

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING / HEALTH & SAFETY EXPO - APRIL 2, 2025

This event was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at Lincoln-Way WEST High School. Between 3:30pm and 4:00pm, approximately 25 New Lenox CERT members arrived to assist with the Health and Safety Expo portion of the event, which was scheduled from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Participating organizations were asked to arrive between 4:00pm and 5:00pm for set-up and were assisted by our team members. Our team members assisted with the Health and Safety Expo in the following ways:

- Traffic Management in the parking lot
- Assisted representatives from 48 organizations with their table items (bringing items inside and showing representatives to their tables)
- Collected raffle prizes from vendors and bringing them into the auditorium
- Staffed the New Lenox CERT informational table
- Checked in with representatives from the 48 organizations to ensure their needs were met
- Took photographs for Facebook and for the CERT / SAR newsletter
- Handed out raffle tickets to everyone that entered the auditorium for the Severe Weather Preparedness presentation
- Distributed door prizes to the winners at the conclusion of the event
- Miscellaneous duties and responsibilities as needed



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Our Core Principles:

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

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Over the course of the next couple hours, additional CERT members arrived to assist and / or attend the Severe Weather Preparedness presentation. In total, over 40 team members were in attendance for this event.

The Severe Weather Preparedness presentation, as mentioned above, started at 7:00pm and concluded at 8:40pm. Following the presentation there was a door prize drawing, which was a huge success.

Special thanks to EVERYONE that assisted or attended this event!



MULTI-AGENCY SAR TRAINING / BONE IDENTIFICATION – MARCH 8, 2025

At 9:00am on Saturday, March 8, 2025, Dan Johnson, Berni Kacor, Phillia Mitchell and George Nelson from the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team attended a Monthly Multi-Agency SAR Training that was hosted by the Plainfield Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

There were twenty-four SAR members in attendance from LaSalle County, Hanover Township, Boone County, Kendall County, DuPage County, Naperville and New Lenox.

The training subject was Bone Identification featuring the Chief Deputy Coroner of Kendall County, Levi Gotte. He presented on how to determine if bones are human or non-human and their individual characteristics.

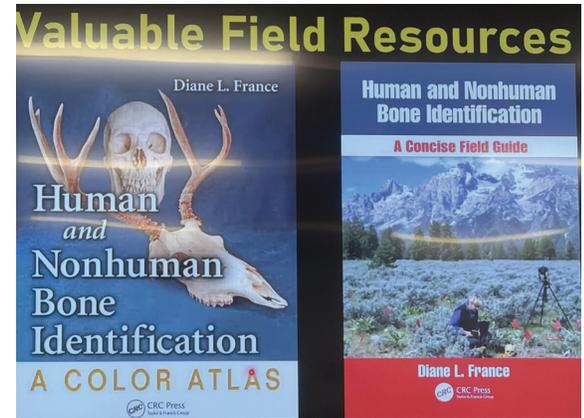
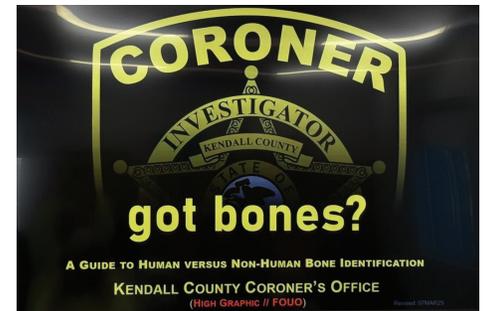
The training consisted of a detailed review of bones in the human body, including:

- Single vs Paired bones (neck, back are single/arms and legs are paired)
- Children vs Adults
- Front, Back, medial (close to body), distal (away from the body)
- Human skeleton has 206 bones
- High level review, head to toe, of bones in the body
- Display of bones from a nurse who had been murdered, but case was unresolved, so bones were donated as training tool to honor her memory.
- Using gloves, the bones were handled by the training attendees.

After the presentation and review of bone collection, there were bones 'hidden' in the attached garage and attendees were taught the proper way to photograph using dollar bills and coins to give the viewer perspective on the size of the bones. Money is a great tool to use as those are consistent measurements and provide an excellent scale for bones in a photograph. You should never zoom in on a photo, you should move the camera as close as possible to ensure the degradation of the photo does not occur.

