C.E.R.T.
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

ELMA / WEST SENECA

ELMA

Ed Sauer - Emergency Manager
(716) 652-7635
cert@elmanewyork.com

MEETINGS - 7:00 PM
2nd Wednesday of the Month

- April 10th
- May 8th
- *June 12th - Town Hall

Training and meetings are held at the Elma Senior Center unless noted.

Elma Senior Center	* Town Hall
3007 Bowen Rd.	1600 Bowen Rd.
Elma, NY 14059	Elma, NY 14059

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- CERT Class
- HAM Radio
- Elma Car Show

Check here for updates
www.elmanewyork.com/oem/ECert.htm

WEST SENECA

John Gullo - Emergency Manager
(716) 558-3238
jgullo@twsny.org

MEETINGS - 7:00 PM
3rd Monday of the month

- April 15th
- May 20th
- June 17th

Unless noted Training and Meetings are Held :
West Seneca Kiwani's Center
50 Legion Parkway
West Seneca, NY

ACTIVITIES

- CERT Class
- Critical Infrastructure Survey
- CPR Class coming

Check here for updates
www.wscert.net

ELMA CERT GROUP BECOMES INCORPORATED AND HAS APPLIED FOR NON-PROFIT STATUS!

Front: Vice President Michelle Kerr, President Lisa Gee, Secretary Amy Thompson, Treasurer Debbie Wannemacher
Middle: Mettie Wagner, Michele Angelli, Lori Minnich, Deb Merriam, Sharon Winkler, Patricia Jakubowski, Elma Emergency Manager Edward R. Sauer
Back: Elma Assistant Emergency Manager Mark Kowalski, Kevin Wagner, Roy Fedeson, Cindy Minnich, Dan Thompson, Training Officer Donald Trzepacz Jr., Howard Winkler, Greg Merriam, Roger Larkin

The concept of widespread local volunteer emergency responders was implemented and developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985. The Whittier Narrows Earthquake of 1987 showed the need for preparing citizens to take care of themselves and their loved ones after a disaster.

In the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, residents of San Francisco's Marina District help run lengths of fire hose from a fireboat to firefighters ashore after the hydrant system failed. Later, the Fire Department worked with the community to form the City's NERT program (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team).

By 1993, the Federal Emergency Management Agency had made the program available nationwide; by 2012, CERT programs were offered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands.

CERT and Citizen Corps were transferred to the Office of Domestic Preparedness (now the Office of Grants and Training) in August 2004.

CERT was introduced by Erie County Disaster Preparedness to the local Emergency Managers in mid 2005. This was the first time many of us had heard of CERT.

Mark Kowalski and I recognize that our residents are our largest resource. A prepared community is less of a strain on Emergency Services in a disaster situation. In the late Spring of 2005, we worked with the Elma Town Boards blessing and recruited Elma resident, Mr. Robert Iggulden, to seek out a CERT training program. Mr. Iggulden secured funds through Niagara University to fund a CERT course at the Iroquois Central High School to start in September 2006.

On the evening of Thursday, October 12, 2006, the October Surprise Storm makes an appearance in WNY and we were left dealing with the aftermath for weeks. The positive side of the timing of the storm was that the 30 students of the CERT course now observed what was going on in a different way. In December of 2006, all 30 students from Elma, Williamsville, West Seneca, Strykersville, and East Aurora successfully completed the CERT training.

The Elma Town Board and the Elma OEM confirmed a need for a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) during the October Storm. We polled the 30 students

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to see if they would like to meet regularly. These early meetings lead to the Elma CERT to be officially formed on December 12, 2007 by a resolution of the Elma Town Board. Elma CERT was initially formed as a Town of Elma group.

The founding members were; Edward R. Sauer; Mark Kowalski; Diane Weston; Edwina Schrader; Bill Schrader; John Patterson; Sharon Winkler; Howard Winkler; Roy Fedeson; Cynthia Hauser; and Michael Roth. Elma Town Board Members were Supervisor Michael Nolan; Council members Dean Puleo, Dennis Powers, Susan Glownia, and David Polak.

Elma CERT members have participated in town events, distributed information to residents, sponsored FREE community training classes at the Elma Senior Center, filled sand bags for flooding along Winspear Rd. and Buffalo Creek, and developed relationships with West Seneca CERT and EMPact America, a preparedness organization based in Elma.

Over the past 2 years, EMPact America hosted several CERT courses at no cost to students or the Town of Elma. Several joint projects between Elma CERT and EMPact America were very successful. Some examples are the Canning classes, Gardening Basics classes, Gun Safety classes, and of course the hugely popular Zombie Apocalypse Family Safety Fair.

As the Elma CERT membership grew and became more active, there was a need to become a little independent of the Town of Elma. On March 27, 2013, Elma CERT, Inc. held its very first Organizational meeting as a Corporation at the Elma Town Hall at 7pm.

