

CERT All-Member Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2013

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!

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

Last Basic CERT Class Graduation	1
What Do You Know About ICS?	1
Sept. CERT Friends & Family BBQ	2
November 2013 Events Calendar	3
Division News	4
Photos from the Uniondale Fire District Open House	6
Time for CERT Volunteers to Step Up NOW!	7
Leadership: Giving People a Reputation to Uphold	8
Thanksgiving Safety	9



The Last CERT Basic Class of 2013 - Nov. 6th

This is a reminder that Division Leaders and/or their Deputy(ies) must attend the graduation of the latest CERT Basic Course to welcome the newest members of CERT. The final class is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th at the [LIU-Post Campus](#) in Brookville. The class is held in the Humanities Hall (bldg. 21 on the Campus Map).



This is an opportunity to connect with new CERT volunteers on a face-to-face basis and to invite them to your next Division Meeting or function.

[Click here for a link to the LIU-Post Campus Map](#)

What Do You Know About ICS?

by Dave Nieri, CERT Division 3 Supervisor

First of all, what is ICS? Does **Incident Command System** ring a bell? So, you ask, what is the Incident Command System and why should I care?

The reason you should care is that as an active CERT member, you are involved in Emergency Response, or Incident Response (both terms are applicable). When you are activated in an emergency and report to a location to perform some task as a CERT volunteer, you are in an Emergency or Incident Response. In much the same way as the official language of Air Traffic Control worldwide is *English*, the language of Incident Response in the United States is *ICS*. The Incident Command System (ICS) is a part of a greater incident management doctrine employed at all levels of government within the United States — the National Incident Management System or NIMS. As a result of a Presidential Directive, all Federal Government agencies are required to employ the concepts of NIMS to incident response activities, and by extension that includes the Incident Command System.

This has been included in Federal law whereby agencies and organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard, OSHA, and the EPA among others, have specifically written into their regulations that ICS will be used when responding to incidents involving hazardous materials.

CERT Members Family & Friends BBQ/Picnic - September 14th

Submitted by Jayne Cafaro, Deputy Supervisor, CERT Division 1



On September 14th Division 1 hosted a Family & Friends BBQ / Picnic for CERT members and their families. This get-together at Eisenhower Park was open to all CERT members of all Divisions. We had good food and played many rounds of Croquet, and a lot of rounds of Darts. There were games for the children, and Bingo and Cards for all. It was a fun-filled day. We even had DJ music to listen to, drifting over from other people's parties.

The hot chocolate with whipped cream and hot toasted marshmallows came in handy as it started to get a bit chilly later on in the day, and everyone stayed until almost dark.



November 2013 - Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

CERT Basic Course Class 6 - Wed November 6th

LIU-Post Campus, Humanities Hall
720 Northern Blvd, Brookville NY
Time: 7:00 - 10:00 pm (1900-2200 hrs); doors open 6:30 pm

RACES/Comms Meeting - Thur November 7th

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

Division 3 Meeting - Wed November 13th

Glen Cove Fire Dept. HQ
Route 107 & Glen Cove Avenue, Glen Cove NY
Time: 7:00 pm (1900 hrs)

Psychological First Aid - Thur November 14th

OEM Lecture Hall
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY
Time: 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm (1900-2200 hrs)

Division 2 Meeting - Mon November 18th

Congregation Beth Sholom
390 Broadway, Lawrence NY
Time: 7:00 pm (1900 hrs)

ICS-100 Training (2 evenings) - Mon November 18th & Mon November 25th

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

Division Leaders Meeting - Thur November 21st

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

DECEMBER

Division 1 Meeting - Wed December 4th

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

CERT All-County Meeting - Tues December 3rd

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

RACES/Comms Meeting - Thur December 5th

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

November 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 CERT Basic Cls 6	7 RACES	8	9
10	11	12	13 Div 3 Mtg	14 Psychol First Aid	15	16
17	18 Div 2 Mtg ICS100	19	20	21 Div Ldr Mtg	22	23
24	25 ICS100 Day 2	26	27	28 Thanks- giving	29	30

December 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 All- Cty Mtg	4 Div 1 Mtg	5 RACES	6	7
8	9 Adv Tmg	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Div 2 Mtg	18	19 Div Ldr Mtg	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christ- mas	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Years Eve				

Advanced Training: Compass & Map Reading Mon December 9th

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

Division 2 Meeting - Tues December 17th

Congregation Beth Sholom
390 Broadway, Lawrence NY
Time: 7:00 pm (1900 hrs)

Division Leaders Meeting - Thur December 19th

OEM Lecture Hall
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage NY
Time: 7:00 - 10:00 pm (1900-2200 hrs)

Division News

Division 3

Division 3 (Nassau County North Shore) will meet at the Glen Cove Fire Department HQ on Wednesday evening, November 13th at 7 pm. Please bring your FRS radios if you have them so that we can conduct radio training.