Discussion about future training was discussed including a SAR 'Challenge' in late September or early October, which will be open to all ISARC teams. The all-day event will include stations, challenges and other SAR disciplines. There will also be an all-day training on April 26th in Boone County. Details will be sent out once finalized.

Training concluded at 12:30pm. All members signed out and headed home. Special thanks to Plainfield EMA for hosting, Levi Gotte for his outstanding presentation and our NLSAR members for attending this training!



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

SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING – CREW LEADER, AMDR, CRITICAL SPACING – MARCH 13, 2025

With permission from New Lenox Public Works, 16 members of our team met at Waste Water Treatment Plant 3, located on the north end of town, off of North Cedar Road. At 6:30pm Dan Martin, NLSAR Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided a quick outline of the training.

Following the overview, Patience Halsey led the team in stretching exercises. Following stretching, the team walked for the next 12 minutes or so around the facility to warm-up.

Everyone then returned to the starting point at which time Dan Martin provided an overview on the following disciplines:

Crew Leader: Takes care of the team; inspires the team; ensures safety for the team; instills teamwork; serves as liaison to search management; knows strengths and weaknesses of team members; must be knowledgeable and proficient; and ensures the team works together – same direction and goals. Also noted were whistle commands. 1 short = STOP and 2 short = GO. The Crew Leader should ensure the flankers / flaggers are moving ahead of the line and line searchers should be moving in synchronicity.

Average Maximum Detection Range (AMDR): Similar object to the search target; outbound and inbound surveys of the object for 6-8 legs or no more than the number of searchers, minus the crew leader; mark the steps at limit to what you can see and recognize the object to be; take the average distance; "see and recognize" is the key – pretend you don't really know what it is. *Demonstration of this technique was provided during the overview.*

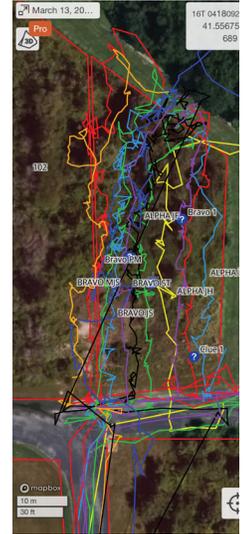
Critical Spacing / Critical Separation: Sum of two searchers individual search ranges; one AMDR + one AMDR = Critical Spacing; add AMDR numbers of searchers and then average them to obtain the forward movement number; $8 + 10 + 10 + 12 + 10 = 50$ divided by $5 = 10$; forward movement in an open grid search is $10 \times 1.5 = 15$. *Demonstration of this technique was provided during the overview.*

Following the overview, everyone was divided into two teams – Alpha and Bravo. Both teams then headed to assigned areas that were outlined in a Caltopo map. At this time the teams practiced AMDR and Critical Spacing for approximately 30 minutes.

At 7:30pm everyone met for in the middle of the facility where a few minutes was spent reviewing features of the Caltopo map. Everyone entered their team's name and initials, then turned on tracking. A short briefing was held regarding an efficiency search in Segment 101. Team Alpha headed out first, followed by Team Bravo approximately 10 minutes later. Everyone was instructed to utilize the radio as they would in a real activation and mark clues (training aids) in Caltopo.

The team spent the next 45 minutes searching a one-acre parcel of land that included some very steep inclines (hills) in some areas. Collectively, the two teams located the four training aids (CPR mannequins) that were hidden in the search segment before everyone arrived for training. Following the search everyone met back at the staging area to discuss the search as well as the other disciplines that were practiced. In addition, a short discussion was held regarding upcoming training. Training concluded at approximately 8:30pm.

Special thanks to everyone that attended this training, which focused on critical elements of ground search and rescue.



CERT TRAINING / REVIEW OF COMMUNITY EVENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, DOCUMENTATION AND SEVERE WEATHER TABLETOP EXERCISE – FEBRUARY 18, 2025

At 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, fifty-five team members met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to training. Dan then began the training and utilized a PowerPoint presentation to emphasize points. The following areas were covered in the presentation:

Community Events and Training

This portion of the training covered community events (concerts, 5Ks, Village events, etc...) and training. In short, everyone was brought up to speed on what to expect, what to wear, and what to bring.

