



CERT



NASSAU COUNTY



Main Office:

516-573-9600

Email:

oemcert@nassaucountyny.gov

**CERT IS
WHAT
YOU
MAKE IT**



**COUNTY,
STATE,
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM**

CERT Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Members,

We hope that you all had a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday!

As we head into the holiday season, and the end of the year approaching many things have changed and are different then how the were in the past. We all know from reports that COVID-19 cases continue to rise again in New York State, we urge all to continue to practice social distancing, wear face masks, and wash hands frequently. Please keep in-person gatherings during the holidays to a minimum and comply all New York State ordinances. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the best resource for accurate and up-to-date information.

We continue to monitor the situation and when we know for sure that it is safe for everyone we will start to have meetings, trainings and move the CERT program forward again.

While there has not been much activity for CERT, we would like to Thank all of our team members who have participated and helped during the year.

Our door is always open, just need to maintain social distancing, please contact Bob, Rick, Paul or your Division Leaders if you have any concerns, questions.

We would like to wish all our members and there families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy

Bob, Rick & Paul

'Tis the Season for Holiday Online Shopping Scams - Don't Be a Victim



Criminals don't take the holidays off; they are busy gearing up for an active season of their own. With more people than ever doing their holiday shopping online, the FBI reminds shoppers to look out for scams designed to steal money and personal information.



If a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is. Scammers may offer too-good-to-be-true deals through phishing emails or advertisements. Some may offer brand name merchandise at extremely low discounts or promise gift cards as an incentive to purchase a product. Others may offer products at a great price, but the products being sold are not the same as the products advertised.

Steer clear of suspicious sites, phishing emails, or ads offering items at unrealistic discounts. Do not open unsolicited emails and do not click on any links attached. You may end up paying for an item, giving away personal information and credit card details, and receive nothing in return except a compromised identity.

When shopping online, do your research. Make sure a site is secure and reputable before providing your credit card number. Don't trust a site just because it claims to be secure and beware purchases or services that ask you pay with a gift card.

Beware of social media posts that appear to offer special vouchers or gift cards. Some may pose as holiday promotions or contests. It may even appear that a friend shared the link. Often, these scams lead you to participate in an online survey that is actually designed to steal personal information.

Protect yourself. Secure your banking and credit accounts with strong passphrases, as well as all other accounts that contain anything of value such as rewards accounts, online accounts that save your payment information, or accounts containing private, personal information.

Check your credit card and bank statements regularly to make sure no fraudulent charges have been made to your account.



If you suspect you've been victimized:

- **Contact your financial institution immediately upon suspecting or discovering a fraudulent transfer.**
- **Request that your bank reach out to the financial institution where the fraudulent transfer was sent.**
- **Contact local law enforcement.**
- **File a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at: www.ic3.gov (<https://www.ic3.gov/>), regardless of dollar loss.**





Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)



RACES / CERT Comms Group SITREP December 2020

RACES is now holding meetings on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting is Thursday, December 3.

All the meetings for the foreseeable future will be vital meetings via Zoom.

Anyone wishing to attend can Join from any computer, tablet, or smartphone by entering:

<https://zoom.us/j/95928146234> in your browser.

Or, for audio only, you may dial by phone: 646-876-9923 and enter Meeting ID: 959 2814 6234 #

Any questions you can contact us at nassaucountyny.races@gmail.com

ALSO, HRU (ham Radio University) will be held on Saturday January 9, 2021 This will be a virtual event, for more information go to: <http://hamradiouniversity.org/>

RACES AND CERT Comms Members,

On behalf of the leadership of Nassau County RACES, we wish you and your family a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Season's Greetings
&
Happy New Year



We also would like to extend our sincere wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Stay Safe and Stay the Course!

