



Village of New Lenox / New Lenox Police Department COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

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APRIL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATIONS

- On April 10, 2013 at 1:00pm Al Murry gave an emergency preparedness presentation to 70 children (grades K thru 4) and 15 adults at St. Jude School. Al was assisted by Patricia Pakosz and their presentation focused on fire safety and prevention. A second presentation was given at 2:00pm to 50 children (grades 5 thru 8) and 15 adults.
- On April 16, 2013 Al Murry and Patricia Pakosz provided an overview of CERT to a group of boy scouts and their families (approximately 70) at the United Methodist Church. The scouts were also briefed on the requirements for the Scout Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge. A cribbing and carry exercise was then conducted utilizing "Rescue Randy" as the victim.
- On April 17, 2013 Al Murry conducted an emergency preparedness presentation at Bentley School for a group of cub scouts and their families. Al was assisted by Patricia Pakosz and they estimated attendance at approximately 100.
- On April 18, 2013 Al Murry gave an adult emergency preparedness presentation to approximately 100 members of NLSD #122 PTO at Peace Lutheran Church. Al was assisted by Patricia Edgett, CERT / MRC volunteer and school nurse at Oster-Oakview School.



ASSIST AMERICAN RED CROSS WITH SHELTER FACILITY – APRIL 16, 2013

On April 16, 2013 Dan Johnson received a request for assistance from Adam Runkle at the American Red Cross (Chicago Chapter) to assist with opening / staffing a shelter in Joliet, IL. A fire occurred in the Pheasant Run Apartment Complex and twelve families (17 adults and 8 children) were evacuated. Fortunately there were no injuries but all twelve apartments were declared uninhabitable which left the tenants with no shelter.



Dan sent out an email with a request for our team members to report to the Laraway Elementary School to assist with the establishment of a shelter. The following team members were kind enough to assist with shelter operations:

- Dan Johnson
- John Schuld
- Mike English
- Jennifer Sforza
- Debbie Jones
- Randy Halach
- Dave Klingensmith
- Pete Simon
- Rich DeVault

Our team members assisted the American Red Cross with the following:

- Planned the layout of the shelter location (school gymnasium), including the review of the access to the facility and other components such as restrooms, health care room and emergency exits.
- Set-up of the gymnasium when the American Red Cross trailer arrived.
- Unloaded key supplies (tarps, cots, blankets, food, water, medical supplies, toys, etc.).
- Set-up of American Red Cross signage throughout the facility, which displayed the American Red Cross facility rules, information, etc.
- Registered some of the displaced clients by completing necessary documentation needed by the American Red Cross.
- Participated in a debriefing with American Red Cross personnel to cover next steps and scheduling/assisting with the breakdown of the shelter upon conclusion of the event.



Throughout the evening the displaced tenants were able to make other shelter arrangements with friends and family. As such, most of the shelter clients were able to leave by midnight and operations were turned over to the American Red Cross.

Special thanks from the American Red Cross to everyone that assisted with standing up this shelter location!



Our Core Principles:

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

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1ST INAUGURAL WILL COUNTY CERT SYMPOSIUM - APRIL 20, 2013

On April 20, 2013 twenty-five members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC arrived at the Local 150 Operating Engineers Training Facility in Wilmington, IL for the purpose of participating in the 1st Inaugural Will County CERT Symposium. Registration began at 8:00am, after which attendees were provided with a light breakfast in the facility's cafeteria. At 8:30am Will County Emergency Management Agency Director Harold Damron provided opening remarks in the auditorium followed by a safety message by Jim Lutz, Director of the Grundy County Emergency Management Agency. Attendees were then provided with their assignments and then directed to their breakout sessions which began at 9:00am.