Communication

Dan spent some time on Baofeng radio nomenclature (antenna, hand strap, charger, battery, belt clip, hand held mic, and ear piece) and encouraged everyone to read their User's Manual. Dan also went over proper radio transmissions (holding in on the transmit button for a second, keeping transmissions short, and exercising proper care not to accidentally key the mic). Time was also spent talking about radio range for transmitting and receiving. Lastly, a discussion was held about radio interoperability at events, especially between CERT and ESDA.

Documentation

During this portion of the training, Dan discussed the following forms: Personnel Resources, Incident Briefing, Assignment Status, Communications Log, Damage Assessment, Equipment Resources, Message, Medical Treatment, and Incident Status. Dan also shared WHEN the forms are to be completed and HOW they are to be completed.

Severe Weather Event – Tabletop Exercise

At this time the training transitioned into a Severe Weather Event – Tabletop Exercise. Dan provided a brief overview of how the exercise would be facilitated and shared a number of learning objectives. The purpose of the exercise was, in part, to ensure that team members know what our team's role would be in a severe weather event.

Dan explained that the tabletop would essentially be a facilitated discussion and that additional information (injects) would be provided as the exercise progressed. The focus would be on the first 24 hours of the event with some discussion regarding extended assistance in the days, weeks and months following the event.

Everyone was intentionally seated at table with 6-8 seats. By design and after each slide, the groups were asked to take a few minutes to discuss what they would be doing, whether at home or at work, based on the information provided.

The tabletop started with a "normal" weekday at 2:00pm with mention that the National Weather Service had been tracking severe thunderstorms (with the potential for tornados) through Missouri and Southern Illinois. The timeline was advanced slide-by-slide to include specific weather conditions (heavy rainfall, hail, high winds, etc...) and where Tornado Warnings were issued. As this event progressed, Trained Spotters confirmed a tornado in Elwood and then in Manhattan, heading towards New Lenox. As the tornado entered our jurisdiction, examples of 9-1-1 calls were provided, including details of damage. Attendees were provided with a slide of a map that included the path of the tornado along with initial Damage Assessment information. Photos (examples) were displayed of homes and vehicles that were damaged as a result of the tornado.



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CERT Activation Procedures were then discussed, which included method(s) of notification, staging location, who will be Incident Commander, what likely request will be made and what equipment / resources will be needed. In addition, discussion included what other agencies will likely be involved, what command activities will take place, what outside resources will be requested, how communications will work and will reach out to utility companies.

The tabletop played out throughout the evening of the event with a status update at 10:00pm. The update included the number of fatalities, number of injuries / hospitalizations, and how many homes and other structures were damaged. Additional discussion included a possible timeline for the restoration of power, traffic management needs, security / crowd control needs, how the media will be managed, what additional resources will be needed, how will sheltering operations be established, how will emergent volunteers be handled and what additional activities will take place overnight. Dan presented what the next day (6:30am) might look like and what activities will take place throughout the day. Issues presented included setting priorities and establishing policies for allowing businesses to open, when to open schools, restoration of power, opening roads, managing the media, coordinating a visit by the Governor, debris management, return of lost property, etc...

The tabletop wrapped-up with Exercise Outcomes that included Planning, Training, and Resource Needs. The exercise concluded at approximately 8:30pm following final comments and questions.

Special thanks to everyone that attended this training, which covered a lot of topics!



ASSIST NEW LENOX LIONS CLUB / SPRING FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER – MARCH 30, 2025

At 8:30am on Sunday, March 30, 2025, fourteen members of New Lenox CERT arrived at New Lenox VFW Post 9545 for the purpose of assisting the New Lenox Lions Club with set-up for their annual fashion show fundraiser. Our team members quickly unloaded about a dozen sections of a stage from a trailer that was parked just outside the south doors of the facility. The pieces were quickly assembled into a stage and runway that the models would use later in the day during the show. While the stage was being assembled, other team members set-up tables and chairs throughout the venue. These tables and chairs would later be used by attendees to have lunch, view the fashion show, and take part in other activities that were planned for the afternoon. The morning set-up took about 45 minutes and following a quick group photo, everyone was thanked for helping.

