

# CERT All-Member Monthly Newsletter

## FEBRUARY 2014

The CERT monthly newsletter is available on our webpage at:  
<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/OEM/CC/CERT/brief.html>

CERT IS  
WHAT  
YOU  
MAKE IT!

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### **New York State – Citizens Preparedness Corp. Citizen Preparedness Training Program**

**February 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 – SUNY Farmingdale**

<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/aware-prepare/nysprepare/>

Bill Pavone – Division 1 Leader

In response to increasing major disasters across the state, the NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) has embarked on a program not unlike CERT to help train citizens of New York State on the basics needed before, during and after a major event.



Several CERTs attended this training program with the goal of understanding what the state curriculum is about and how our program can offer advanced training to supplement the state program.

CERT training was mentioned in one of the first slides as a way to get involved in the preparedness process. Presented by the New York National Guard, this 2 hour training session exposed the average civilian to many of the topics included in our CERT Basic class.

The NY National Guard is the premiere state level emergency response organization reporting directly to the Governor. They will be holding seminars across NY with the goal of training and equipping a much larger number of citizens than CERT could alone.

Sessions in Staten Island and Long Island are just the first of an ongoing program to teach the initial topics by which citizens should advance their training. As an added incentive, a basic Go-Bag was presented to each participant. This free Go-Bag included basic PPE

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**You never know when a disaster may strike -  
But you can be prepared with a  
Home Inventory**

**Excerpts taken from:  
<http://lifehacker.com/>  
[www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org)  
Compiled by **Melissa Valencia****

As we have all seen and experienced in the last few years, anything and everything can possibly befall us and the homes and lives we have built over the years. And as we can imagine, after a disaster or any event where you incur a loss it is often hard to remember every item that you no longer have.

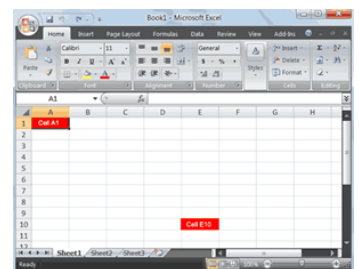
One of the ways you can protect yourself is to create and maintain an accurate and up to date Home Inventory. It is one of the best ways to make the most of your homeowners or renters insurance, and having one makes filing a claim easier and more efficient.

A Home Inventory is simply a list of your personal possessions along with their estimated financial value. You can create such an inventory in a few different ways. You can go the simple, low tech route by writing down everything in a notebook and keeping receipts in a folder, or if you are slightly computer savvy create a spreadsheet that is easy to update and keep on a flash drive or CD at work or a family members home. You can choose to take advantage of technology and use a digital camera or smart phone to take pictures and/or videotape your belongings in order to have a visual record. Finally, you can take benefit from the newest technology and use one of the many Smartphone Apps created for this task.

While any Home Inventory is better than none, the low tech route offers the least protection for you, unless you keep it stored off site. However, this becomes bothersome when you need to update your list, and could possibly cause your list to not be as accurate as it should be.



Using a spreadsheet offers the flexibility to create just the Home Inventory YOU need, whether you use **Microsoft Excel**, **Open Office Calc**, or **Google Docs Spreadsheet**. The goal is to create whatever categories or variables you want to include in your inventory to properly catalogue your collection of valuables. It isn't as polished and pretty as some of the other home inventory tools in the higher tech category, but it certainly gets the job done. Once it is completed, it can be saved on a flash drive that you can carry with you, put on a CD that you leave at work or uploaded to an online account for easy access.



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***Deadline for submission of articles, photos and news  
for the next CERT Newsletter is  
Friday, February 28th***

# FEBRUARY 2014 - Upcoming Events

## FEBRUARY

### CERT Basic Course, Class 2 thru 5 - Consecutive Tues February 4th thru February 25th

Massapequa Park Village Hall  
151 Front Street, Massapequa Park NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900) - Doors open at 6:30 pm

### RACES/Comms Meeting - Thur February 6th

OEM Conference Room A  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

### All-County CERT Meeting - Wed February 12th

OEM Lecture Hall  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

### Division Leaders Meeting - Thur February 20th

OEM Conference Room A  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

### Adv. Training: Thurs February 27th—CANCELLED

FEBRUARY 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 CERT Basic 2	5	6 RACES Mtg	7	8
9	10	11 CERT Basic 3	12 All-Cty CERT Mtg	13	14	15
16	17	18 CERT Basic 4	19	20 Div Ldr Mtg	21	22
23	24	25 CERT Basic 5	26	27 Adv Trng— CANCELLED	28	

## MARCH

### CERT Basic Course, Class 6 - Tues March 4th

Massapequa Park Village Hall  
151 Front Street, Massapequa Park NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900) - Doors open at 6:30 pm

