



QUAD CITY CERT

is your Community Emergency Response Team

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Independence Mayor

Fred P. Ramos

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David A. Bentkowski

Valley View Mayor

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www.quadcercert.org

Newsletter ~ September, 2006, Issue 2

Quad City CERT Highlighted at the 2006 Public Health Summer Institute in Columbus

By Tom Mego

This summer, a conference was held in Columbus on Emergency Planning entitled, "Building Emergency Plans: Foundations for Response, Framework for Critical Decision-Making". When Heidi Scaife, supervisor at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, was invited to speak at the conference on Community Planning for Points of Dispensing, she decided to reach out to Quad City CERT to join her in presenting as an excellent example of community preparation. Quad City CERT sent me, MIC/POD Chairperson, to present with Heidi. Attendees at the conference were mostly local health department officials from across the State of Ohio as well as representatives from the Ohio Department of Health. I described our CERT team, the MIC/POD plan we have created, and our April, 2005 MIC Drill. The feedback from attendees was overwhelming - they were amazed at the size of Quad City CERT, the training our members have accomplished, and how we have taken the initiative to build our MIC/POD plans.

Clearly, Quad City is among the first, not only in the County, but also the State to get this far along! Keynote speakers at the conference from the Ohio Department of Health emphasized the importance of planning, in particular, for Pandemic Influenza (Bird Flu), stating that, "The threat of pandemic influenza is not as much a question of if, but rather a question of when." The State of Ohio is planning intensively, and is investing millions of dollars to obtain needed quantities of anti-viral medications. Preparation for your family is quite similar to preparation for other disasters - assuring you have the essentials on hand to endure extended quarantine or shortages of supply. For more information on preparing your family, see www.ohiopandemicflu.gov/families/families. And if you haven't yet completed Quad City CERT's "Mass Inoculation / POD Preparedness Training", the next session will be held November 1, 2006. We hope to see you there! Sign up on-line or email cmtyserve@brooklynhts.org.



*To submit an article for publication in this newsletter, please contact
Thea Guilfoyle at (216) 739-3702. Deadline is the first of each month.*

A "Mock Victim's" Perspective

By Nina Boodjeh

I am very thankful to everyone that volunteered to be a "mock victim" for the August 26, 2006 U. S. Coast Guard Drill. This was the largest Mass Casualty Drill in Cleveland history, and we were a part of it! Many of us spent 6 to 8 hours at this event.

I thought it was an absolutely awesome experience! I commend all those that took part in the eleven months of planning, and all those that participated as "responder" agencies and brought all that really cool equipment!

We saw many three letter t-shirts that day, ATF, FBI, EMS. There were many ambulances, several Coast Guard boats, several rescue helicopters (they actually landed and transported victims to hospitals), the Red Cross (thank you for the great lunch, and for keeping track of all those volunteers), Fire trucks, Firefighters, Police Vehicles, (including a row of motorcycles), Officers, and Bomb sniffing K-9 Officers and later in the day, the Bomb Squad came!

Some of us had "acting" roles. People were "made up" to look as if they were covered in black smoke, with wounds from an explosion. They had really good make-up for this with bleeding wounds, burns, even glass shards sticking out of a wound!

They had a meeting with us after we boarded the boat to tell us a little about what was going to happen to us. During this briefing we were all given cards to wear around our necks that had our "vital signs" information on it, and how we were supposed to "act".

The scenario was that there was an explosion on or near the Goodtime III while we were on the boat. They fired smoke bombs, (which were choking – but very realistic- except if the event was real, the smoke wouldn't have stopped), and threw mannequins into the water to simulate dead bodies. The first thing the Coast Guard did was drive around the boat – just like we were taught in our classes. ASSESS the situation!

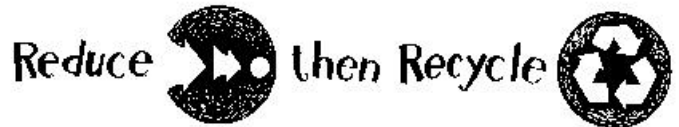
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Upcoming Meetings



The Mass Inoculation / Public Oral Dispensing Committee is holding a class for all of Quad City CERT on Wednesday, November 1st. The class will be held at the Independence Middle School Auditorium. Last year this meeting covered policies for a Mass Inoculation and this year Public Oral Dispensing will be outlined. This meeting is for both Members and Reserves and everyone is urged to attend.