At 3:45pm, nine CERT members arrived at the VFW once again and waited for the event to conclude. Following the departure of guests, our team members disassembled the stage and runway. It was later loaded back onto the trailer that is owned by one of the Lion's Club Members. In addition, team members took down all the tables and chairs. They were taken to the VFW's storage area where they were neatly stacked. Team members also assisted in other areas until the venue was completely emptied. The disassembly of everything only took about 30 minutes. Following a photo of those who assisted, everyone was thanked for their assistance.

It should also be noted that on Friday, March 28, 2025, six team members met at Lincoln-Way WEST High School at 10:00am to load the pieces of the stage onto the trailer. In addition, on Monday, March 31, 2025, five team members met at Lincoln-Way WEST High School to unload the trailer and return the stage to custodial staff.

Special thanks to EVERYONE that assisted with this event on Friday, Sunday, or Monday – or all three days!



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

SAR TRAINING / INDIVIDUAL FIRST AID KITS (IFAKs) – FEBRUARY 13, 2025

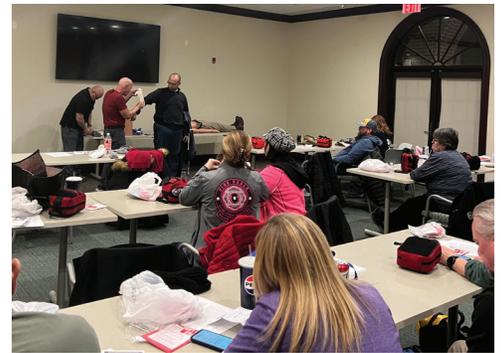
At 6:30pm on Thursday, February 13, 2025 nineteen members of our team arrived at the New Lenox Village Hall where training was being held in the Community Room. Dan Martin, SAR Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of the training. At this time Dan invited everyone to pick-up NEW supplies for their Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs), which were neatly placed along the counter top in the room. Training supplies, purchased from Rescue Essentials / Trittech Forensics, included:

- NAR Combat Application Tourniquet (black - Gen 7)
- Emergency Bandage (4-inch) AKA "Israeli Bandage"
- Conforming Gauze (4-inch X 4.1 yards – 3 rolls)
- SAM Splint (18-inch orange / blue / flat)
- EMT Shears (5.5-inch black handle / black blade)
- OLAES Bandage (4-inch trauma bandage flat fold)
- HYFIN Vent Chest Seal Twin Pack
- Vertrun 28 French Pre-Lubricated Nasal
- Triple Antibiotic Unit
- Tincture of Benzoin Ampules
- Assorted Adhesive Bandages
- Dressings (4-inch X 4-inch)
- Triangular Bandages

At this time team members emptied OLD supplies from their kits and replaced them with the NEW supplies.

At 7:00pm Dan turned the floor over to Dr. Martin Greenberg for the lecture and hands-on portion of the training. Dr. Greenberg explained each item, demonstrated proper use, and provided team members an opportunity to practice with the item. This process was repeated over the course of the next hour and fifteen minutes until all the supplies were covered. Dr. Greenberg provided oversight during the practice time and answered questions from team members. The training concluded at approximately 8:20pm.

Special thanks to Dr. Greenberg for providing the training and thanks to those that attended!



SEARCH AND RESCUE MANAGEMENT (SARM) TABLETOP EXERCISE – FEBRUARY 22, 2025

At 8:00am on Saturday, February 22, 2025 Dan Johnson and Scott Thompson from the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team attended a Search and Rescue Management (SARM) Tabletop Exercise that was hosted by the Naperville Emergency Management Agency.

There were twelve SARM members in attendance from Naperville EMA, Kane County EMA, Kendall County EMA, McHenry County EMA, and New Lenox.

The training included:

- SARM refresher covering the key elements of Management skills including filling out the appropriate forms.
- Two scenarios involving a missing person and steps taken locate them.
- Initial Planning consisting of team formation, situational awareness and resource mobilization
- Use of SarTopo, a tool used via laptop and mobile phone to: define search areas, point last seen (PLS), last known position (LKP), determine and plot theoretical search areas and probability circles and plot key locations from scenario injects.
- Utilizing Lost Person Behavior book to help determine the status of the subject and plot appropriate probability circles for search based on weather condition, age/physical condition of the subject and mental state of the subject (e.g. dementia, autistic, etc.).

