

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

## “STOP THE BLEED” AND INDIVIDUAL FIRST AID KIT (IFAK) REVIEW – MARCH 20, 2024

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, approximately 40 members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Public Works facility for our monthly training. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of what the training would include. Following Dan’s opening remarks, the presentations began as follows:

- Stop the Bleed / Bleeding Control - Chuck Geraci
- Israeli Bandage / OLAES Bandage / Trauma Shears – Val Grellner
- Chest Seal / CPR Mask – Patty Edgett
- Triangular Bandages / 4” Dressings – Nancy Tafoya
- SAM Splints – Sandy Scannell

The presenters / instructors did an excellent job with the review in each of these areas. Everyone was reminded that not only are these skills important, but with regard to the IFAKS everyone needs to:

1. Know what’s in the kits (which are carried at all community events).
2. Know how to use the items in the kits.

Following the classroom presentations, which included hands-on demonstrations, everyone in attendance was divided into four groups. Prior to everyone’s arrival, four tables were placed in the room that contained wound models, tourniquets, wound packing materials, 4” X 4” dressings, Israeli bandages, OLAES bandages, chest seals, CPR masks, triangular bandages and SAM splints. At this time everyone gravitated to the tables where the hands-on portion of the training began. Val, Patty, Nancy, and Sandy led the instruction at each of the tables while Chuck “floated” from table to table, also assisting. Everyone had an opportunity to practice with the first aid items on themselves and on a partner. The hands-on practice concluded at 8:45pm at which time everyone returned to their seats.

A short de-briefing was held, which included giving a big thank you to the instructors for sharing their time and talents. Training concluded just before 9:00pm.

Special thanks to everyone that attended this valuable training!



**Our Core Principles:**

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

**Recent Activities:**

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## CREW LEADER / AMDR / CRITICAL SPACING / NIGHT SEARCH – MARCH 14, 2024

On Thursday, March 14, 2024 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm this month's training was set-up at Pilcher Park. From 6:00pm to 6:30pm New Lenox Search and Rescue Team members began to arrive and by 6:30pm 17 team members were in attendance.

At 6:30pm Dan Martin, NLSAR Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided a 30-minute refresher on the following:

**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.

**Flanker / Flagger:** Keeps the crew on the set path; frequency of flagging based on terrain and visibility; flankers / flaggers moved ahead of the team (per critical spacing forward movement); thick terrain CS = 1 and open terrain = CS X 1.5; flankers / flaggers need good compass skills; and tie flags with long tails.

**Line Searcher:** Makes up the middle of the line; purposeful wandering (demonstration provided); follows instructions; reports findings to crew leader; uses a compass to help keep the line on the correct bearing; good communication with fellow searchers and crew leader; concentration (no small talk, etc...); uses ALL senses while searching; looks for things that aren't "natural;" conducts 360 searches when stopped with all searchers turning in the same direction clockwise; and uses peripheral vision to stay in a straight line with other searchers (not too far ahead and not too far behind).

**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.

At 7:30pm everyone headed over to practice the first exercise (AMDR) that had been set-up. Following the AMDR exercise and using the numbers obtained during the AMDR exercise, everyone moved over to the Critical Spacing / Critical Separation exercise.

At 7:45pm everyone was divided into three teams (Alpha, Bravo and Charlie). A QR Code for a Caltopo Map was provided and teams were directed to go to their designated locations in a nearby wooded area to conduct an AMDR exercise.

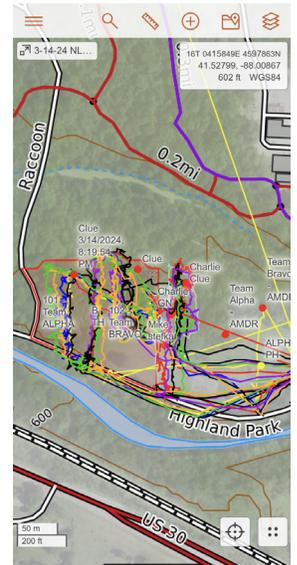
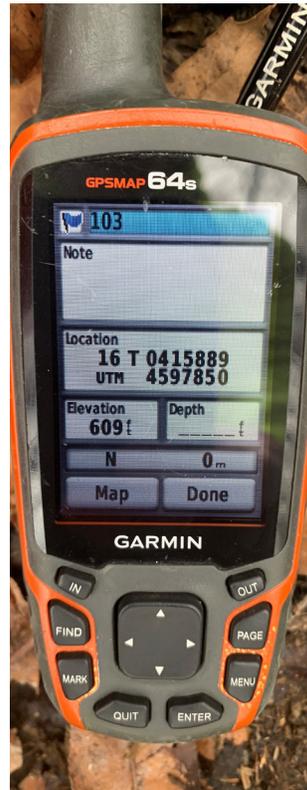
At 8:00pm teams were assigned search segments (Alpha / 101, Bravo