There will be a CERT Instructor meeting on December 13th at the Seven Hills Fire Station.



FEMA TRAINING

The 20-hour FEMA classes begin this week. Please register on-line at quadcitycert.org, call (216) 739-3602, or email cmtyserve@brooklynhts.org.

	Class	Date	Time
1	Disaster Preparedness	9/20	7-9:00 p.m.
2	CERT Organization	9/27	7-9:00 p.m.
3	Disaster Psychology & Terrorism and CERT	10/4	7-9:00 p.m.
4	Light Search & Rescue	10/11	7-9:00 p.m.
5	Disaster Medical Operations - Part One	10/18	7-9:00 p.m.
6	Disaster Medical Operations - Part Two	10/25	7-9:00 p.m.
7	Mass Inoculation / Public Oral Distribution Preparedness	11/1	7-9:00 p.m.
8	Fire Safety	11/8	7-9:00 p.m.
	GRADUATION	11/15	TBA



Volunteers Appreciated

*By Chief Tom
Koscielski*

When the call for volunteers is requested we all know what that means, more time out of our busy schedules. But I'm really sure that each and every one of you joined CERT to help people in need. Remember our motto, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors". The request in the past, and in the future is an opportunity for all of our members to utilize the training you received through CERT classes.

Our CERT Team is highly recognized not only in our area, but also on the FEMA web site. We, the Executive Board, are very proud of the participation the Team displays when asked to participate in training exercises. During the next request for participation by our CERT Team, give some thought to stepping forward and join us, you will have the opportunity to hone your skills, and everyone can learn something from a hands-on exercise. This is also a great way to make new friendships. We have all become great friends while working and learning together. Looking forward to seeing you at our next drill!

Mass Inoculation Clinic / Points of Dispensing (MIC/POD) Update

By Tom Mego

This month our MIC/POD team focus was on security considerations for Mass Inoculation Clinic or Points of Dispensing operations. The meeting was led by John Joyce, who is Security Coordinator. John met with representatives of the Police Departments of our four communities. We are grateful for the contributions of Police Officer Joe Vanecek of Independence, Sgt. Matt March of Valley View, Sgt. Jim Cassidy of Brooklyn Hts., and Lt. John Durkin of Seven Hills. Together, John and these four officers compiled a draft Security Plan. The plan addresses needs for security and traffic control at the Griage / Off-Site Parking Area, at the Clinic / POD site, and at key intersections along the route between the two.

In the event of an actual MIC/POD activation, security is expected to be a critical success factor. Our communities would be issued and need to secure medication and supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Over the course of the clinic, the vehicle and pedestrian flow of 25,000 residents would need to be conducted in an orderly and safe manner. The Security Plan, once approved by the Police Departments and our Executive Board, will become part of our MIC/POD binder that will guide our efforts if and when we are activated in the future.

Communications

By Bob DiBianca

We are experiencing "technical difficulties" with regard to our team! We are DETERMINED to GROW the CERT Organization!!

We feel that many things over the course of these past two years have gone very well, but "communications" is still a problem. You are provided, within the body of this newsletter, with all the contact information you need to become involved. We encourage you to "Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome" with regard to any "frustrations" you feel regarding our Team.

There is no "template" for this, no "cookie cutter" examples to follow. WE are "hacking through the jungle" to determine the path for CERT. If you have "constructive criticism", we WANT to hear it! Also, we encourage people to "insert" themselves by "blending into the wheel" and keeping it moving toward a common goal. Quad City CERT is NOT "broken", but we DO need additional "spokes" for the "wheel".

Amy Gruenberg is Communications Chairperson. She is very nice, very smart, and very capable of improving Communications. If you are interested in "being a spoke" in an already existing "wheel" to *make it stronger*, please contact her at (216) 524-8698 or to her email at foraimers@cox.net.

