



# CERT All-Member Monthly Newsletter

## MAY 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!

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## Leading from the Middle of the Pack

*By The John Maxwell Company*

Leadership is a choice you make rather than a place you sit. In other words, leadership comes from influence and not from your position. For this reason, even when you're not in front, you're still leading those around you. In fact, you are even influencing those ahead of you. In this lesson, I'd like to look at four models of how followers influence those above them in the chain of command.

Four Models of Leading from the Middle of the Pack:

### 1) **The Backseat Driver**

Have you ever had the misfortune of transporting a backseat driver in your car? Talk about annoying! Backseat drivers specialize in providing unwanted input. They ceaselessly provide directions, acting like a human

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## Open Division Meetings

*By Paul Shapiro, Division 1 Deputy Division Leader*

When was the last time you attended one of your Division meetings? If it has been awhile due to work and life conflicts, and you want to reconnect with your CERT colleagues, you may always attend any Division meeting throughout the County if convenient to your busy schedule. You might enjoy the chance to meet other CERT members within the organization and participate in training that may not be happening within your Division – that would be an opportunity to bring new training ideas to the attention of your Division Leaders. By attending other Division meetings you get to participate in different trainings throughout the year. The only requirement is to notify the Division Leader, or Deputy, of the Division sponsoring the meeting that you would like to attend – this courtesy helps them plan for meeting space requirements and refreshments if any are offered.

If you know about a Division Meeting you'd like to attend, but don't know how to contact the Division Leader, simply alert the CERT Coordinator at OEM that you are from Division X but would like to attend Division Y's meeting, and we'll let Division Y's Leadership know about it.

Upcoming Division Meetings:

- Division 1, June 1st - Hicksville
- Division 2, May 21st, June 17th, July 16th - Lawrence
- Division 3, June 12th - Glen Cove
- Division 4, June 18th - New Hyde Park



# From the Desk of the Director



# OEM

Office of Emergency Management • Nassau County, NY

Super Storm Sandy was a very difficult time for many of us but in the true spirit of volunteerism you came out to help your community. Whether you volunteered at the Emergency Operations Center at OEM, in a Communication Role, at a POD, the FEMA Family Assistance Center, or perhaps it was a Red Cross Shelter, or the County's Emergency Pet Shelter, **Thank You** just doesn't seem enough. In an effort to show our respect and admiration for the jobs you performed so admirably we will be holding a Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in the Lecture Hall at OEM on Saturday June 29, 2013 starting at 12:00 Noon (more information to follow). We hope that each and every one of you will be able to attend. Again on behalf of Nassau County CERT and the residents of the County, we extend our sincerest thanks to each and every one of you and your families.

*Michael Accari*  
CERT Director



## Why Use Facebook for CERT?

*By Lisa Moffa, CERT Division 1 Deputy Division Leader*

The social network Facebook is a great website to read updates from organizations, companies, agencies and people that you choose to connect with. It's a socially based communication tool to read updates for anything from weather to national or local area news and let loved ones to know you are alright during an emergency with a status post.

Facebook can help people look up a community page's latest information and help them connect with resources. Click the "Like" button to receive newsfeed on Pages and "Add Friends" for people you know, which you can put on a list for easy reference, and join "Groups" for more private conversations with members of specific topics. Don't use the email service, add people one by one, it's just easier to look people up than to import an entire contact list from Yahoo or AOL that you may not want.

To begin, create a free account with your email and a strong password, go through the tutorials and click "OK" or "Skip" while entering your info which can be very basic then set privacy controls to your preference with the lock shown in the upper right corner. Use the "Search" box to look up interests to be able to read their updates in the "Home" newsfeed such as "Nassau County CERT" from OEM as "Nassau County, OEM-LI" or "Nassau County CERT Members" managed by our volunteers along with "LI Red Cross" and "LIMARC" for LI Hams. It's also recommended to find local news and weather personalities to "Like".