Approximately 80 CERT members from Naperville, Plainfield, Kankakee, Minooka, Channahon, Will County, Grundy County and New Lenox were divided into four groups. Group 1 started with Triage while Group 2 started with Treatment. Group 3 started with Search and Group 4 started with Transport. The format for each of the sessions included approximately 25 minutes of classroom instruction followed by a 25 minute practical exercise or hands-on training. At 10:00am Group 1 traded with Group 2 while Group 3 traded with Group 4. At 11:00am Groups 1 and 2 came together for a practical exercise as did Groups 3 and 4. Both exercises ended at 12:00pm at which time everyone was directed to the cafeteria for lunch.



The sessions resumed at 12:30pm and followed the same format as the morning sessions. The training portion of the symposium concluded at 3:30pm at which time everyone was directed to the auditorium for a debriefing and closing remarks. During the closing ceremony each participating team was issued an "Emergency Transport" carrier which was donated from TransCanada Corporation, one of the symposium's sponsors. Individual participants also received several small complimentary items which were provided by Will County EMA through grant monies and / or sponsors.

ASSIST LASALLE COUNTY WITH FLOODING - APRIL 24, 2013



On April 24, 2013 Dave Klingensmith and Dale Alexander assisted LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) at their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at 711 East Etna Road Ottawa, IL 61350. The assignment consisted of answering phones for the LaSalle County Flood Hotline. Dave and Dale took information regarding flood damage which was forwarded to the EMA Damage Assessment Teams. Approximately 30 calls were received during their 8:00am to 4:00pm shift. Special thanks to Dave and Dale for volunteering their time to assist the residents and emergency management personnel in LaSalle County.



NEW LENOX TOWNSHIP CLEAN UP DAY - MAY 4, 2013

On Saturday May 4, 2013 John Opoka, Jeff Jones and Tania Mora assisted with the Annual New Lenox Township Clean-Up Day. Our volunteers did a wonderful job at the New Lenox Township Building which is located at 1100 S. Cedar Road. John and Jeff assisted at the used paint drop-off station while Tania assisted at the used oil and electronics drop-off stations. New Lenox Township officials greatly appreciated the assistance and by working toward removing household hazardous waste such as paint and oil, it helps keep our community healthy and safe. Thanks to John, Jeff and Tania for a job well done!



John Opoka assisting with used paint drop-off

LOYALTY DAY PARADE – MAY 5, 2013

On Sunday May 5, 2013 at 12:00pm approximately 30 members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met in the parking lot at the New Lenox Village Hall to decorate the CERT / MRC parade float. Gary Cook, who organized the event, then drove the float to the staging area on Cedar Road at 2nd Street where other team members were gathering as well. Barb McGivney rode her horse "Charmed" in the parade once again this year while Randy Halach drove his custom Olds 442. Al Murry provided the American flags for everyone to carry and wave. Randy Collette provided giveaways for the kids while Tania Mora assisted with the banners and other miscellaneous items.



The parade kicked off at 2:00pm on Cedar Road and went north toward Haven Avenue. The parade route then turned west on Haven Avenue to Veteran's Parkway. After making a right turn onto Veteran's Parkway, the parade ended in the New Lenox Commons near the New Lenox Public Library. Special thanks to everyone that decorated the float, donated candy, walked the parade route or otherwise assisted in making the event a huge success!



NLSD 122 PTO 5K RUN / WALK - MAY 18, 2013



On Saturday May 18, 2013 at 7:00am New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers met in the parking lot at Nelson Ridge / Nelson Prairie School for a briefing. The briefing was held in preparation for the 3rd Annual New Lenox School District #122 PTO 5K Run / Walk which had been scheduled to kick-off at 8:00am. Twenty volunteers were in attendance for the briefing which began promptly at 7:00am and concluded at approximately 7:20am. An overview of the event was provided which included team member assignments at



two water stations and traffic control (race marshal) positions at 10 intersections. The briefing also included information regarding responsibilities assigned to New Lenox ESDA, the Illinois Radio League and the New Lenox Fire Protection District. Following the briefing team members walked or drove to their assignments where last minute preparations were made. The race began promptly at 8:00am with approximately 200 runners / walkers making their way through the Palmer Ranch and Hidden Valley subdivision. New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers did a great job with their assignments and all runners / walkers returned to the finish line by approximately 9:00am. MRC volunteers took care of a few minor injuries such as a bloody nose and a scraped knee, in addition to providing water at the finish line. Thanks to everyone that assisted with this event!