WORLD CONFERENCE

By Assistant Fire Chief Frank Kruszewski

On June 29th, 2006, the Independence Fire Department hosted part of an “International Visitor Leadership Program”, arranged by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program objectives were outlined as follows:

- To discuss U.S. participation in international disaster relief, regional crises, health emergencies, and refugee situations.
- To promote better understanding and closer collaboration between international and U.S. disaster and crisis management officials at the federal, state and local levels.
- To discuss the benefits of cooperation among governments, private, and voluntary organizations in the event of a crisis.



Chief Nelson and Asst. Chief Frank Kruszewski presented information on our Incident Command System, and the National Incident Management System, explaining how they allow major emergencies to be handled in a organized and workable manner. Murray Withrow, the director of the Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Agency, as well as a representative from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, explained their role in emergency planning and response. Finally, Nina Boodjeh gave a wonderful explanation of C.E.R.T (Community Emergency Response Team) and their role in emergencies and disasters. Our Quad City CERT is gaining national attention and the international representatives were quite attentive to hear what these teams have to offer on a local level. The countries listed below were represented. This is the third visit by foreign dignitaries, crisis managers, and other managerial positions. They seem to enjoy our presentations!

Ethiopia
Philippines

Haiti
Saint Lucia

Hungary
Sweden

Malaysia
Montenegro

Iraq

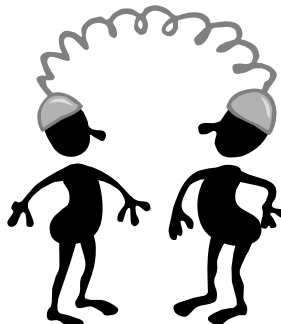
These international visitors were here to gain knowledge to help their citizens, for many of these countries have been decimated by natural as well as man-made disasters. They are not blessed with the resources we have in the United States. Their questions were plentiful, and their gratitude was genuine. Our hope is that we were able to provide them with additional tools and ideas to share with their governments and help their citizens prepare for future emergencies.



CROSS-TRAINING

By Bill Bishilany & Bob DiBianca

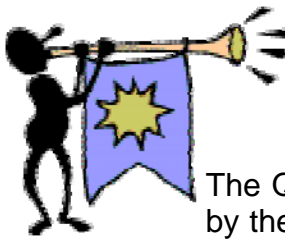
We will, in the near future, be making every effort to “cross train” so that we can become a more valuable resource tool for emergency services. This will be beneficial to all of us, especially if called upon to help in a true emergency.



PHONE BANK

By Rebecca Maichryc

The Phone Bank Committee thanks everyone for their patience and assistance in responding to the calls that have been placed recently and we appreciate everyone’s help in keeping their information current. Check occasionally to make sure!!



WE'RE HAVING A CONTEST!

By Chief Tom Koscielski

The Quad City CERT Executive Board would like to have a Mission Statement written by the membership. We would like members to submit what they think would describe a true description of the purpose, (not the duties), of the Quad City CERT organization. The final Mission Statement will be adopted and announced after the first of the year. Submit your entries to cmtyservice@brooklynhts.org by November 1, 2006. All entries must be in writing, and will be judged on it's content. The winner will receive a gift certificate for \$25.00 to local restaurant. Good luck to everyone!



ALL HAZARDS ALERT WEATHER RADIO



Midland WR-100B Weather Hazard Alert Radio's are available at the Independence Discount Drug Mart for \$26.⁹⁵ (regular retail price is \$49.⁹⁵). We encourage all Quad City CERT membership to have an emergency radio, just as we recommend smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers for your safety.

It is not our intention to solicit business for any company, we do recognize this as a particularly good buy, and wanted to pass the information along to you. Please feel free to educate yourselves on the different types of All Hazard Radios to determine if this product meets your needs.

In addition to important weather announcements, this radio will also provide you with other announcements such as: Child Abduction (Amber Alerts), Immediate Evacuation, Hazardous Material Warning, Local Area Emergency, Biological Hazard Warning, Civil Emergency Message, Contagious Disease Warning, Emergency Action Notification, Civil Danger Warning, Food Contamination Warning, among others.