Dave Nieri, Division Supv.

Nassau County RACES & CERT Communications Group

Thank You! I would like to take a moment to thank all those ARES Members from Nassau and NYC who turned out to support the Nassau County Regional Exercise. As many of us wear several hats it is always a pleasure to once more work together to achieve a common goal. It was also nice to meet our counterparts from NYC ARES, and I hope we can continue to work alongside one another in the near future. I would be remiss if I did not give a special *Thank You* to Tim Credan N2RDB, N.C. ARES DEC (District Emergency Coordinator) and to Dave Akins AK1NS, N.C. ARES (Assistant District Emergency Coordinator) for all their help.

HRU - Ham Radio University

Mark your calendar! It is once more time for HRU! On January 5th, 2014 at Briarcliffe College, 1055 Stewart Ave. in Bethpage, NY 11714. HRU, for those new to the hobby, is "**A day of education to share ideas, experiences, knowledge and fellowship among Amateur Radio operators**". It is also the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) New York City/Long Island Section Convention. Jim Mezey W2KFV, Section Manager, will be catching us up with what is going on in the ARRL! It is always a interesting day, with 25 forums to teach you something new whether you have been in the hobby for years or are new to it. And there will also be an Amateur Radio License Exam held if you want to upgrade or join this fascinating hobby. For more information visit <http://hamradiouniversity.org>

Welcome! I would like to welcome all those new CERT members that recently graduated from the CERT Basic Class at LIU-Post! I would also like to welcome all those new Hams that attended the Technicians Class on October 5th and 6th at OEM, sponsored by Kings County Radio Repeater Association. Unfortunately, due to the Government shutdown they have not yet received Call Signs, but we will put their names and call in the next edition. Thanks to Gary KB2BSL, Russ KC2LSB, Charles WA2GUG for teaching this course.

Bob Long KC2PSN

Nassau County CERT/RACES Chief Radio Officer

Correction: The EC-OO1 article in the September 2013 CERT Newsletter was mistakenly credited to Bob Long KC2PSN. The article was written by Dave Akins AK1NS, Nassau County ARES ADEC. We apologize for this mishap.

Upcoming Division Meetings

Division 1's next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 4th** at 7:30 pm in the OEM Lecture Hall, 510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage NY.

Division 2 will meet on **Tuesday, November 18th** from 7 to 9 pm at Congregation Beth Sholom, 390 Broadway in Lawrence NY. Other meetings: December 17th.

Division 3's next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 13th** at 7 pm. Location will likely be the Glen Cove Fire Dept. at the terminus of Route 107 in Glen Cove NY.

What Do You Know About ICS? *(continued from page 1)*

In order to integrate with Federal agencies on large emergency or incident response events, the States and their municipal governments have also included ICS as their response language and method of operating in any type of incident response. This means that local fire departments, police departments, emergency medical services, and municipal government employees are likely to take ICS training and employ NIMS concepts for all major events that they are involved in.

So what does that mean for CERT members? When you activate for any emergency/incident, and for some large planned events, you will interact with personnel who have been trained in and use ICS. Not having a basic familiarity with ICS and its titles, structure and terminology puts you at a disadvantage when dealing with other agencies — it's as if you are working in a large organization but don't speak the language.

Common ICS Terminology & Positions

The structure in an Incident Command System organization designates the leadership and chain of command that is formed to manage the incident response. The basic organization chart is simple and shows who is in overall command authority at the top, and how authority and functions are delegated to people below.

The person in overall command is the **Incident Commander** — logically enough. The IC is responsible for everything from response management and tactics, to safety of individuals affected by the emergency, the well-being of response personnel, protection of property, expenditure of funds, and documentation of everything that is done in the response. The person selected for this position of Incident Commander may have another title in his or her everyday job, such as Fire Chief, Police Chief, EMS Chief, Public Works Director, Town Supervisor, Emergency Manager, etc. — it doesn't really matter. Once assigned to manage the response, this person assumes the title of Incident Commander, and that is how he or she will be known to all in the organization and to any agencies that are interfacing with the response organization.

The Incident Commander can designate other qualified people to serve under him/her in the organization as they become available, by delegating func-

tions and tasks. ICS defines these functions and specifies the titles to which they may be delegated as Section Chiefs. There are 4 specific functions that ICS identifies, and the responsible person is the Section Chief. They all report directly to the Incident Commander (IC):

Operations Section Chief

Planning Section Chief

Logistics Section Chief

Finance/Administrative Section Chief

The reasoning behind assignment of generic ICS titles is so there is no confusion among people who are brought together from the same entity and from different agencies/entities as to the "chain of command" and who is in charge.