Log in *daily* for a few minutes to scan posts, or at least visit *weekly* to get the best use out of Facebook as an extension of gathering information and sharing resources, photos and web links. Comment openly by writing on a "Liked" Page or post a message someone's profile page wall, if settings permit. You can also send messages privately, like an email, in the upper left corner link where notifications are highlighted, just click to view them. Use the "Chat" feature for those skilled at typing for one-to-one conversations and be cautious of people you don't know with questionable profiles. Simply said, Facebook is a great communication tool and resource, use it wisely. So now go make some "Friends" and "Like" some Pages and find us on Facebook!



# May 2013 - Upcoming Events

## **RACES/Comms Meeting - Thur. May 2nd**

OEM Lecture Hall  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage, NY  
Time: 7 - 9 pm (1900-2100)

## **Exercise Planning Meeting - Thur. May 9th**

Conference Room A - 2nd Floor  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage, NY  
Time: 7 pm (1900)

## **ICS-100 Class (Parts 1 & 2) - Mon. May 13th & Mon. May 20th**

OEM Lecture Hall  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage, NY  
Time: 7 - 9 pm (1900-2100)

## **Division 2 Meeting - Tues. May 21st**

Temple Beth Shalom  
390 Broadway, Lawrence, NY  
Time: 7 - 10 pm (1900-2200)

## **Division Leaders Meeting - Thur. May 23rd**

*NOTE DATE CHANGE TO 4TH THURSDAY THIS MONTH ONLY*

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

## **CERT All-County Meeting - Wed. May 29th**

OEM Lecture Hall  
510 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage, NY  
Time: 7 - 9 pm (1900-2100)

## **COMING UP**

**CERT Basic Course Begins (Westbury) - June 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th**

**Division 1 Meeting - June 5th**

**RACES/Comms Meeting - June 6th**

**Division 3 Meeting - June 12th**

**Division 2 Meeting - June 17th**

**Division 4 Meeting - June 18th**

**Division Leaders Meeting - June 20th**

**CART Shelter Management Training - June 27th**

**CERT Basic Course (Westbury) - July 1st & July 8th**

**RACES/Comms Meeting - July 3rd**

**Division 2 Meeting - July 16th**

**Division Leaders Meeting - July 18th**

**Safe Talk Training - July 23rd**

May 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2 RACES	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Exer Plng Mtg	10	11
12	13 ICS100 Pt 1	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 ICS100 Pt 2	21 Div 2 Mtg	22	23 Div Ldrs Mtg	24	25
26	27	28	29 All Cnty Mtg	30	31	

June 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 CERT Basic	4	5 Div 1 Mtg	6 RACES	7	8
9	10 CERT Basic	11	12 Div 3 Mtg	13	14	15
16	17 Div 2 CERT Basic	18 Div 4 Mtg	19	20 Div Ldrs Mtg	21	22
23	24 CERT Basic	25	26	27 CART Shelter Trng	28	29
30						

July 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 CERT Basic	2	3 RACES	4	5	6
7	8 CERT Basic	9	10	11	12	13 SKY WARN
14	15	16 Div 2 Mtg	17	18 Div Ldrs Mtg	19	20
21	22	23 Safe Talk Trng	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Are You FloodSmart?

By Judy Ryan, Planning Section Chief, Nassau County CERT

## **FLOOD KNOWLEDGE - BE PREPARED**

Now that spring has finally arrived, it is a good time to be prepared for the expected spring rain and possible flooding. Weather and geographical data indicate Hurricane Sandy tidal changes on Long Island may change the extremity level for possible flooding issues. The articles and information below cover all aspects of preparedness in the event we should experience additional flooding and tidal surges in Nassau County. It addresses the probability indicators, protection and safety of your property and the recovery process.

The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), a leading national expert with respect to preparing for – and repairing and rebuilding structures after – a catastrophe to make them more disaster-resistant, is providing free guidance on ways home and business owners can reduce their risk of flood damage during Flood Safety Awareness Week (March 18 – 25).

“Unfortunately, every year, homes and businesses across the United States are damaged or destroyed by floodwaters” said Julie Rochman, IBHS president and CEO. “While elevating properties or relocating outside of flood zones are the most effective ways to protect against damage from flooding, other things can effectively reduce the risk of severe damage.”

The first step toward preparing for flooding is evaluating your flood risk. Knowing the base flood elevation (BFE) for a property is essential. The BFE refers to the level water will reach during what is often referred to as a “100-year event”; that is, such an event has a one percent annual chance of occurring in any given year.