CARRY / TRANSPORT TRAINING - MAY 22, 2013

On Wednesday May 22, 2013 at 7:00pm the New Lenox CERT / MRC held its regular monthly training in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Thirty-six team members were in attendance for Carry and Transport training which was provided by Mike Procaccio from Plainfield EMA / CERT, along with two of his colleagues from Plainfield. Mike's PowerPoint presentation discussed the various methods for extrication of victims, based on variables such as number of rescuers, condition of victim and the stability of the environment. Mike also discussed planning methods, including utilizing the log rolling technique if spinal injury is suspected. Safety was stressed throughout the presentation, including using safe grip techniques, lifting with legs while bending knees and keeping arms close to the body and elbows flexed. In addition, Mike covered the following in his PowerPoint presentation as well as during the 45-minute hands-on portion:



- One-person carries
- One-person arm
- One-person
- Pack-strap
- Firefighter
- Piggyback
- Two-person carries
- Two-person arms/legs
- Chair
- Blanket
- Two/four handed seat
- Drags
- Tied-hands crawl
- Ankle pull
- Shoulder pull
- Two-person (human crutch)
- Blanket drag
- Log rolling
- Removal Downstairs
- Improved Stretchers

Mike and his colleagues did an great job with the presentation which everyone in attendance enjoyed. Special thanks to Plainfield EMA / CERT for an excellent presentation!

FRENCH MARKET – JUNE 1, 2013

On Saturday June 1, 2013 the New Lenox CERT / MRC participated in the Village of New Lenox French Market which is located in the upper level parking lot of the Village Hall on Saturday mornings from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Tania Mora, Dale Alexander, Shelley Halach and Randy Halach represented our team for the duration of the event. Our table included information about disaster preparedness, including a plethora of information for pet owners thanks to Shelley Halach. The table had many visitors throughout the morning, including many kids who were anxious to spin our prize wheel which was loaded with questions about disaster preparedness. Special thanks to these great volunteers who spent their Saturday morning educating community residents about how they can prepare their families for emergencies and disasters.



CHASING THE SUN 5K & 8K RUN - JUNE 6, 2013

On Thursday June 6, 2013 at 6:00pm, 26 members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for the Chasing the Sun 5K & 8K briefing. In addition to our team members, volunteers from the Illinois Radio League and New Lenox ESDA were also in attendance. The briefing provided an overview of the race, including the complexities of the course. In addition, protocol for water / first aid stations was covered as well as responsibilities for those assigned as race marshals. The briefing concluded at approximately 6:20pm at which time everyone headed out to the course to assume their assigned roles.



The race kicked-off at 7:00pm with approximately 200 runners making their way through the course. Our race marshals did an excellent job keeping the runners on course and made sure that vehicular traffic was stopped or slowed for the runners. Our water / first aid station volunteers also did an excellent job providing water to the runners as they went through the stations. The race concluded at approximately 8:00pm with all runners / walkers making it safely to the finish line. Everyone did an excellent job during and are to be commended for their efforts!



PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATIONS - JUNE 10TH AND 11TH

On June 10th and 11th Al Murry was kind enough to provide preparedness presentations to students at Hopewell Academy in New Lenox (6/10) and Hopewell Academy in Joliet (6/11). Hopewell Academies are a group of schools that take in troubled high school students from 16-21 years of age that are trying to manage emotional challenges that have previously interfered with their success in school. Al took the initiative to offer the presentations knowing that many of the students have poor home environments and little knowledge about emergency preparedness. Al said that the students were attentive during the presentations and enjoyed interacting with him by answering preparedness-related questions. Al rewarded the students with CERT whistles which he has taken upon himself to purchase!