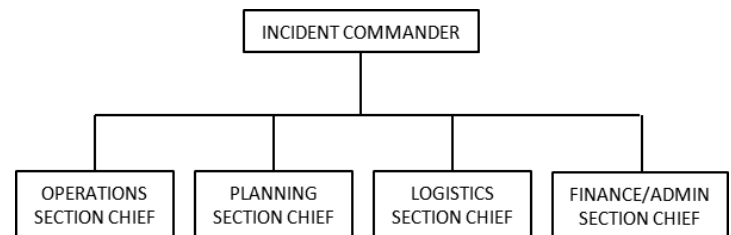
Examples: A Public Works Director may be assigned to work for the Fire Chief, if the Fire Chief is the IC and the Public Works Director is assigned as a **Planning Section Chief** under ICS.

A Fire Chief from an adjoining village's Fire Dept. may also be working for the Fire Chief who has been designated as the **Incident Commander**, but in the role of **Operations Section Chief** under ICS.

The point is, their original titles (Fire Chief, Public Work Director) are not used in the ICS response organization.

In ICS language, these four Section Chiefs comprise the **General Staff** in the incident response organization.

Words That Define Authority



General Staff

Under the Incident Command System there are a number of phrases that define how authority is exercised within the organization. Three such phrases are Chain of Command, Unity of Command, and Span of Control, and are defined below.

(Continued on page 6)

What Do You Know About ICS? *(continued from page 5)*

Chain of Command - this refers to the orderly line of authority within the ranks of the incident management organization. It is a vertical line of authority from top to bottom, and bottom to top.

Unity of Command - this means that every individual has only one designated supervisor to whom he or she reports at the scene of the incident. Example: in an ICS activation, a DPW foreman no longer reports to his DPW supervisor if he has been assigned as a **Supply Unit Team Leader** - he would report up the Logistics chain to the **Logistics Section Chief**, whoever that may be.

Span of Control - is key to effective and efficient incident management. Within ICS, the **Span of Control** of any individual with incident management supervisory responsibility should range from three to seven subordinates.

So the **Chain of Command** describes the organization chart and how directives flow downward from supervisor to subordinate, and how reporting flows upward. The **Unity of Command** means that an individual only reports to one person, up the Chain of Command.

Span of Control is how the organization expands and contracts as response personnel are added or depart. When a unit of the organization chart becomes too unwieldy, i.e., has too many staff mem-

bers under a single supervisor (more than 7), then the unit divides into two or more units with two or more supervisors. As an incident response winds down and people are deactivated, a unit of the organization chart should never fall below 3 people reporting to a single supervisor. Units would then be combined under a single supervisor when the number of subordinates decreases below the minimum **Span of Control** (3 persons).

Acronyms

CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CP	Command Post (also ICP)
DPW	Department of Public Works
EMS	Emergency Medical Service
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
NIMS	National Incident Management System
OSHA	Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Next issue: What constitutes the Command Staff under ICS?



Uniondale Fire District - Fire Prevention Week Open House *Van Ness Fire Station — October 12, 2013*



L to R Judy Ryan, NC CERT Planning Chief, Nasrin G. Ahmad, Hempstead Town Clerk, Kate Murray, Town of Hempstead Supervisor, Kathy Seyfried, NC CERT, and Sonia St. Rose, NC CERT



L to R Judy Ryan, NC CERT Planning Chief, Nasrin G. Ahmad, Hempstead Town Clerk, Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray

The Time for CERT Volunteers to Step Up and Take the Helm is NOW!

by Henry Teja, CERT Division 1 Deputy Supervisor

We, as CERT Volunteers, have all taken the basic CERT classes and have prepared ourselves and hopefully our family and friends for disasters, manmade or natural. It does not end there for some of us CERT volunteers. We CERT volunteers now live by a code, an ethos, to help others in many ways. We should also be looking to take other advanced courses to advance our skills and even take over leadership roles in our communities and beyond. Why? What if first responders are not there and won't be there for some time? Who do you think will step into their shoes to help family and friends? It is the trained personnel of the community that must step in to take control, issue orders, and get the job done. Such trained persons may be you, as a CERT volunteer.

You are not being asked to do anything that, as a trained CERT member, you cannot do. Our CERT organization chart lays out by position titles, jobs that need to be done. That is why there are advanced classes and exercise drills.

Over the next year we will be offering classes that define the roles of these positions in an activation. These classes will be taught either by mentors or by training officers in each Division. This is why we ask that you attend Divisional meetings. You can show up to any Division meeting as long as you inform that Division Supervisor or one of his or her Deputy Division Supervisors. OEM-CERT offers general courses such as the FEMA/DHS-certified operation of the ICS (Incident Command System). This course lists the upper command organization that is required during any disaster operation, and describes their duties. ICS 100 and 200 courses provide a general overview into positions involved. I suggest that everyone take these courses.

