

# Quad City



# QUAD CITY CERT

## is your Community Emergency Response Team

### Executive Board

#### *Chairman*

Fire Chief Michael Lasky  
(216) 351-3542

#### *Vice-Chairperson*

Thea Guilfoyle  
(216) 739-3702

#### *Executive Director*

Nina Boodjeh  
(216) 524-5938

#### *Brooklyn Heights Fire Chief*

Michael Lasky  
(216) 351-3542

#### *Independence Fire Chief*

Peter Nelson  
(216) 524-4001

#### *Seven Hills Fire Chief*

Charles Hosta  
(216) 524-3321

#### *Valley View Fire Chief*

Thomas Koscielski  
(216) 524-6469

#### *Financial Officer*

Bob Chryst

#### *Community Representative*

John Nicastro, Sr.  
(216) 524-6224

#### *Community Representative*

John Skalsky  
(216) 225-5574

#### *Community Representative*

Bob DiBianca  
(216) 447-8548

#### *Secretary*

Phyllis Glaeser

### Committees

#### *Training*

#### *Communication*

#### *Mass Inoculation/POD*

#### *Transportation*

#### *Ham Radios*

#### *Police*

### With the Support of...

*Brooklyn Heights Mayor*  
Michael S. Procuk

#### *Independence Mayor*

Gregory P. Kurtz

#### *Seven Hills Mayor*

David A. Bentkowski

#### *Valley View Mayor*

Randall Westfall

[www.quadcitycert.org](http://www.quadcitycert.org)

Newsletter ~ Fall, 2008 ~ Issue 9

Hello to our Quad City CERT Team!

It is my pleasure to send a sincere thank you from the Executive Board to the many, many volunteers who gave their time and efforts to the various community events throughout the summer. This outstanding participation reflects the dedication and compassion of our team. Remember: We "responded" as a "team" to support our "community" which helps us prepare to do the same in an "emergency". Also a very special thank you to Nina Boodjeh who was on the front line the entire summer, leading, planning, and driving our team!!



It is also my pleasure to invite everyone in Quad City CERT to our Second Annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic on Sunday, September 28th to celebrate our many accomplishments. Quad City CERT's Mayor Procuk, Mayor Kurtz, Mayor Bentkowski, and Mayor Westfall, along with our awesome Fire Chiefs, Chief Lasky, Chief Nelson, Chief Hosta, and Chief Koscielski, are proud of the Quad City CERT achievements and anxious for the opportunity to recognize and thank our many volunteers! Please see the article outlining the event.

Also important in this issue is the reminder of our quarterly meeting and the FEMA 20-hour training classes. We encourage everyone to finish their classes and join the graduating class this November!

Thea Guilfoyle, Vice-Chairperson

## QUAD CITY CERT QUARTERLY MEETING



We are excited to announce the date of our second quarterly meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Red Oak Room at the Independence Civic Center. **All Quad City volunteers are urged to attend!**

Our agenda will include an update from our Fire Chief(s); Cities Readiness Initiative Conference; Points of Dispensing; Upcoming Events & Classes; MIC/POD Field Exercise; and information on our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. We hope that you can attend this important meeting! Please register at (216) 739-3702 or by email to [qcc@brooklynhts.org](mailto:qcc@brooklynhts.org).



To submit an article, please contact Thea Guilfoyle at (216) 739-3702



## YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

Does Quad City CERT have your current mailing address, email address, and phone numbers? Please call or email us if you have changed any of your contact information so that we can maintain a current database. Send additions or changes to [qcc@brooklynhts.org](mailto:qcc@brooklynhts.org) or call (216) 739-3702. Email is our primary source of communication - please make sure your information is up to date.



## REGISTER TODAY!

All CERT Teams have been encouraging our team Members and Reserves to sign up on the "Serve Ohio" Website for some time now. It DOES offer additional protection for BOTH volunteers, and their communities. The "link" is [www.serveohio.org](http://www.serveohio.org) Please register as a member of the Quad City CERT Organization. It takes about a half hour, but will benefit both you and your community in it's efforts toward community preparedness. Thank you!

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

*Quad City Cert ~ QCC*

Quad City CERT adds an "easy-to-remember" email address to use when contacting us for any reason, including registration. The new email is [qcc@brooklynhts.org](mailto:qcc@brooklynhts.org).

Our old email address, [cmtyserve@brooklynhts.org](mailto:cmtyserve@brooklynhts.org), remains active and all emails sent using the old address will continue to be received. It is requested that you begin using [qcc@brooklynhts.org](mailto:qcc@brooklynhts.org) and update us in your Contacts list. Thanks!