Hopewell Academy New Lenox 06/10/13



On June 10th Al did a similar presentation for Trinity Services where he used a "Jeopardy"- type board to interact with the students. If students answered correctly they redeemed "money" for prizes at the end of the presentation. Al explained that the students enjoy this type of game and it helps with other skills such as counting money, public speaking, communication skills, solving problems and interacting with others – all while learning about emergency preparedness! With each presentation Al is also becoming more confident and proficient. Great job Al – keep up the great work!



Hopewell Academy Joliet 06/11/13

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Village of New Lenox French Market – Saturday July 6th / 9:00am at New Lenox Village Hall
- Semi-Annual Meeting – Tuesday July 16th / 7:00pm at New Lenox Village Hall
- Triple Play Concert (Rick Springfield) – Saturday July 20th / 4:00pm at NLPD
- New Lenox Community Blood Drive – Saturday July 27th / 9:00am at New Lenox Village Hall
- Village of New Lenox French Market – Saturday August 3rd / 9:00am at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Monthly Training – Saturday August 10th / 9:00am at a location TBD
- Concert in the Commons (Eli Young Band) – Friday August 16th / 4:00pm at NLPD
- St. Jude Running With Faith – Saturday August 24th / 5:00pm at NLPD
- Triple Play Concert (Foreigner) – Saturday August 31st / 4:00pm at NLPD
- CERT Class #8 Starts – Thursday September 5th / 6:30pm at NLPD



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

SAR ANNUAL PHYSICAL AGILITY TEST - JUNE 13, 2013

On Thursday June 13, 2013 at 7:00pm eleven members of the New Lenox SAR met at Mather Woods in Plainfield, IL for the Annual Physical Agility Test. In addition to our 11 team members, there were also SAR Members from Will County EMA, Naperville and Planfield SAR Teams in attendance. Will County EMA SAR Chief Domingo Kaller explained to those in attendance that all SAR Members needed to carry their SAR equipment, wear hiking boots, long pants and some type of head gear during the test. Those that were completing the 2-mile course were required to do so under 35 minutes while those completing the 3-mile course needed to be under 50 minutes. Everyone in attendance had their blood pressure and heart rate taken prior to starting and were reminded to stay hydrated through the test. Groups of 5-6 started in staggered waves on the ½ mile trail of asphalt, concrete, grass and stone. SAR leadership were positioned along the course for safety while those being tested were on the course. Everyone completed the test and after waiting approximately 10 minutes, had their vitals taken once again. Following a short de-briefing, everyone was released at approximately 9:00pm. Congratulations to our SAR Members for doing an excellent job!



ASSIST MCHENRY COUNTY WITH RECOVERY SEARCH - JUNE 15, 2013

On Saturday June 15, 2013 eight members of the New Lenox SAR met at Will County EMA's Maintenance Garage on Laraway Road at 6:15am. Our SAR members met with Will County EMA SAR members after which everyone drove to McHenry County to assist with a "Recovery Search." After arriving, approximately 60 ground searchers, 10 canine teams, a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) and an anthropologist participated in a briefing. It was learned that the search would be for a woman that had been missing since 1999 and that they would be searching for bones and some personal effects. The briefing ended at 8:20am and SAR members were divided into teams just as it started to rain.



The search began at approximately 9:30am with our SAR members taking on various roles which included flanker, communications and ground searcher(s). By 12:00pm nothing had been flagged as evidence but some deer bones had been located and verified as such by the on-site anthropologist. A second search was conducted following lunch and by 2:00pm the search had concluded. Throughout the day a few items were flagged as evidence but it's unknown if they're germane to the investigation. Everyone was thanked for their assistance prior to leaving the scene. Our team returned to the Will County EMA Garage at approximately 3:30pm.