Both scenarios were presented, forms were completed individually and then shared as a group. The group then reviewed presenter's version for comparison. Questions, clarifications and recommendations to forms were discussed.

The following forms were shared with everyone on a thumb drive and were utilized and reviewed:

- Missing Person Questionnaire
- Staging Report
- Checklist for Search of a Missing Person
- Search Urgency Rating Factors
- Search Area Establishment Form
- Subject Profile
- Consensus Participation
- Incident Objectives
- Check-In List
- Team Assignment
- After Incident Report



Discussion followed the scenarios regarding future training in 2025, frequency and improvements. The next tabletop exercise is scheduled for May 31, 2025 and the topic will include planning and scenarios.

Training concluded at 12:00pm. Special thanks to Dan and Scott for attending this training and for providing a summary!

NEW LENOX CERT ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 22, 2025

At 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 New Lenox CERT members arrived at the Village Hall for the Annual Meeting. From 6:00pm to 7:00pm everyone enjoyed dinner (salad, pasta, sausage & peppers, Italian beef and pizza) that was catered from Beggar's Pizza. The dinner was provided to show appreciation to our volunteers for their outstanding commitment to the CERT program.



At 7:00pm Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed the 65 team members in attendance and thanked them for attending. Following the opening remarks, Dan announced that following his retirement in May 2025, Simon Harris will be the new Program Coordinator. Dan spoke highly of Simon and thanked him for accepting the position. Everyone in attendance gave Simon a round of applause and undoubtedly will support Simon in his new position.

Following the announcement, the 2024 Year in Review was conducted, summarized as follows:

- CERT Total Volunteer Hours in 2024 – 6,599
- CERT Meetings – 150.5 Hours (time was spent emphasizing the importance of the Annual Mtg.)
- CERT Training – 3,451 Hours (highlights from 2024 training events were shared)
- CERT Community Events – 2,905.5 Hours (highlights from 2024 community events were shared)
- CERT Activations – 92 Hours (highlights from 2024 activations were shared)

CERT volunteers also learned that SAR volunteers (those 22 CERT members that wear "two hats") had a total of 1,077.5 hours in 2024 – Meetings 47.4 hours, Training 725.5 hours, and Activations 304.5 hours.

2024 CERT and SAR Volunteer Hours – 7,676.5.

Dan provided an interesting mathematical / financial point of view with regard to volunteer time.

2024 CERT AND SAR = 7,676.5 Total Hours

The value of volunteer time (National Average) for 2024 was \$33.49 per hour.

<https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/> announced 4/23/24

<https://nlctb.org/tips/value-of-volunteer-time/>

2024 New Lenox CERT and SAR - 7,676.5 (hours) X \$33.49 = \$257,085.98

2009-2024 CERT and SAR Hours = 85,716.5 Total Hours. At 2024's value, 85,716.5 (hours) X \$33.49 = \$2,870,645.58.

Following the 2024 Year and Review, 2025 Training was discussed, which included the following:

- 1/22/25 - Annual Meeting
- 2/18/25 - Incident Command / Damage Assessment / Communications
- 3/19/25 - Triage and Treatment
- 4/24/25 - Transport / Carries / Patient Packaging
- 5/20/25 - Ground Search and Rescue for CERT Volunteers
- 6/26/25 - Traffic Direction and Control
- 7/24/25 - Fire Safety / Haz Mat / Utility Controls
- 8/19/25 - Multi-Disciplinary Exercises
- 9/24/25 - Leveraging and Cribbing
- 10/23/25 - Team Building
- 11/18/25 - Building Search Techniques
- 12/1/25 - Presidential Volunteer Service Awards / Holiday Party



In addition to the regular monthly training, team members were encouraged to attend the various programs and training events hosted by the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition. Team members were also encouraged to complete FEMA Independent Study Programs such as:

- IS-317.a Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-317.a>
- IS-315.a CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS)
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-315.a>

CERT Class #21 will be held 2 days per week for four weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Class will be held from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on 9/9, 9/11, 9/16, 9/18, 9/23, 9/25, 9/30 and 10/2. The final exercise / disaster simulation / graduation will be held in the morning on Saturday, October 4th. PLEASE start recruiting so we will have a FULL class in September!