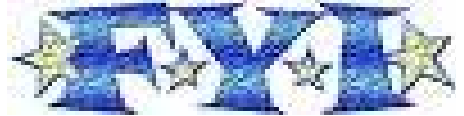
## NIMS 700 CLASS!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

If you attended the NIMS Class that was offered and monitored by Nina Boodjeh, have you taken the test on-line? If not, please do so at your earliest convenience and if you have taken the test, please send a copy of the certificate to us so we can credit your efforts in our database. You can simply forward a copy of the email you received with your certificate or send a copy of the certificate to

233 Tuxedo Ave., Brooklyn Hts., OH 44131. It is very important that each and everyone one of us takes this class.

You may visit [www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/is/is700.asp](http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/is/is700.asp) to take the on-line class.



## EVENT SUPPORT PLAN

Our new acronym, ESP, will become quite familiar as we continue to support our cities at community functions. We used ESP's to outline the requested support this past summer and they included the number of volunteers, hours needed, possible duties, team leader, meeting place, etc

We felt this was a consistent way to get the information out to everyone when we need to get a group of volunteers together.

## MISSING CLASSES!



There are many CERT volunteers who have only one or two classes to complete (Reserves). Won't you please review the 20-Hour FEMA Class Schedule and sign up to complete your training? Call (216) 739-3702 to sign up and mark the graduation date!



## **SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

..."National Preparedness Month is an important reminder about each American's civic responsibility to prepare for emergencies," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Those with the capacity and wherewithal to help themselves must do so in advance, so that in the event of an emergency, responders can first assist those who are unable to tend to themselves. From wildfires and earthquakes in California, to hurricanes and tropical storms along the Gulf Coast, to flooding in the Midwest, recent events remind us more than ever that we must prepare ourselves and our families for a disaster. This is the time, each year, when every American should ask the question, 'Am I ready?'" ...

*Reprinted in part from [dhs.gov/xnews/releases](http://dhs.gov/xnews/releases)*



## **EMERGENCY SHELTERS 101**

We have re-scheduled this class to take place on December 11th, 2008. We are having a Quad City CERT General Meeting that night and will run the class after our team has been updated at the meeting.

Please attend to find out what might be expected of us if we are called out to 'staff' an Emergency Shelter. You will also get to participate in a no-stress, mini-tabletop exercise that will get you thinking and solving problems. Mark it on your calendar now, and we'll send out a reminder later in the year. Thank you for your continued support of the Quad City CERT program! - Sharon Nicastro

## **INSTRUCTORS NEEDED!!!**

While we certainly have an 'exemplary' Instructor Team, we would like to pass along the offer that CERT "Train the Trainer" classes may be offered at any time, and we need to know if you are interested in case the opportunity presents itself. If you believe that you can stand in front of a room of interested people (and we respect everyone that does!), and share the information for the class with them, then please let us know you are interested, and we will let you know when it is scheduled.

**THANK YOU to all the current Instructors!** YOU are the reason we have nearly 500 FEMA/CERT Trained volunteers on our team!

*Submitted by*  
Chief Hosta, Chief Koscielski,  
Chief Lasky, & Chief Nelson



## **PHOTOGRAPHS!!!**

If you have taken photos of any QUAD CITY CERT drill, class, activity, community function, etc. - we would love to get copies to use in our newsletter, website, etc. We have created a Power Point presentation highlighting our many activities since 2005 and would like to continue to add pictures of our volunteers in action. You can email them to [qcc@brooklynhts.org](mailto:qcc@brooklynhts.org) or copy them to a disk and give to anyone on the Executive Board to be forwarded to Thea.



## **WEATHER RADIO PROGRAMMED?**



If you purchased an All Hazard Weather Radio from Drug Mart and have never had it programmed, please bring it to the September 11th General Meeting. You will also need to have 3 AA batteries. We will program it for you with the correct S.A.M.E. code. Promise!

# MIC/POD "FIELD EXERCISE"

## *Mass Inoculation Clinic (MIC) ~ Point of Dispensing (POD)*

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., at the Independence Middle School, we will be conducting a field exercise for our team involving both a Mass Inoculation Clinic (MIC) and a drive-through Point of Dispensing (POD).

**The MIC/POD class is now a required class for all Quad City CERT participants.**

If we ever have the need to set up either a clinic or a dispensing point, all of our team needs to know what it might look like and involve. This event is not a drill, it is an exercise to provide you with thought-provoking information about what you might be asked to do and what things might look like.