/ 102, Charlie / 103). The search segments were approximately 2 acres in a wooded area. Teams were instructed to use radios for communication (ex. "Search Base from Team Alpha... Commencing Search"), turn on tracking in Caltopo (ex. BRAVO, and initials), conduct AMDR, set critical spacing, Crew Leader lead search, flankers / flaggers flag accordingly, line searchers use purposeful wandering, work together, conduct 360s, etc... Clues (CPR mannequins) were to be called in, GPS coordinates given in UTM, and marked in Caltopo. In short, everyone was instructed to conduct the exercise as though it were a real search.

The exercise concluded shortly before 9:00pm with all clues being located. A short de-briefing was held under the pavilion, which had been designated at "Search Base." The training concluded at 9:00pm.

Special thanks to everyone that participated in this monthly training exercise!



CalTopo Map



H01PC - Write

# DISTRIBUTE FLYERS FOR SEVERE WEATHER EVENT – MARCH 9, 2024

From 9:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday, March 9, 2024, eight New Lenox CERT volunteers distributed flyers for the April 3, 2024 Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo / Touch-a-Truck event, that will be held at Lincoln-Way WEST High School. The flyers were distributed at two Jewel-Osco locations (Nelson Road & Rt. 30 and Laraway Road & Schoolhouse Road), with the permission of store managers. During this initiative, almost 1,000 event flyers were handed out to citizens at these two locations.

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers for their efforts in getting the word out about this event. Also, a big thank you to Jewel-Osco for providing this opportunity!



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

## CERT BUILDING SEARCH TECHNIQUES – FEBRUARY 20, 2024

At 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 over 50 members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the ShareFest Warehouse, which is located at 21715 Moni Drive, New Lenox, IL. Everyone parked their vehicles, signed-in, and were given a handout on Building Search Techniques.

At this time Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, introduced Gary Cheney from ShareFest. Gary welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview on ShareFest, which included their new warehouse. Dan thanked Gary, as did everyone in attendance, for allowing our team to train there.

Dan Martin then provided a 20-minute overview on Building Search Techniques / Best Practices. The lecture followed the handout and in summary, covered the following areas:



Search Considerations - Building structure, level of damage, number of victims, time, etc Follow the 9-Step Size-Up as a guide.

Team Organization - How to best utilize the available number of team members. Skills of team members will determine assignments. Example – (1) Team Leader, (1) Scribe and (4) Searchers.

Strategy - Suggestions can be made, but ultimately, it's the Team Leader's decision. It's important to support the Team Leader and search accordingly.



Search Markings - Marking the building (with a "X") is critical to indicate team name, date, time in / out, search areas, findings, etc... Different types of writing instruments can be useful. Examples include Sharpie markers, spray paint, lumber crayons, colored duct tape, etc... Any one or more of these may be needed, based on the surface that needs to be written on. Also, markings may be needed on some interior doors to indicate that a room has already been searched. Flagging tape wrapped around a door handle is a quick marking method.

Search Method - Right hand search? Pairs going left, and right? Other? Be consistent, thorough, and expedient. Do not get lost or miss areas. Remember there are SIX "sides" to a room (4 walls, floor & ceiling). As such, search around, up & down. Also, search inside anything where a victim may hide. Remember, your victims may be small children that may crawl into a hiding place if they are scared. Examples may include, but are not limited to: bathtubs, under desks, under beds, inside cabinets, inside closets, etc...

Communication - When entering, moving to a different area, or moving up a level – ***"New Lenox CERT, if you can hear me, come to the sound of my voice."*** This announcement is to be made loud and with confidence. Then be quiet for a few seconds to see if there's a response. A response may include voices, tapping or other movement.

Time - Remember ***"Doing the greatest good, for the greatest number, in the shortest period of time."*** Do NOT search the same area twice if there are other areas that still need to be searched. Someone (maybe a Scribe) should be assigned to keep time.

Safety - Use the "buddy system." Pairs should be within arms-length of each other. If something needs to be checked, communicate that to your partner.

