer Sales Support Manager.

Shelley took CERT Class #2. She loved the class and her enthusiasm bubbled over, enough to peak my interest. I was in CERT Class #3 and from the first session, I was hooked.

January 19, 2011 changed my world in a way I couldn't have ever imagined. Shelley and I had just got home from a CERT meeting, around 9:30pm, when my worst nightmare imaginable happened. Shelley went into anaphylaxis shock. I felt helpless as I dialed 911. First Responders arrived just as she collapsed, unresponsive, and not breathing. As I watched four NLFD EMT's and Paramedics immediately jump into action, I promised myself that I never wanted to feel this helpless, again. Clearly Med Ops wasn't my strong point.

In May of 2012, I completed the EMR, First Responder course at Joliet Junior College. Later that same year, I enrolled in JJC's EMT-B class. I completed that course in March of 2013 and passed the state EMT boards in May. Three years ago if someone would have suggested I should become an EMT, I would have laughed.

I have had the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful people in CERT. It has been a privilege to offer my time and expertise to so many worthy opportunities through CERT. Along with being active as a MRC, CERT, and SAR member, I also volunteer at the University of Notre Dame as part of the EMS team for home football games. It's a great chance to share with other organizations about New Lenox CERT.

I just completed the Train-the-Trainer CERT Course with Patty Edgett, another New Lenox CERT member. This means that we are certified to teach the 20-Hour Basic CERT program here in New Lenox as well as anywhere in the State of Illinois. There is no end to the volunteer process. I am so grateful that I can contribute to New Lenox CERT / MRC / SAR, and to the community.

I noticed a quote on Dan Martin's emails awhile back and started using it on my own emails because I think these words truly say a lot: "Nothing is stronger than the heart of a volunteer" – Lt. Col. James Doolittle, USAAF



**FEMA**



**American Red Cross**