### Division 1 Meeting—Wed March 5th

OEM Lecture Hall  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY  
Time: 7:30 pm (1930)

### RACES/Comms Meeting - Thur March 6th

OEM Conference Room A  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

### Division 2 Meeting—March 10th

Temple Beth Shalom  
390 Broadway, Lawrence NY  
Time: 7—9 pm

### Moulage Training—March 18th CANCELLED

### Division Leaders Meeting - Thur March 20th

OEM Conference Room A  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

### Advanced Training: Staging Area Mgmt.—Mon March 24th

OEM Lecture Hall  
510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

MARCH 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 CERT Basic 6	5 Div 1 Mtg	6 RACES Mtg	7	8
9	10 Div 2 Mtg	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Moulage CANCELLED	19	20 Div Ldr Mtg	21	22
23	24 Adv Trng	25	26 Div 3 Mtg	27	28	29
30	31 Safe- Talk					

### Division 3 Meeting—March 26th

Glen Cove Fire Department  
Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove, NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

### Safe Talk Training—March 31st

OEM Lecture Hall  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY  
Time: 7:00 pm (1900)



# Division News

## DIVISION 1:

Division 1 members have been active this winter attending advanced training courses, the NYS Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services (DHSES) Citizens Preparedness Corp training program at SUNY Farmingdale and playing host to the Basic course in Massapequa Park Village Hall.

- Bill Pavone

## DIVISION 2:

All Division meetings will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom, 390 Broadway, Lawrence, NY 11559. Park in the lot on Washington Ave. The meetings will take place from 7-9 PM in the Cocktail Room which is behind the main sanctuary. That room is handicapped accessible. If we need to change rooms for some reason, you will be notified in advance

The hope is to have training on 2 way radios, POD's and How to Set up an Incident Command Post, but these topics are tentative. If any members feel they can assist Jeff Sliva with instruction, please let both of us know.

I am looking forward to meeting all our Division 2 members in person at the various events we will be having.

- Marlyn Press

## DIVISION 3: Activation For Cold Snap

The second day of the new year brought the first snowstorm of 2014, predicted to have blizzard conditions and temperatures dropping into the teens. The following night was predicted to have single digit temperatures. Warming Centers were opened at several locations throughout Nassau County, but only the City of Glen Cove elected to have a Warming Center open all night if necessary. CERT Division 3 was requested to assist in staffing the Warming Center overnight, located at the Glen Cove Senior Center. The Warming Center was opened for three evenings in the first week of January, and again for two evenings in the third week when temperatures plummeted again.

Division 3 CERT members Mary Lou Fusillo, Ruth Loeber, Kathie Flynn, Kathleen Foster, Drew Lawrence, Susan Schechter and Dave Nieri answered the call and stood shifts at the Senior Center in the event that any local residents might be without heat on those cold evenings and need a warm place to stay. A thank you and well done to those members who volunteered their time.

- Dave Nieri

## DIVISION 4:

No update available at this time.



## Division News Continued

### Upcoming Division Meetings

**Division 1's** quarterly meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 5th 2014** at 7:30 pm in the OEM Lecture Hall, 510 Grumman Road W. Bethpage NY.

**Division 2's** quarterly meeting will be held on **Monday, March 10th** at 7 pm. at Congregation Beth Shalom, 390 Broadway Lawrence NY. The meeting will be held in the cocktail room, using the entrance on Washington Ave.

**Division 3's** quarterly meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 26th 2014** at 7 pm, at the Glen Cove Fire Department in Glen Cove.

**Division 4's** no quarterly meeting scheduled at this time.

- Remember, you can attend any Division Meeting, but we ask that you please contact the Division Leader first so they are prepared for the correct number of attendants.

Division 1 - Bill Pavone—[nassaucertdiv1@yahoo.com](mailto:nassaucertdiv1@yahoo.com)

Division 2 - Marlyn Press—[marlynpress@hotmail.com](mailto:marlynpress@hotmail.com)

Division 3 - Dave Nieri—[dnieri@yahoo.com](mailto:dnieri@yahoo.com)

Division 4 - Ken English—[floralparkcert@gmail.com](mailto:floralparkcert@gmail.com)





## *New York State - Citizens Preparedness Corp Citizen Preparedness Training Program (Continued from page 1)*

(Personal Protective Equipment) such as work gloves, goggles and dusk mask but also water, long term storage energy bars, duct tape, plastic sheeting for basic shelter, an AM/FM radio & whistle for communications, glow stick and flashlight for illumination.

Governor Cuomo was in attendance, and thanked the dignitaries for attending and for their tireless efforts after Super Storm Sandy and praised their continued support during the rebuilding process.