Identify Hazards – broken glass, exposed wiring, structural damage (staircase, flooring, etc...). Communicate to partner, communicate to Team Leader, and Team Leader communicate to Incident Command.

Know Where You Are - "A" side, "B" side, "C" side, "D" side. Upper level. Lower level. Basement, first floor or second floor. North, northeast/west, South, southeast/west and so on. Make sure everyone is using the same terminology.

Check Physical Status of Team Members. Team members need to look out for each other. Everyone should be physically checked after completing the search and exiting



## CERT Building Search Techniques Cont'd

the building. Pair up and slowly turn around 360 degrees – check for injuries, missing equipment, etc...

Equipment - **Proper PPE**, based on the environment, is a necessity. **Lighting** – headlamps will allow team members to go “hands-free” when moving objects or treating a victim. A GOOD flashlight is also a necessity. Typically held in weak hand at shoulder level. Swivel at hips – eyes / flashlight will follow. Also, light sticks can be tossed into a dark room for added lighting. Light sticks can also be tied to backpacks to keep team members visible. **Hard Hat** – to protect your head from hanging objects. **Gloves** – work gloves & disposable (medical). N-95 or EzCloud disposable **respirator** for environments with dust, mold, etc... **Medical Supplies** – items as those contained in our IFAKs.

### Additional / Miscellaneous

Consider using wooden wedges to wedge doors open during a search. Having the door open may improve lighting, ventilation and the ability to be heard.

Following the overview everyone in attendance was divided into six teams. Teams one, two and three went with Dan Martin to the warehouse side. Teams four, five and six went with Dr. Martin Greenberg (instructor / facilitator) to the “store” side of the facility. Teams spent 30 minutes (7:30pm to 8:00pm) on one side then switched sides for another 30 minutes (8:00pm to 8:30pm). During this time, teams practiced search markings and building search techniques, focusing on components described in the lecture section. Searches were conducted with lights on, lights off and with distractions (sound effects – audible fire alarms).



At about 8:40pm everyone met for a de-briefing to go over lessons learned from the training. The training concluded at 9:00pm.

Special thanks to Gary Cheney for the use of the facility as well as Dr. Martin Greenberg for facilitating the training on the “store” side of the facility. Lastly, special thanks to everyone that attended – great job by all!



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

# NEW LENOX SAR MONTHLY TRAINING / CPR & AED RECERTIFICATION – FEBRUARY 13, 2024

At 6:00pm on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, twenty members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at New Lenox Fire Protection District, Station #1, 261 E. Maple Road, New Lenox, IL, for CPR / AED recertification.



Marisa Tomich, NLFPSD Fire & Life Safety Educator / Public Information Officer, and Jamie Brown, NLFPSD Fire Marshal, welcomed everyone to Station #1 and provided a brief overview of the training. It should be noted that this training provided our team members with American Heart Association, Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR / AED certification. Everyone signed-in and provided their email addresses to ensure that everyone received their cards via email.

For the next three hours Marisa and Jamie provided the lecture, which was complimented by videos from the American Heart Association. When appropriate, our team members practiced on mannequins (adult and infant). The mannequins showed a green light when chest compressions were being done properly. In addition, time was spent practicing with the training AED units as well. Team members practiced 1-person and 2-person CPR and were also taught the principles of Team CPR.



Following the lecture and hands-on practice, which included clearing an obstructed airway (choking) from an adult and infant, a written test was administered. Following a review of the questions and answers, everyone passed. The training concluded at 9:00pm.

Special thanks to Marisa and Jamie for the outstanding instruction. They really complimented each other and made a great team! Also, special thanks to our team members that attended this training. Everyone is now certified until February, 2026.



## NEW LENOX CERT ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 18, 2024

At 6:00pm on Thursday, January 18, 2024 approximately 60 members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for dinner prior to the Annual Meeting at 7:00pm. The menu, from Gatto's Italian Restaurant, included: House salad, mostaccioli, sausage & peppers, rigatoni vodka, mini meatballs, chicken parmigiana and Italian bread. In addition to the food from Gatto's, pizzas from Beggar's Pizza were also served. Gatto's tiramisu was served for dessert and a number of our volunteers brought dessert items as well. It was very nice having dinner before the meeting as it gave everyone the opportunity to visit while enjoying some great food.