-73-

RACES Leadership



As Winter Season Fast Approaches, Vigilance Around Home Fire Safety is Critical

BY LORRAINE CARLI, VICE PRESIDENT OF OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY



With the pandemic continuing to impact our work and daily lives in countless ways, this year has been anything but typical. At times, these shifts and challenges have made it difficult to remain focused on business as usual. However, we can't afford to be distracted from keeping communities safe as the coldest months approach and the public's risk to fire increases; vigilance remains critical.

Home fires are more common in November through March with multiple contributing factors at play: Cooking fires, the number-one cause of home fires year-round, increase during the holiday season with more cooking fires occurring on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year; Christmas Day, the day before Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve follow as the top winter days for home cooking fires. Holiday decorations involving candles, electrical lighting, and Christmas trees contribute to a rise in home fires during the winter months as well. Meanwhile, as temperatures drop nationwide, heating equipment jumps to the leading cause of home fires.

Now add the pandemic to the mix. As people continue to spend more time at home, they'll be doing more cooking and home heating throughout the day, ultimately spending more time engaging in activities that collectively increase the likelihood of home fires.

With these potential hazards on the horizon, we must proactively take the steps needed to mitigate them now. Waiting until tragedy strikes and responding after the fact is too late.

Many of the traditional plans and efforts to reach the public clearly aren't safe options at this time, but there are still opportunities to engage and connect, as evidenced during Fire Prevention Week this October. In communities large and small, fire departments throughout the U.S. and Canada found creative ways to promote the campaign's messages, from virtual and "drive by" open houses and motor vehicle parades, to TikTok and YouTube videos promoted online and social media, and partnerships with food pantries, restaurants and other local businesses. These examples of dedication and effort should be a model for all of us as we work to keep our communities safe in the months ahead, particularly given the challenges and limitations presented by the pandemic.

With these ideas as a starting point, I strongly encourage all public safety educators and professionals to create a plan for increasing awareness around winter fire safety and prevention. Tap into the tools and information at your disposal, including NFPA's public education resources, as well as materials provided by other fire and life safety organizations. Use social media to effectively and efficiently deliver those messages to as many people as possible. Connect with peers to learn how they're working to reach residents. Share obstacles you're facing so that you can get the help and support you need to work through them.

Getting through the winter months during a pandemic will be trying for all of us, but putting the time, energy and resources into protecting communities remains critical to fire safety at home - the very place people are at greatest risk to fire. Getting distracted from those efforts is a risk we simply can't afford to take.



Top 10 Holiday Safety Tips



1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.

Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.



2. Do not overload electrical outlets.

Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.



3. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.

More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.



4. Keep tree fresh by watering daily.

Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.



5. Use battery-operated candles.

Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (NFPA).



6. Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.

A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations. (NFPA).



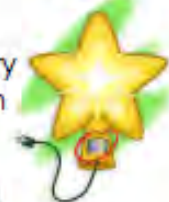
7. Protect cords from damage.

To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.



8. Check decorations for certification label.

Decorations not bearing a label from an Independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.



9. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).




10. Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.

Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (NFPA)



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Division 1 Meeting 7:30pm	3 RACES Meeting 7:30pm (ZOOM)	4	5
6		8	9	10		12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24		
27	28	29	30			

Important CERT Dates


Division 1 Meeting

December 2
7:30pm
(Microsoft Teams)

RACES Meeting

December 3rd
Time: 7:30 pm
(ZOOM)

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 RACES Meeting 7:30pm (ZOOM)	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17		19	20	21	22	23
25	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Important CERT Dates

RACES Meeting

January 7

ZOOM

Time: 7:30 pm

Meeting Information





Nassau County CERT Coordinator

Bob Chiz & Rick Delucia

oemcert@nassaucountyny.gov

CERT Deputy Director

Paul Shapiro

pshapiro@nassaucountyny.gov

CERT Section Chiefs

Paul Shapiro

Logistics

Jeffrey Sliva

Operations

David Sobolow

Planning

Admin/Finance

Division 1

Division Supervisor

Bill Pavone

nassaucertdiv1@yahoo.com

Division 2

Division Supervisor

Marvin Stein

mstein@optonline.net