Due to changing weather patterns, NYS will be creating an advanced weather prediction center to get the best information, specific for our state, to direct resources as quickly as possible. Also, the state university system will be creating a College of Emergency Management, a first anywhere in the United States to offer a curriculum dedicated to the EM field.

New York has experienced more disasters in recent years than any other state and in response is building programs to combat these events and increase the resiliency of its residents. Building codes in low lying areas are being changed to require stilt construction where appropriate and funding to elevate key infrastructure. As fuel supplies were disrupted after both Irene and Sandy so a strategic petroleum reserve is being built to ensure gasoline, diesel and fuel oil will be available locally when supply lines are cut. Filling stations now require back-up generators along evacuation routes and certain down state filling stations will require the ability to hook up to generators should power be lost in the future.

This seminar went over the basic types of disasters that can occur (natural, man-made and technological) and discussed the planning process for an all hazards approach to resiliency.

Introductions were provided similar to the CERT segments on Firefighting (know the extinguisher types – A (paper/wood)

– B liquids – C Electrical), how to turn off your utilities (natural gas, propane, fuel oil, electricity and water) when you leave your shelter or “Bug Out,” and the process of documenting all possessions with pictures and video to prove their condition to insurance companies, among other topics.

Overall this training was a good introduction to the emergency response process but only scratched the surface. Our CERT training goes way beyond this limited 2 hour course and with the addition of advanced training reinforces our need to continue learning, practicing and spreading the word to family and friends that CERT is here to help all county residents prepare for the next event.

With hundreds of Long Islanders in attendance full of questions and concerns, it is obvious the need for this training and information is highly sought-after.

Please share the news of CERT with family, friends and co-workers and encourage them to sign up for our Basic Training, so they too can be best prepared for whatever comes our way.



CERT members Lisa Moffa, Randi Chenkin & Jerry Barnett in addition to over 600 other citizens attended this inaugural event.



### **CURRENT CERT BASIC COURSE**

**THE 1ST CERT BASIC COURSE FOR 2014 IS BEING HELD  
IN MASSAPEQUA PARK ON 6 CONSECUTIVE TUESDAYS  
BEGINNING ON JANUARY 28TH, AND ENDING ON  
MARCH 4TH 2014**

**CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL,  
151 FRONT STREET IN MASSAPEQUA PARK  
FROM 7 TO 10 PM - DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM**



*(Current CERT Members may attend any class as a refresher, check the website for session topics)*

# Home Inventory

(Continued from page 2)

Taking pictures or recording video of the contents of your home is an old and insurance-agent-recommended method of taking stock of your possessions. Armed with a digital camera or camcorder it's easy to shoot as many pictures or minutes of video as you need. Always take an extra few seconds to snap a picture or **zoom in on the serial numbers and the important details of your possessions**—flip a piece of china over to show the make, take a close up picture of a stamp or proof mark on an antique that shows the age and value, etc. Burn the pictures or video to a DVD and place in a secure off site location, such as a Safe Deposit Box and/or upload them to a secure account online to ensure you have access to them when you need them.



Finally for those CERTS who are the most tech savvy, using a Smartphone App is an easy, convenient way to catalogue all that is valuable in your home. Even if you have a good memory, it is hard to remember everything, and the insurance company will want more than just your word on what you had and its value. Using an App makes it simple to photograph, list and make notes on your most important items, if not everything. While each App does not have every feature one would want, it can be the most stress-free way to catalogue your home. Considering most Americans do not have a home inventory list this might be one of the easiest ways to create one. Plus there are many available for free, so there is no reason not to give it a try.



There are 2 ways you can choose to make your inventory – by room or by category i.e.: hobby, art, furniture etc.

- Your inventory should include celebration purchases like jewelry and art, as well as everyday leisure items such as televisions and guitars.
- Don't forget items you use rarely such as holiday decorations, sports equipment, tools, etc.
- Pull together copies of original sales receipts and/or appraisal documents. Also note model and serial numbers.
- Consider sharing a copy with trusted friends, relatives and your insurance provider.

No matter how you choose to do it, the important thing is to create a home inventory and update it when you make major purchases. An up-to-date home inventory will:

- Help you purchase the right amount and type of insurance.
- Make filing a claim as simple as possible.
- Substantiate financial losses for tax purposes or when applying for financial assistance.

Below is a link to a Home Inventory Checklist. This is just one of many ways you can organize your belongings:

[http://www.insureuonline.org/home\\_inventory\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.insureuonline.org/home_inventory_checklist.pdf)

Take some time, do some research to figure out what works best for you and your family's needs, and start your Home Inventory today.