At 7:00pm Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Dan jumped right into the Agenda, which included doing a "2023 Year in Review." Dan noted that in 2023, volunteers put in a **Total of 5,017 hours** and noted that there were *5,257 hours in 2022*. The breakdown of the hours included the following:

CERT Meetings = 121.5 Hours  
 CERT Training = 2,518.5 Hours  
 CERT Community Events = 2,377 Hours

In addition to providing the statistical data, Dan explained the importance of volunteers attending these various activities. Spending time together is critical as it provides an opportunity for volunteers to get to know and trust each other. So, WHEN an emergency or disaster occurs, team members will be more comfortable working along side each other. In addition, these activities keep volunteers active and engaged in the program.

Month-by-month, a brief synopsis was provided regarding the meetings, trainings and community events.

Dan took a moment to talk about the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team as well. It should be noted that ALL New Lenox Search and Rescue volunteers are also New Lenox CERT volunteers. In 2023, New Lenox SAR volunteers put in a **Total of 1,393 hours** (*1,255.5 hours in 2022*). The breakdown of the hours included the following:

Meetings 84 Volunteer Hours  
 Training 966 Volunteer Hours  
 Activations 343 Volunteer Hours

Dan provided the totals for both teams as follows:

**2023 CERT and SAR = 6,410 Total Hours** (*6,482.5 hours in 2022*)

Each year at the Annual Meeting Dan talks about the VALUE of volunteers (which he noted to be priceless by the way). However, if a monetary value were to be given, the National Average in 2023 was \$31.80 per hour. Sources cited...

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

So, for a fun fact... 2023 CERT and SAR **6,410 Total Hours X \$31.80 = \$203,838.00**

Dan went on to say that from 2009-2023 CERT and SAR **78,770 Total Hours**. After doing the math at 2023's value... **78,770 (hours) X \$31.80 = \$2,504,866.00**

Dan then turned the meeting over to Dan Johnson, Training Task Group Chair, who provided the following training schedule to everyone in attendance:

### 2024 Training

1/18/24 Annual Meeting  
 2/20/24 Building Search Techniques  
 3/20/24 Stop the Bleed and Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK) Review  
 4/25/24 Triage and Treatment  
 5/21/24 Transport / Carries / Patient Packaging  
 6/19/24 Survival Skills  
 7/25/24 Water Safety / Shoreline Rescue  
 8/22/24 Ground Search and Rescue for CERT Volunteers  
 9/23/24 Leveraging and Cribbing  
 10/23/24 Team Building  
 11/19/24 Multi-Disciplinary Training / Exercises  
 12/2/24 Presidential Volunteer Service Awards / Holiday Party



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

Dan Johnson explained that these include most, not all, of the CERT core disciplines and a few extras. The goal for 2024 will be to deliver this training to volunteers in a unique way. That may include a change in venue(s), different instructors, different delivery methods, etc...

Dan Martin then encouraged team members to take advantage of additional training opportunities in 2024, which include some of the following:

- April 3, 2024 Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo / Touch-a-Truck at Lincoln-Way WEST High School. 5:00pm to 7:00pm for the H & S Expo and Touch-a-Truck. 7:00pm to 9:00pm for the Severe Weather Spotter Training.
- When buildings set for demolition become available, we will make every effort to gain access and conduct special trainings (think... K-Mart, Walona Motel, Standard Bank, Century 21, etc...)
- Any and all New Lenox Safe Community Coalition training events.
- FEMA's Emergency Management Institute - Independent Study Program
  - IS-317.a Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-317.a>  
(\*2 volunteer hours for training will be awarded send in your certificate)
  - IS-315.a CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS) <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-315.a>  
(\*2 volunteer hours for training will be awarded send in your certificate)



Dan went on to talk about this year's Basic CERT Class (Class #20), which will be done a little differently this year due to Community Room availability. It 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 9/10, 9/12, 9/17, 9/19, 9/24, 9/26, 10/1 and 10/3. The final exercise / disaster simulation / graduation will be held in the morning on Saturday, October 5th. PLEASE start recruiting so we will have a FULL class in September!

Dan took a moment to speak about the New Lenox CERT Facebook Page, which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT/>. Dan encouraged everyone to follow the page and share its content.