New Lenox CERT Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT/> 2.1K Followers - PLEASE share! Also, please check out CERT groups on Facebook. Our information is routinely posted in four of the most popular groups.

New Lenox CERT / SAR Newsletters:

- January, 2025 (covering October, November and December, 2024)
<https://www.newlenox.net/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/132>
- October, 2024 (covering July, August and September, 2024)
<https://www.newlenox.net/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/131>
- July, 2024 (covering April, May and June, 2024)
<https://www.newlenox.net/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/86>
- April, 2024 (covering January, February and March, 2024)
<https://www.newlenox.net/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/84>

Current CERT Basic Class Curriculum

- Instructor Guide https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019.CERT_Basic_IG_FINAL_508c.pdf
- Participant Manual https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019.CERT_Basic_PM_FINAL_508c.pdf

Carrie Williams stepped up and explained the web site that she created where upcoming events, newsletters, a calendar, and more are posted. Dan thanked Carrie for her work on the site and for keeping it up to date.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:15pm following comments and suggestions. Special thanks to everyone that attended.

WREATH RETIREMENT - JANUARY 18, 2025

At 8:00am on Saturday January 18, 2025 thirteen members of New Lenox CERT met at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL for the Wreaths Across America Wreath Retirement. Our team helped lay the wreaths on Saturday, December 14, 2024 during the Wreaths Across America National event. Pursuant to federal guidance, the wreaths now needed to be removed.



Our team started removing the wreaths in Section #16 and when that was completed everyone moved over to Section #15. Our team members worked very efficiently carrying the wreaths from the headstones to the roadway. By 8:30am our team members were now working on Section #14, which was completely very quickly as well.

After completing Section #14, our team assessed other areas and it appeared that most other sections were wrapping up as well. Volunteers with pick-up trucks and trailers were driving around picking up the wreaths that were placed adjacent to the roadway. Shortly before 9:00am and following a brief team photo, everyone headed back to their vehicles. Special thanks to everyone that helped with the Wreath Retirement!



ILLINOIS NEW LENOX SAR ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 16, 2025

At 6:30pm on Thursday, January 16, 2025 our team met for dinner in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. While everyone was enjoying dinner, the following handouts were provided: Meeting Agenda, 2024 Training Summaries, 2024 Activations Summaries, and 2024 Team Member Participation Logs.

At 7:00pm Dan Martin, New Lenox SAR Program Coordinator, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Dan thanked everyone for their continued contributions and used that topic as a segue way to announce his retirement in May, 2025. At this time, it was announced that Dan Johnson would lead the team starting in May. Everyone in attendance showed support for Dan (Johnson) and congratulated him on the appointment.

At this time the “2024 Year in Review” commenced, to include the following:

- Training (725.5 hours) – discussion included summaries of each of the training events.
- Activations (304.5 hours) – discussion included summaries of each of the activations.
- Annual Meeting (47.5 hours) – total number of hours for the 2024 meeting was noted.
- The 2024 total (volunteer hours) was 1,077.5 compared to 1,393 in 2023.
- Next, the Team Member Participation Log was discussed. Areas that are measured include:
- Attendance at Annual Meeting
- Training Hours
- Activation Hours
- Number of Activations
- Total Number of Volunteer Hours

Minimum Standards are spelled out in our team’s Operational Guidelines and each year at the Annual Meeting those standards are reviewed. In short, our team did very well in 2024 and areas in need of improvement were discussed.

At this time the 2025 Training Schedule was outlined as follows:

- January 16, 2025 – Annual Meeting
- February 13, 2025 – IFAK Assembly and Training on Supplies
- March 13, 2025 – AMDR / Critical Spacing / Crew Leader / Search Exercise
- April 16, 2025 – Navigation / Compass / Search Exercise
- May 15, 2025 – Fit Test / Team Building
- June 17, 2025 – Navigation / Flanker / Flagging / Search Exercise
- July 16, 2025 – Water Safety / Shoreline Rescue / Search Exercise
- August 14, 2025 – Navigation / GPS (UTM) / Search Exercise
- September 17, 2025 – Med Ops / Search Exercise
- October 14, 2025 – Navigation / Caltopo / Search Exercise
- November 13, 2025 – Cold Weather Gear / Hypothermia / Patient Packaging
- December 17, 2025 – Transport / Search Exercise

Following the discussion regarding New Lenox SAR 2025 Monthly trainings, the following were discussed as well:

- Multi-Agency Training - typically, the 2nd Saturday of the month
- 16-Hour GSAR Course
- 2025 ISARC Conference (NOT BEING HELD)
- NIMS Courses - IS-100.c; IS-200.c; IS-700.b; IS-800.c
- Fit Test
- NLSAR Volunteer Manual

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:15pm. Special thanks to everyone that attended and best of luck in 2025!