Team members agreed that it was an excellent learning experience and will be making adjustments to their equipment and gear moving forward. Special thanks to everyone that participated in this very difficult search – great job!

BUILDING SEARCHES – JUNE 20, 2013

On Thursday June 20, 2013 the New Lenox CERT / MRC held its monthly training. Members of the Training Committee met at the Frankfort Fire Protection District Station 3 (Training Center) at 5:30pm to set-up the evening's training. This included pre-positioning stuffed animals in the facility's "search house" as well as other objects in the facility's 3-story shipping containers located on the west side of the property. Team members began to arrive at approximately 6:30pm and were directed to the facility's small training room. At 7:00pm Daniel Martin, CERT / MRC / SAR Program Coordinator provided 27 team members with handouts and a 20-minute review of building searches. Team members were then broken into two groups and directed to the training areas, also known as stations one and two.



From 7:30pm to 7:50pm the two groups completed their exercises at stations one & two which was followed by a short debriefing from evaluators, safety officers and coaches; the teams then traded stations. From 8:00pm to 8:20pm the two teams completed the search exercises and then participated in another short debriefing. Everyone then returned to the small training room for a wrap-up. During the wrap-up team members discussed communications, search technique, search speed and a variety of topics related to the training exercises. Following the wrap-up discussion, team members were dismissed at 8:40pm. Special thanks to everyone that assisted with the exercise, especially those that served as evaluators, safety officers and coaches.

Additional Information

Daniel Martin

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

The New Lenox Police Department will be hosting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 20-Hour Basic Course starting on Thursday September 5, 2013. The Course is FREE to New Lenox residents and will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the New Lenox Police Department. The Final Exercise and Graduation will be held on Saturday October 19, 2013 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. For additional information or to register, please 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

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

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
 CATHERINE JOHNSTON**



My husband Andrew (also a CERT member) and I moved to New Lenox from the UK in 2005. A company relocation brought us to the City of Chicago. After 7 months of looking in many suburbs, we chose New Lenox for its village feel, the facilities, schools and a train link to the city.

I started my career in HR after dabbling in many different industries - I loved it! As much as I liked the work in HR, the IT systems used in HR were of more interest to me. I also realized that I missed the Army too, so I enlisted in the British Army Reserves. The two careers co-habited alongside each other but I still found time to run a youth club, do volunteer work with adults with disabilities and other but not all at the same time. I like to keep busy!

On arriving in the U.S. I didn't have any volunteer work or the Army, but plenty of time. Many weekends were spent exploring the immediate area, going on road trips and shopping for furniture for our new house. It's true, living in a standard UK house is like living in a shoe box and at least one shoe is still in the box with you! I do like to shop for furniture and accessories and decorate rooms sometimes with my own crafts. I'm not an expert, I just have a passion for it. I do crafts, especially knitting, and enjoy selling the handmade items at craft fairs. My other passion is cooking and drinking fine red wine.

I found the advertisement for CERT in the local paper and attended the very first meeting. What a turnout - I couldn't even get into the first class so I joined the second class and met a great bunch of people I now call friends. I thought it would be a great way to use some of my Army skills, learn some new ones and really be prepared. I got involved with the Training Committee, contributed to several events and also participated in two Prairie State CERT Challenge Teams, including the year we came in first. For those who were on the team remember "no bimbaling!" We now have our preparedness boxes in the basement and try to contribute something as often as we can. In January we added a hand-crank radio and this month a bright lamp with spare 10-year batteries. Some of our neighbors know we are part of CERT and said if anything happens in our subdivision they would look to Andrew and I for direction. My employer is also aware of my involvement with CERT and honored me with an award for community service. I have organized lunch and learns for my colleagues and my company paid for three marketing poster boards which are used at different events. I am so glad I found this organization. I'm grateful that I can contribute to the training & development of team members while making a difference for my family and community.



FEMA