“It is important to note that a “100-year event” does not mean that this type of flood will happen only one time in a hundred years,” Rochman said. “The chances of such a flood occurring actually resets every single year, so a 100-year event has a one percent chance of happening every single year. If you have a 30-year mortgage, this means you have a 30 percent chance of seeing your home flood during the life of that mortgage.”

To fully understand the flood vulnerability of a particular location, property owners can compare the finished floor elevation with an up-to-date flood map for that particular area. Commu-

nity Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are available through the FEMA Map Service Center website, [FEMA Map Service Center](#). Tips and step-by-step instructions for determining flood risk are available.

Property owners also should check building department records or the property survey for the elevation of the structure’s lowest floor or enclosed area in the building – including any space below ground level on all sides, such as a basement. If this information cannot be found, a licensed surveyor could be hired to make that determination.

IBHS recommends that homeowners take the following steps now, before a flood threatens, to reduce interior water damage:

- Keep drains, gutters and downspouts clear of debris.
- Inspect sump pumps and drains regularly to ensure proper operation.
- Have a licensed electrician raise electric components at least 12 inches above the expected flood levels for your area.
- To prevent sewage backup, have a licensed plumber install an interior or exterior back-flow valve.
- Make sure your yard’s grading (slope) directs water away from the building.
- Have your furnace, water heater and other permanent equipment raised so that they are elevated above the expected flood levels for your area.

## **Protect Yourself and Your Home**

Here's what you can do to stay safe during a flood:

- If flooding occurs, go to higher ground and avoid areas subject to flooding.
- Do not attempt to walk across flooded roadways.
- If water rises in your home before you evacuate, go to the top floor, attic, or roof.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio for the latest storm information.
- Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if advised to do so.

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## Are You FloodSmart? *(Continued from page 4)*

If you've come in contact with floodwaters, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water.

### Educate Yourself

There are several things you can do to minimize losses in your home and ensure your family's safety.

#### 1. Safeguard your possessions

- Create a personal flood file containing information about all your possessions and keep it in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. This file should have:
  - A copy of your insurance policies with your agents contact information.
  - A household **inventory**: For insurance purposes, be sure to keep a written and visual (i.e., videotaped or photographed) record of all major household items and valuables, even those stored in basements, attics or garages. Create files that include serial numbers and store receipts for major appliances and electronics. Have jewelry and artwork appraised. These documents are critically important when filing insurance claims. For more information visit [www.knowyourstuff.org](http://www.knowyourstuff.org).
  - Copies of all other critical documents, including finance records or receipts of major purchases.

#### 2. Prepare your house

- First make sure your sump pump is working and then install a battery-operated backup, in case of a power failure. Installing a water alarm will also let you know if water is accumulating in your basement.
- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Anchor any fuel tanks.
- Raise your electrical components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers, and wiring) at least 12 inches above your home's projected flood elevation.
- Place the furnace, water heater, washer, and dryer on cement blocks at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation.
- Move furniture, valuables, and important documents to a safe place.

#### 3. Develop a family emergency plan

- Create a safety kit with drinking water,

canned food, first aid, blankets, a radio, and a flashlight.

- Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone and teach your children how to dial 911.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Know safe routes from home, work, and school that are on higher ground.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be your emergency family contact.
- Have a plan to protect your pets.

### The Road to Recovery

As soon as floodwater levels have dropped, it's time to start the recovery process. Here's what you can do to begin restoring your home.

- If your home has suffered damage, call your insurance agent to file a claim.
- Check for structural damage before re-entering your home to avoid being trapped in a building collapse.
- Take photos of any floodwater in your home and save any damaged personal property.
- Make a list of damaged or lost items and include their purchase date and value with receipts, and place with the inventory you took prior to the flood. Some damaged items may require disposal, so keep photographs of these items.
- Keep power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- Boil water for drinking and food preparation until authorities tell you that your water supply is safe.
- Prevent mold by removing wet contents immediately.

Wear gloves and boots to clean and disinfect. Wet items should be cleaned with a pine-oil cleanser and bleach, completely dried, and monitored for several days for any fungal growth and odors.