We need volunteers to help with this exercise at both the school and the point of dispensing drive-through site. If you can help us set up and coordinate this event, and assist people to guide them through the different stations, we could sure use the help. Please call (216) 739-3702 and let us know you will assist, or to register that you will attend. Thank you!

Nina Boodjeh



## NO EMAIL? CHECK THIS OUT!



If you don't have an email account, a computer, or just haven't tackled how emailing works, you may want to join Debbie Partyka for a brief class that will get you set up and ready. The class will include how to use the library computers to access email accounts.

The dates of the classes are:

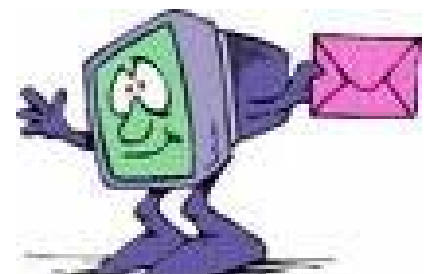
Saturday      September 27th      10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday      October 2nd      6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Debbie will be offering two classes at the Parma-Ridge Library at Rockside and Ridge Roads (entrance on Bertha Road) in their technology center, which has twelve computers.

Handouts will be distributed for future reference and the class agenda will include:

- Set-up attendees with an email account through hotmail
- Open an Adobe attachment
- Email Quad City CERT with attendees' new email address
- Email safety
- Deleting emails
- Adding Contacts



Please call 739-3702 to register for this very informative class!!



# You're Invited to the 2nd Annual Quad City CERT Volunteer Recognition Picnic

On behalf of Quad City CERT, we are pleased to cordially invite all of our membership, both Members and Reserves, to attend our Second Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

The picnic is scheduled for **Sunday, September 28th at 5:00 p.m.** and will be held at Valley View Woods, Pavilion A (off Schreiber Road). The picnic will be catered by Panini's of Independence and the cost of the picnic will be \$5 per person (payable at the door).

The Appreciation Picnic is to honor the efforts of our volunteers in our Quad City Cert Program. We want you to know that we truly appreciate your support and dedication!

Please register, no later than Monday, September 22nd, by calling (216) 739-3702 so that we can inform the caterer of our expected attendance. If you call and receive our answering machine, please leave your full name(s), city, and phone number. See you there!

## Great Food \* Fun \* Folks!!



### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

At the General Meeting on September 11th, we will be asking interested participants to sign up for a Leadership Team. If you believe you have ideas, are interested in learning more, and are interested in participating in a meaningful TEAM effort, then please sign up for a Leadership Team Commitment.



You will receive e-mail alerts about upcoming training classes, and will 'bear the burden' of passing the information you learn along to our team. This is a TEAM of "contributors and doers". Can you see yourself here? We hope so! We need people to "drive" the direction of Quad City CERT. If you are interested, please attend the September 11th meeting, and sign up on the sheet for Team Leadership. Thank you for your interest in the Quad City Program!

*The Quad City CERT Executive Board*

# Memoirs Of A Team Leader

Having been asked to act as Team Leader for the July Seven Hills Home Days, I was both surprised and apprehensive. Equally disconcerting (yet flattering) was my being given the opportunity to write first-hand about the experience. However, in both instances, as with anything, the key is in getting started. With the awesome dedication (and daily assistance) of Executive Director of Quad City CERT, Nina Boodjeh, I got busy.....

Way-back-when as CERT was being initiated in our communities, my husband and I both wanted to contribute, but our non-medical backgrounds did not seem conducive to actually being able to assist anyone during a critical emergency situation. How wrong we were. CERT needs individuals from all walks of life. Everyone has his or her own unique talent and expertise to bring to the table. And the rewards remain profound, both personally and to the community.

I had the unique opportunity to get acquainted and re-acquainted with people I had encountered at CERT meetings over the years. All the names had faces, and all the faces had individual personalities and abilities. When Home Days actually arrived, I was overwhelmed yet humbled by the response our volunteers provided. We exercised crowd-control during the two nights of fireworks and manned the CERT booth all three days. We had fun yet everyone remained in sync with one another. But the amazing thing was the aura of professionalism that prevailed throughout the event. People took their roles seriously, therefore were appreciated and respected by everyone – Seven Hills Fire Department in particular. The phenomenal teamwork carried out by the four cities was in essence flabbergasting.

To my own life's resume I add personal growth in all facets. I may now list skills such as conceptualizing, coaching, implementing and coordinating. Not to mention organizing, planning and preparing. There is indeed no limit to the training, learning and growth opportunities associated with CERT, especially in a leadership position. If you *believe*, you too can do it!