Elma Cert, Inc. strives to establish a Community Response Team as an emergency management resource, to develop a volunteer pool of citizens to help during an emergency, and to perform projects that improve a community's preparedness.

The founding members include; Elma OEM; Edward R. Sauer, Mark Kowalski; Elma CERT and Elma CERT, Inc. Officers – President Lisa Gee, Vice President Michelle Kerr, Secretary Amy Thompson, Treasurer Debbie Wannemacher and Training Officer Donald Trzepacz Jr; Elma CERT and Elma CERT, Inc. members Roy Fedeson, Howard and Sharon Winkler, Greg and Deborah Merriam, Patricia

Jakubowski, Donald Bingham, Russ Cryann, Roger Larkin, Kevin and Mettie Wagner, Michele Angelli, and Cindy and Lori Minnich. Elma Town Board members were Supervisor Dennis Powers; Council members Tracy Petrocy, Mike Nolan, Thomas Fallon, and James Malczewski.

Elma Cert, Inc. acknowledges Dean Puleo, Esquire, for his time, expertise, and dedication in assisting the organization with its transition to non-profit status.

Elma CERT, Inc. meets every second Wednesday of the moth at the Elma Senior Center at 7PM. The meetings are held at the Elma Town Hall in the months of July & August. No experience is necessary to join. You may also attend a meeting which includes an hour of training to see what were about and have any questions answered.

For more information go to http://www.elmanewyork.com/oem/disasterCoordinator.php or www.facebook.com/elmacert or email at cert@elmanewyork.com

Elma CERT, Inc. is the first Community Emergency Response Team that has incorporated as a not for profit agency in WNY. I am very proud of the support our Town Boards have given us over the years; all the members that have come, gone, and continued on; and all the hard work and effort of President Lisa Gee and Assistant Emergency Manager Mark Kowalski. Without all of you, Elma CERT, Inc. would not be possible.

Thank You All!!!!!

Edward R. Sauer – Town of Elma Emergency Manager

ELMA CERT'S GARDENING BASICS A SUCCESS

The Elma CERT group hosted a spring gardening basics class on March 13th at the Elma Senior Center.

Registrants learned gardening basics about soil, planting, container gardening, square foot gardening and seed starting from Elma CERT members Greg Merriam, Sharon Winkler, Lisa Gee and Lori Minnich.

Local organizations generously donated items for door prizes. EMPact America, Bippert;s Farms, Elma Hardware, Value Home Center #38, Value Home Center #22, Home Depot, and Tractor Supply Co.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In the U.S. when someone says "critical infrastructure," what comes to mind? For some, it's highways, electrical grids, and municipal water delivery systems. Others think of dams and railways. While those are all valid parts of infrastructure, it is important to realize that there are many other facets, or sectors, of critical infrastructure. "Infrastructure is the glue that binds society together." That glue includes stadiums, financial institutions, defense companies, farms, and many other portions of our society. In post-9/11 American society, all of us, not just those responsible for public safety, must understand why it is important to protect those assets, both physical and electronic, that are critical to our everyday life.

The federal government sets guidelines to identify and prioritize U.S. critical infrastructure to protect it from terrorist attack. Another definition of critical infrastructure could mean any assets that are "so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety."

So what does this mean for our community you ask? In a joint effort the West Seneca Office of Disaster Preparedness, West Seneca Community Emergency Response Team and West Seneca Engineering Department have commenced a program on a GIS format to track these portions of the critical infrastructure to better respond to emergencies local and abroad.

The focus is also on three principal objectives: Building security partnerships to implement critical infrastructure protection programs; Implementing a long-term risk-reduction program; and Maximizing efficient use of resources for critical infrastructure protection.

This also ties into Continuity of Operations (COOP), another concept that DHS stresses in emergency management planning. With COOP, the idea is that businesses should have programs in place that enable them to maintain operations in the wake of a disaster or terrorist attack. It is by this framework that Federal, state, local, and tribal governments determine where to focus their infrastructure protection efforts. The framework describes how to combine consequence, vulnerability, and threat information.

The best part about the Risk Management Framework is that it is scalable. You can use it to assess risk for a large corporation, government, or computer network, or you can use it to assess risk on your home, school, or small business. The steps remain the same; the only things that change are the expenditures of time, money, and staffing. For instance, if you have a broken window in your home, you could run a short risk assessment utilizing the Risk Management Framework. First, you set goals and objectives. The goal is to secure your personal valuable items and information, or critical infrastructure. We can identify your computer containing all of your personal information as your critical infrastructure. Then we assess the risks by determining the consequences, vulnerabilities, and threats. The consequences include loss of personal information, loss of proprietary business information, identity theft, intelligence gathering, etc. The vulnerability is that broken window, the lack of a robust security system around the computer (because who really has a retina scan to access their PC?), and the fact that you work, so are not always home to show a presence in the household. The threat is that someone may gain access to your home through the broken window, break another window, or walk through an exterior door to your residence. Now you would prioritize. Clearly, the first thing on your list is fixing that broken window. Then you buy some robust locks and consider a contract with a company that installs centrally monitored security systems. Your last priority might be that retina scanner for your computer. So now that you've made your priority list, you will begin to implement programs to take care of those priorities. Get the window fixed, call the security company, and somehow procure a retina scanner. Finally, you test for effectiveness.