A few minutes were spent talking about the New Lenox CERT / SAR Newsletter. Dan asked everyone to share the newsletter within their respective circles of influence. Links to previous issues were also noted in the Meeting Agenda as follows:

**January, 2024** (covering October, November and December, 2023)

<https://www.newlenox.net/files/documents/01-2024CERTSARNewsletter1352053139122123PM.pdf>

**October, 2023** (covering July, August and September, 2023)

<https://www.newlenox.net/files/documents/10-2023CERTSARNewsletter1352045648100523PM.pdf>

**July, 2023** (covering April, May and June, 2023)

<https://www.newlenox.net/files/documents/07-2023CERTSARNewsletter1352012534062823PM.pdf>

**April, 2023** (covering January, February and March, 2023)

<https://www.newlenox.net/files/documents/04-2023CERTSARNewsletter1352044100040523PM.pdf>

Dan also shared the current CERT Basic Class Curriculum as follows:

Instructor Guide [https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019.CERT\\_.Basic\\_.IG\\_.FINAL\\_.508c.pdf](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](https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019.CERT_.Basic_.PM_FINAL_508c.pdf)



Dan then turned the meeting over to Carrie Williams who discussed the Online Calendar that she built for the team. The calendar includes training and community events. Carrie noted that once summaries are finished, she uploads the content and also includes links to current newsletters. Dan thanked Carrie for her work on the calendar and advised the link would be shared with team members.

The meeting concluded with some ideas and suggestions regarding pet preparedness training as well as having team members keep medical / emergency contact information on their person. There will be additional follow-up done with regard to these suggestions.

The Annual Meeting concluded at 8:30pm at which time Dan thanked everyone for attending!

## NEW LENOX SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 10, 2024

At 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for the team's Annual Meeting. From 6:00pm to 6:30pm everyone enjoyed some pizza, pasta, salad and beverages.

At 6:30pm, Dan Martin, SAR Program Coordinator, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Following the opening remarks, Dan congratulated Brendan Clancy, Cheryl Dorn, Patience Halsey and George Nelson, who successfully completed their Probationary Period.

Dan then did a "2023 Year in Review," which included sections on Training, Activations and Meetings.

It was noted that there were 966 hours of Training in 2023. Dan then summarized each of the trainings from January thru December. Summaries included NLSAR training, Multi-Agency training, Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) training and the ISARC Conference.

The next category was Activations where volunteers put in 343 hours in 2023. Each of the activations was discussed, including lessons learned and areas for improvement.

Lastly, it was noted that Meetings netted 84 total hours for volunteers in 2023. This included the Annual Meeting, SAR candidate interviews and a Special Meeting.

To wrap-up the 2023 Year in Review, the following summary was provided:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Training	895.5	966
Activations	251.5	343
Meetings	78.5	84
Total Volunteer Hours	1,225.5	1,393

The next item on the Agenda was the 2023 Team Participation Log, which is a customized Excel document that outlines team member's activity. This includes attendance & hours at meetings, trainings and activations. It also includes the number of activations attended. This document is designed to go hand-in-hand with the SAR Standard Operating Guidelines, which establishes minimum standards for SAR volunteers. The purpose of the document is to ensure that team members are meeting the minimum standards in the areas outlined above. Everyone did an excellent job and as a team, minimum goals were easily reached.

Dan Martin then turned the meeting over to Dan Johnson who discussed Training for 2024, which included the following dates / topics:

January 10, 2024 – Annual Meeting  
 February 13, 2024 – CPR / AED Training / Certification  
 March 14, 2024 – AMDR / Critical Spacing / Crew Leader / Search Exercise  
 April 17, 2024 – Navigation / Compass / Map Reading / Search Exercise  
 May 16, 2024 – Fit Test / Team Building  
 June 11, 2024 – Navigation / Flanker / Flagging / Search Exercise  
 July 18, 2024 – Water Safety / Shoreline Rescue  
 August 13, 2024 – Navigation / GPS (UTM) / Search Exercise  
 September 18, 2024 – Med Ops / Search Exercise  
 October 11-13, 2024 – ISARC Conference  
 November 14, 2024 – Navigation / Caltopo / Search Exercise  
 December 19, 2024 – Transport / Search Exercise

Following Dan Johnson's 2024 Training overview, a discussion was had regarding starting times for monthly training. Historically, monthly trainings have been held from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, but sometimes it's difficult to accomplish everything in 2 hours. The discussion included the need for refresher training in the core areas of ground search and rescue \*and\* the need for a mock search. Mock searches focus on the refresher training topic, but also provide an opportunity for the team to practice ALL disciplines that are needed during a ground search and rescue operation. If it weren't done this way, then months may pass with any practice in the areas.