*Marianne F. Nemes, Team-Leader  
Seven Hills Home Days 7/25, 7/26 and 7/27, 2008*



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**Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud. -- Helen Dyer**

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 It has been seven years since our fellow Americans lost their lives simply because they went to work one day. The victims lost their lives unknowing the planned attacks. Many fire fighters and police officers lost their lives knowing they might die. They went into the buildings to save lives, and in that cause, lost theirs. God Bless our Firefighters, Police Officers, and our Military.





# FEMA Classes Begin September 10th



For those who have completed the classes, please note that we have added a MIC/POD Preparedness class and urge all to attend on October 29th.

We strongly urge our Reserves to attend the class or classes they need to finish the training. We are often asked by the Citizen Corps. at the county level for the number of “trained volunteers”. We cannot count any of our volunteers that have not completed all of the required training.

Be prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Classes are open to all residents of Independence, Brooklyn Heights, Seven Hills, and Valley View who are 18 years of age or older. All classes are from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. and most are held at the Independence Fire Department. All are welcome!

Register by calling (216) 739-3702 or email to [qcc@brooklynhts.org](mailto:qcc@brooklynhts.org). Include your full name, address, city, and phone number. Class size is limited - please register early!

	<u>Class / Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
1	<b>Disaster Preparedness</b> Indep Fire Dept Training Room	Lecture	Wednesday September 10	7 - 9:30 p.m.
2	<b>Fire Safety</b> Independence Fire Station *Note Location	Hands-On	Wednesday September 17	7 - 9:30 p.m.
3	<b>Disaster Medical Operations - Part One</b> Indep Fire Dept Training Room	Lecture	Wednesday September 24	7 - 9:30 p.m.
4	<b>Disaster Medical Operations - Part Two</b> Indep Fire Dept Training Room	Lecture	Wednesday October 1	7 - 9:30 p.m.
5	<b>Light Search &amp; Rescue</b> Indep Fire Dept Training Room	Lecture	Wednesday October 8	7 - 9:30 p.m.
6	<b>CERT Organization &amp; Disaster Psychology</b> Indep Fire Dept Training Room	Lecture	Wednesday October 15	7 - 9:30 p.m.
7	<b>Terrorism and CERT</b> Indep Fire Dept Training Room	Lecture	Wednesday October 22	7 - 9:30 p.m.
8	<b>Mass Inoculation / Points of Dispensing (POD) Preparedness</b> Indep Middle School	Field Exercise	Wednesday October 29	7 - 9:30 p.m.
*	<b>Graduation</b> Indep Fire Dept Training Room		Wednesday November 5	TBA



For all those who joined me over the summer months and participated in an event in a CERT vest ~ THANK YOU!!



All learning CANNOT take place in a classroom! For all of those who were willing to step out of their 'comfort zone' and join me, as I constantly step out of mine, I thank you from the bottom of my heart! We applied ourselves to 13 events over the past few months. All of them were important to the community and we made an impact on all of them!



I sincerely thank the Fire Chiefs for being so visionary in their thinking, but I completely thank the volunteers who were ready, able, and willing to do whatever they could to serve. You took massive steps toward educating yourselves. All of the teams were excellent and did a great job with the duties as assigned.

So far this year we have participated as a team in 13 events:

- Parma Drill 3/26/08
- Memorial Day 5/26/08
- General Meeting 6/11/08
- Search & Rescue Update 6/25/08
- Brooklyn Hts. Badges for Blood 6/27/08
- Traffic Class 6/29/08
- Independence Fireworks 7/03/08
- Valley View Party in the Park 7/06/08
- NIMS 700 class 7/12/08
- Brooklyn Hts. Home Days 7/18 & 7/19
- POD Drill in Garfield Heights 7/18/08
- Seven Hills Home Days 7/25, 7/26 & 7/27
- Independence Home Days 8/01 & 8/02



198 different people participated in these events, totaling, so far, over 800 hours donated - and I am still not finished!!



You ALL stepped up for this, and it was truly appreciated! We may not have the "talent" our Fire Department does, but we certainly have the "heart". Thank you all again, especially Team Leaders like Marianne Nemes in Seven Hills, Tom Lahiff in Brooklyn Hts., and Amy Gruenberg of Seven Hills. All of these people stepped up ON YOUR BEHALF and put together great teams for us to work with! Thank you all so much! You stepped out of your "comfort zone" and rolled with the event! We got it done with whatever we had to work with, and never complained! It was truly an honor to work with you.



Sincerely,  
Nina Boodjeh