Remember, folks, this is just an example of how to utilize the Risk Management Framework. We use this example to show that it can be utilized in almost any risk situation, large or small. Most of the nation's critical infrastructure is owned and operated by private-sector companies. The number is often debated, but the general consensus is that 75%–95% of critical infrastructure assets are privately held. That means that the government must work with those business owners and operators to ensure that America is hardened against an attack against our homeland as well as natural disasters. So what does all of this mean to you? No matter what sector you work in, you can assess the threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences involved with your business. You can even do so at home. Once you figure out the threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences, you can assign a value of risk to whatever you are assessing. Once you have that risk identified, you can take action to mitigate that risk. So what can you do? You can get involved with infrastructure protection at any level, whether it is within your home, company, or government. You may see town representatives out and about in the community "surveying" our critical infrastructure and helping to build a more resilient community. To receive further Emergency preparedness information please feel free to visit us on our websites.

A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Your family may not be together when a disaster, emergency or travel ban could happen so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; who will let Fido out and feed him; who will get grandma; and what you will do in various situations. An example of different emergencies can include being stuck at work or elsewhere in a severe snow storm with white-out conditions or areas are flooding and you are unable to travel home in a timely manner. Hey, we live in Western New York

Meet with your family and talk about the need to prepare for various disasters in your area. Some of the disasters of our area can include white out snow conditions, wind damage, power outages, flooding and more. These situations can be highly stressful and confusion can happen.
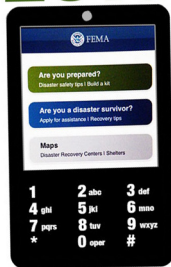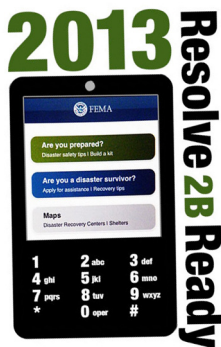
Identify trusted contacts whether it be a friend or relative. Having both a local contact and a contact that lives out of your area or state is very helpful. Be sure every family member knows the number and the contact knows you are using them. If you have a cell phone create an "ICE" contact. Ice stands for In Case of Emergency.

Pick 2 locations to meet. First location is outside of your home in case of a sudden emergency like a fire. Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home or are asked to leave your neighborhood. Everyone will need to know the address and phone number of the meeting location. Also discuss what do if you are asked to evacuate. Make arrangements to stay with a friend or relative and if you have animals make sure to include them in your plan. Make sure that everyone knows what route you would normally take and inform them if you change.

Have an emergency communication plan in the event that family members are separated. With parents at work and children in school, separation is a real possibility.

Have an emergency plan for your pets. If you go to a shelter you could be turned away if you have a pet. More and more locations are trying to be more pet friendly. Make sure dogs have their leashes and cats are contained. All animals should have their vet papers, food, water and any medications necessary.

You should also inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school, faith organizations, sports events and commuting. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to community leaders, your colleagues, neighbors and members of faith or civic organizations about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

Visit this link to download a FEMA Family Emergency Plan to help start your emergency kit. www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/FamEmePlan_2012.pdf

Emergency preparedness and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course start April 18th in West Seneca. Call West Seneca Office of Disaster Preparedness at (716) 558-3242.

JOHN GULLO RECOGNIZED 2012 SILVER LEVEL TRAINER.

FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has recognized John Gullo as a 2012 Silver Level Trainer. In order to become an authorized trainer for the CDP, one must successfully complete an intense Train the Trainer course. Every community significantly benefits from the time, talent and expertise of local trainers. While training materials are provided by the CDP each trainer adds more to the program to make it a success. John has been training individuals this course since 2007.

2013 Resolve 2B Ready

UPCOMING TRAINING & EVENTS CALENDAR

April

6   HAM Radio Class
    EMPact America Offices

10 Elma CERT - Self Defense
    Elma Senior Center

16 General Smart Meeting
    Erie Co. Fire Training Academy

18 West Seneca - Basic CERT
    Training begins

25 SMART - Sky Warn Training
    Erie Co. Fire Training Academy

May

1   SMART - StormWest SMART
    Sheltering Exercise
    Erie Co. Fire Training Academy

15 SMART - Tents, Trailers & Annual
    Safety Review
    Erie Co. Fire Training Academy

18 SMART - Tents, Trailers & Annual
    Safety Review

June

4   SMART New Member Orientation
    Erie Co. Fire Training Academy

19 SMART - ICS Review & Tabletop
    Exercise
    Erie Co. Fire Training Academy

22 SMART - ICS Review & Tabletop
    Exercised
    Erie Co. Fire Training Academy