Following the discussion, it was decided that training would start at 6:30pm and end at 9:00pm. As such, our team will have an extra 30 minutes at each of the monthly trainings.

The next topic on the Agenda was Multi-Agency Training, which is typically organized by Kim Gotte from Kendal County EMA / SAR. It was noted that this training is typically held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, although the schedule for 2024 has not been finalized.

### ANNUAL MEETING



Team members were encouraged to attend the Multi-Agency Training.

The next topic on the Agenda was the 16-Hour GSAR Course. It was noted that New Lenox will not be hosting this course in 2024 for a variety of reasons.

The 2024 ISARC Conference was then discussed. All but one team member in attendance expressed interest in attending this year's conference. The ISARC Conference is on the 2024 Training Calendar and will serve as the team's training for October.

Dan Martin reminded everyone to complete IS-100.c; IS-200.c; IS-700.b; and IS-800.c if they have not already done so.

It was noted that the Fit Test went very well last year and is now much more reflective of what a searcher would encounter in a real-life search. The Inaugural Test was PASS / FAIL and now we have a pretty good idea of everyone's times (fastest / slowest / average). Following a discussion, the course will be lengthened and a cut-off time (FAIL) time will be established. In addition, for those that cannot complete the scheduled test (May 16, 2024) test, an opportunity will be provided to complete the "old" test (3-mile walk, full gear, under 50-minutes).

Dan Martin then went over revisions to the NLSAR Volunteer Manual, which included the following:

- Search and Rescue Team Structure – Section 3
- NLSAR Team Volunteer Requirements – Section 4.1
- General Requirements – Section 4.5.1
- Physical Fitness Test – Section 8.2 Appendix B
- NLSAR Monthly and Annual Activities – 8.3.1
- Incident Management Training by FEMA – 8.3.2
- NLSAR Team Leader and Team Manager – Appendix D
- Updated "New Lenox Safe Community Coordinator" throughout

One of the last items on the Agenda was the Warrior's Walk, which will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024. The Warrior's Walk is a 20-mile ruck march to raise awareness about veteran suicide. It was agreed upon by those in attendance that our team will participate in this event again this year.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:00pm. Dan Martin thanked everyone for attending and noted that he was looking forward to an outstanding year for the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team!

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## SAR MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING / SEARCH AND RESCUE MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW – FEBRUARY 10, 2024

On Saturday, February 10, 2024 three members attended the monthly multi-agency training, which was held at the Harris Forest Preserve, 10460 Route 71, Yorkville, IL 60560. Training was held from 9:00am to 1:00pm, not including travel time.

This training, taught by Kim Gotte, Kendall County EMA / SAR, provided an overview of what SAR Managers do before, during and after a real search. It also included information about the SAR Managers (SARM) Course for those that might want to learn more.

Special thanks to our team members for making the drive out to Yorkville to attend this training.



**Additional Information**

**Daniel Martin**

*Safe Community Coordinator*

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

The 2024 New Lenox CERT Basic Class will be held as follows: September 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, October 1, and 3. These 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 5, 2024 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 Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox at (815) 462-6493 or via email at [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net).

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

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



Visit us on Facebook

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**WREATH RETIREMENT AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL CEMETERY – JANUARY 13, 2024**

At 8:00am on Saturday, January 13, 2024 twelve members of New Lenox CERT met at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery to assist with retirement of the wreaths from the Wreaths Across America event on December 16, 2023. It should be noted that the temperature was in single digits and there had been a recent snowfall. With windy conditions, snow had drifted (1-2 feet) in between many of the rows of headstones, which made wreath removal challenging.



Despite the cold temperature and snow, our volunteers began removing wreaths in Section 15 of the cemetery. Everyone worked hard pulling the wreaths out of the snow and carrying them by hand to the roadway. A number of volunteers worked in pairs, loading the wreaths onto plastic tarps and dragging them over the snow to the roadway. Other volunteers used long poles to place the wreaths on and carried the wreaths to the roadway in that fashion.



Our team worked for approximately 2 1/2 hours in less-than-ideal conditions. We were able to complete all of Section 15 and a significant portion of Section 16 before wrapping up. A short de-briefing was held and Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, thanked everyone for doing a terrific job!

Following the de-briefing, most of our volunteers went to breakfast at a restaurant in Elwood, IL where some additional time was spent reflecting on the wreath retirement efforts. Special thanks to everyone that participated. Your work is greatly appreciated!



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