COMMUNITY SERVICE APPRECIATION

By the Quad City CERT Executive Board & John Skalsky

We truly appreciate the dedication and volunteerism displayed by those that were able to volunteer throughout the year at community events. Some of those were as a result of the flooding in June; at the surprise mock drills held in Seven Hills and Brooklyn Hts.; at the Quad City Home Days events; the U.S. Coast Guard Drill in August, and the Airport Drill this month.

We also commend those that have taken the IS-100, the NIMS-700 testing, and other CERT-related classes, offered on the FEMA Website, www.fema.gov/emiweb/IS. Self education is a beautiful thing!

By putting on a CERT vest and actually "interacting" with the community, you are making great strides toward Community Preparedness. YOU are the "leaders" in your community and ALL leadership comes with great humility and responsibility.

WE COMMEND YOU ~ WE APPRECIATE YOU ~ WE NOTICE YOU!

We are attempting to "track" volunteer hours this year. We understand that not all people can do this, we would just like to recognize those that do. We are in the process of structuring a system by which we are able to acknowledge your efforts.

A "Mock Victim's" Perspective

Continued from Second Page

Their safety was at stake if there were more bombs or another explosion.

After the Coast Guard boarded the boat, they called out, "Anyone that can walk, please get off the boat". (By the way, this happened at all three drills, it's a good idea, just like Tom Lippucci calling out (at the Search & Rescue class), "If you can hear me, come toward the sound of my voice." My card said I was just "dazed and confused", (my normal state!), so I got off the boat. We were then directed to the "Triage" area down at the end of the dock. They had "Triage Tents", one green (little or no treatment needed), one yellow (delayed), one red (immediate care needed). After everyone had a "Triage Tag" we were actually transported by ambulance.



One woman was supposed to act "agitated". Well she screamed and yelled and fought with both Police and Fire for an hour and a half. (Loisirene Blumberg was just as good if not better at the Brooklyn Heights drill on July 17th!). But after an hour and a half I guess they had enough, and a Police Officer pulled out a gun, handcuffed her and put her in the back of his car!!

Poor Ron Corrao and Colleen Funk were...shall we say..."getting sick" over the side of the boat and at the Triage site. Barbara Kraig and Alan Kraisen were covered in thick black smoke. Tom Mego was shivering and SOOO cold! And Gene Chodzin made all three news channels, (which I taped).

Mock Victims were actually transported to area hospitals to "drill" the hospitals in processing mass casualties. They cannot transport all the people that need immediate care to one hospital. One hospital would not have enough emergency room staff, surgeons, or operating rooms to handle a full bus of victims that needed immediate care. This was handled by sending a few Red- (immediate care) victims along with several yellow- (delayed care) victims in several ambulances. As area hospitals filled, they took people by ambulance to a waiting RTA bus, and used the air conditioned bus as a "holding tank" for victims.

I believe that the rescuers did the best they could to help those in dire need of emergency services, but you have to remember our CERT classes to remember the rule that applies is "**The greatest good for the greatest number of people**". I have to tell you, this is just such a hard concept for me to grasp and deal with. We waited on the RTA bus for over an hour before victims were transported, because by then the area hospitals were full. Some of the people that needed immediate care on our bus, (the last bus) may have been dead by the time they reached the hospital. But I think the responders did the best they could for us all and I really think they all did a terrific job.

Jackelyn Oergel from the County Emergency Management Agency was there, and I know she played a role in planning the drill and in inviting the Quad City CERT Team, and inviting and organizing other Cuyahoga CERT Teams as well, to participate. Thank you Jackie!

Please remember, **if everything goes perfect, then it's a "play," not a "drill"!** Drills are designed to "simulate the thought process", not pre-plan every detail. They are supposed to be a "learning" experience.

I really appreciate that Chief Koscielski and his wife Ingrid, Chief Nelson and his wife Marcia, and Assistant Chief Frank Kruscewski and his wife "my Annie," all participated in the drill as mock victims with us.

None of us will ever know the value of what we did on August 26, 2006. For us, **we were allowed to view and participate in a tremendous effort toward Disaster Preparedness**, and I am very grateful for the experience. But it does solidify the fact that Police, Fire, and EMS train in non-emergency events for emergencies, just like we are hoping to do.