Beginning in January, our Division 1's first meeting will begin classes teaching and mentoring others to take on certain leadership roles. I will start from the bottom up, as has been done in the US military for ages. However if you have had leadership position experience we encourage you to try a higher position on the ICS organization chart.

Remember - the time to make mistakes is now during the learning process. That does not mean that professionals do not make mistakes during real life disasters. The fluidness of any disaster is the source of many errors in judgment or planning. Yet learning from mistakes is a positive way of learning because it teaches you what not to do next time in a similar situation.

However, we first need to provide some skills and information before you can take command at whatever level you would like to begin with. The first position would be as a Team Leader accepting the duties and responsibilities of that role. After that, other key positions at the Division level and at our yearly exercise are open: e.g., Division Trainer, POD Unit Asst. Leader, Speakers Bureau, Tabling Event Asst. Leader, Volunteer Coordinator, etc.

Any basic CERT-certified member can attend any of our Division 1 meetings as long as you notify us at least a week prior for purposes of resource planning. We hope to see you there because we, your local CERT team, need new leaders like you!



*Deadline for submission of articles, photos
and news for the December CERT Newsletter
is Monday, November 25th*

Giving People a Reputation to Uphold

by *The John Maxwell Company, October 23, 2013*

When motivational speakers make the impassioned declaration: "You can change the world!" a typical response may be to write them off as naïve windbags. We would agree that such exhortation rings hollow. Nevertheless, we do think leaders have the ability to inspire others to amazing, even history-shaping, feats. Perhaps no one did so better than Winston Churchill. As a leader, Churchill's words of encouragement were not empty platitudes. Instead, they bestowed on his people a tangible reputation to uphold by painting an image of the character that would be required to overcome the perils at hand.

The Battle of Dunkirk

On May 10, 1940, troops from Nazi Germany stormed westward across Europe. Belgium, France, and Great Britain allied themselves in defense of the oncoming Germans. However, within weeks the Allied armies were in shambles. Belgium had already surrendered, France was on the verge of capitulation, and the British, at risk of being totally annihilated, began a hasty retreat.

The Battle of Dunkirk ensued, with the Germans closing in as the British military worked feverishly to evacuate its remaining troops from mainland Europe. The British fought bravely, buying enough time for the bulk of their army to escape, albeit at the cost of heavy casualties. Beleaguered and downcast, the survivors sailed home across the English Channel. "On getting back to England [the men] were so demoralized they threw their rifles and equipment out of railway-carriage windows," reported Britain's Director of Statistics.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill was sobered about what had just happened. In private, he confided to aides that the country had just witnessed, "The greatest British military defeat for many centuries." However, Churchill refused to let events incite fear in his people. He immediately went to work, penning a speech that framed the Battle of Dunkirk, not as a loss, but as a courageous display of the unconquerable spirit of the British people.

"We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing-grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender!"

Churchill's defiant tone emboldened the British public and heartened the army officers who were still arriving back to the shores of the British Isles from Dunkirk. For the next year, Churchill intrepidly led his people through the darkest hours of World War II, in which Britain stood virtually alone in opposition to Nazi Germany.

A Reputation to Uphold

Winston Churchill stiffened the backbone of the British people by giving them a reputation to uphold. His powerful oratory made it clear that he expected his countrymen to persevere and

to demonstrate unwavering resolve. He did not wallow in the country's recent defeat but instead affirmed its dauntless courage. Finally, he bestowed a name on the British. Above all, they were resolute "fighters" who were willing to defend their land and liberty at any cost. Weeks later, he would refer to them as the last line of defense for the civilized world, determined for their chapter of history to be remembered as the "finest hour" of the British Empire.

Summary

Leaders who win with people give those they lead a reputation to uphold by:

Expressing a high opinion of their people

Looking beyond their past history to see their future promise

Giving them a name that speaks to their potential

Dr. J. Sterling Livingston, a former professor at the Harvard Business School astutely observed that, "People perform consistently as they perceive you expect them to perform." As a leader, be on the lookout for opportunities to communicate that you believe in, and highly esteem, the people on your team.

Think of a person who has a high opinion of you; someone who thinks you can do no wrong. Recall their face to your mind. Think of how they have conveyed their belief in you—or how you might likewise be able to convince your teammates that you believe in them.



Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- » Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- » Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- » Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- » Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- » Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- » Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- » Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- » Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Never leave children alone in room with a lit a candle.
- » Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Did you know?



Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep **kids out of the kitchen** during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done **outside** the kitchen.

www.nfpa.org/education