This information was obtained from [Floodsmart.gov](http://Floodsmart.gov) and an article published by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety titled "**IBHS Urges Residents and Businesses to Reduce Flood Damage Risk During Flood Safety Awareness Week**".



## Leading from the Middle of the Pack *(Continued from page 1)*

GPS—only without a “mute” button. They gladly point out shortcuts that the driver missed or parking spots that she failed to notice.

The problem with backseat drivers isn't that they provide misinformation, but that they do not have driver's permission to give guidance. Unsolicited advice is almost always received as criticism. As such, backseat drivers anger and annoy the very person they're trying to assist. They end up being more distracting than helpful.

### 2) Dead Weight

Railroad transportation companies want to load each and every train car with cargo in order to make money. An empty railroad car not only fails to add to profits; it is costly to move and maintain. The locomotive must work harder, expending extra fuel, to haul unfilled train cars. Accordingly, freight trains would be better off without having to transport unused cars.

Teammates are dead weight when the energy that they exact from a leader outweighs their contribution to the team. Such persons increase a leader's workload rather than lightening it. Consequently, the influence of dead weight isn't neutral; it's negative.

### 3) Brownnoser

Initially, flattery may boost a leader's ego, but brownnosers actually have the negative effect of preventing a leader from correcting poor decisions and from growing in self-awareness. In addition, brownnosers eventually expect preferential treatment in exchange for their compliance. In this respect, they're like parasites, sucking the lifeblood out of leaders without providing anything of real value in return.

### 4) Wingman

Positioned behind and to the side of the lead airplane, the wingman serves as a visual lookout for the lead aircraft. The wingman is also on-call to play a supporting role in aerial combat. Importantly, the wingman answers to the commands of the lead pilot. He must be disciplined

in his support, coordinating his maneuvers with those of the leader. Even though they aren't in charge, wingmen have tremendous influence on the outcome of an aerial engagement and, as such, their leaders hold them in the highest esteem.

What can you do to become a better wingman?

Invest in relational chemistry. Get to know what makes your leaders tick, their style of decision-making, their values, etc. You want to earn their trust and to be able to anticipate their actions.

- Be prepared every time you take your leader's time. Making the most of your leader's time not only communicates respect but also showcases your commitment to the team.
- Know when to push and when to back off. Given your unique vantage point in the organization, you inevitably will have some knowledge your leader lacks. The key is to know when giving your input will aid your leader in reaching a decision and when it will merely complicate matters.
- Be better tomorrow than you are today. Nothing impresses a leader like a self-motivated performer. As you demonstrate growing capacity for responsibility, more will be given to you.

### Wrap-Up

Remember: In the long run, you cannot succeed if your leader fails. Whether you're conscious of it or not, you have influence with your boss. Learning to cultivate that influence can spell the difference between career advancement and professional stagnation.



*Submit Photos of CERT members in action for publication in future issues of the monthly newsletter.*

*The deadline for submission of news, photos, and articles for the June edition of the newsletter is May 24th.*

# Outdoor Electrical Safety

Lighting to improve the look and safety of our homes, electric tools to make our outdoor work easier, and power lines to our home, all need to be handled with care.

## Outside Electrical Work

- Have a qualified electrician do all electrical work.
- To prevent an electrical shock, make sure all your outside electrical receptacles are GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) protected.

## Equipment Safety

- Use lighting and power tools that have the label of an independent test laboratory and make sure they are made for outdoor use.
- Store your electrical tools indoors.
- Keep electric tools away from children.
- Keep the area around your electric meter and other electrical equipment clear.
- Check lighting and extension cords for damage before using. Replace any damaged cords right away.
- Use extension cords that have the label of an independent testing laboratory and are marked for outdoor use.
- Extension cords are not meant for long-term use.

## Power Lines

Have a professional tree cutting service trim branches that might fall on electric wiring. Use a wooden or fiberglass ladder outside. Keep the ladder at least 10 feet away from power lines. Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. Power lines may be live, stay a safe distance away. Report downed wires to authorities right away.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call "**Before You Dig**" (8-1-1) before any digging on your property. They will mark where your underground utilities are located. *It's a free service!*



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)