Additional Information

Daniel Martin

Safe Community Coordinator

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

The 2025 New Lenox CERT Basic Class will be held as follows: September 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 and October 2. The classes will be held from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The Final Exercise (Disaster Simulation) and Graduation will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 8:00am to 12:30pm, also at the Village Hall. If interested in registering for this class or otherwise becoming involved with the New Lenox CERT program, please contact Simon Harris, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox at (815) 462-6493 or via email at sharris@newlenox.net.

• Class 1 Graduation	10/17/2009	• Class 11 Graduation	03/12/2016
• Class 2 Graduation	12/05/2009	• Class 12 Graduation	10/29/2016
• Class 3 Graduation	02/27/2010	• Class 13 Graduation	10/28/2017
• Class 4 Graduation	10/30/2010	• Class 14 Graduation	10/27/2018
• Class 5 Graduation	04/09/2011	• Class 15 Graduation	10/26/2019
• Class 6 Graduation	11/12/2011	• Class 16 Graduation	10/17/2020
• Class 7 Graduation	10/20/2012	• Class 17 Graduation	10/23/2021
• Class 8 Graduation	10/19/2013	• Class 18 Graduation	10/15/2022
• Class 9 Graduation	10/25/2014	• Class 19 Graduation	10/21/2023
• Class 10 Graduation	10/31/2015	• Class 20 Graduation	10/05/2024

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



Visit us on Facebook

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

<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

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

MISSING M/66 TINLEY PARK, IL – SEARCH ON 12/18/24 & RECOVERY SEARCH ON 12/19/24

On December 18, 2024, at 12:34pm the Will County Emergency Management Agency sent out a request for searchers to help locate a missing 66-year-old male who went for a walk in the morning and did not return. Staging was at Bremen Grove (near 159th Street & Oak Park Avenue) Tinley Park, IL.

At approximately 2:00pm two members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team arrived at the staging location. Shortly thereafter, they teamed-up with a SAR member from another jurisdiction and were provided with a briefing regarding the missing man. A complete physical and clothing description was provided as well as some background information regarding his departure from home just before 5:00am.

First, our team members searched an area where the victim was last seen on a Ring Doorbell.

Next, our team members worked a wooded area just off the paved trail at Yankee Woods. The (Yankee Woods) parking lot was their northern boundary and 167th Street was their southern boundary. They worked an area that was just west of Central Avenue, which was fairly open. Thorns and fallen wood were the only hindrance.

Between 3:00pm and 3:15pm two additional NLSAR members arrived at staging. They were added to a team with 3 SAR members from other jurisdictions. This team headed out to their search area at 4:00pm and were told that search would be suspended at 5:00pm if the man was not found first.

While the above two teams were searching, our 5th team member arrived at the staging area and was assigned to another combined team to search the residential area near the man’s home.

At 5:00pm everyone was called back to the staging area where they were told the search would be ending for the evening. Following a short de-briefing, our team members signed out and returned home.

A few hours later an “I Am Responding” message was sent advising the search would continue at 9:00am the next morning (December 19, 2024). Staging would be at the Yankee Woods parking lot.

On December 19, 2024, three NLSAR members left New Lenox at 8:15am and arrived at Yankee Woods at 8:45am. After about an hour, our team of three was assigned a search segment west of the Metra tracks (Central Avenue). This was a residential area in the area where the man lived and consisted of wooded areas, water and open (water detention) areas. After searching for approximately 45 minutes, all team were advised to return to staging as the man had been located (deceased).

Following a short de-briefing, our team members signed-out and returned to New Lenox (approximately 12:00pm).

Although this was a heart-breaking outcome, we appreciate our team members participation in this search.



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