



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CERT



NASSAU COUNTY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2023

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**COUNTY, STATE
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM**

A Homeowner's Guide to Fire Safety and Prevention

As Fire Prevention Week (October 9th - 15th) draws near, it is incumbent upon homeowners to reevaluate and bolster their fire safety protocols. Every year, domestic fires account for significant property damage, injuries, and sadly, loss of life. Many of these incidents are preventable with the right knowledge and precautionary measures. This article serves as a comprehensive guide to basic fire safety and prevention in the home, ensuring that families are equipped with the tools and knowledge to mitigate the risk of fire.

Understanding Fire Hazards

The first step to fire prevention is identifying potential fire hazards within the home. Common sources include cooking equipment, heating appliances, electrical systems, and smoking materials. Being aware of these sources and handling them with caution drastically reduces the risk of fire.

Fire Prevention Strategies

1. Cooking Safety:

Never Leave Cooking Unattended: Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave, turn off the stove.

Keep Flammable Items Away: Maintain a clear space around the stove, keeping items like paper towels, curtains, and dishcloths away.

2. Electrical Safety:

Regular Inspections: Have a professional inspect your home's wiring regularly to ensure it's up to code and in good condition.

Avoid Overloading Circuits: Do not overload outlets and power strips.

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3. Heating Safety:

Maintain Heating Equipment: Have heaters inspected annually and ensure they are clean and functioning properly.

Keep a Safe Distance: Place anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.

4. Smoking Safety:

Smoke Outside: Establish and adhere to a strict outdoor smoking policy.

Proper Disposal: Ensure cigarette butts are fully extinguished before disposal.

Fire Safety Equipment

1. Smoke Alarms:

Installation: Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside and outside sleeping areas.

Testing: Test alarms monthly and replace batteries annually.

2. Fire Extinguishers:

Accessibility: Keep fire extinguishers accessible, especially in areas like the kitchen.

Training: Ensure family members know how to use extinguishers properly.

3. Escape Ladders:

For multi-story homes, store collapsible escape ladders near windows to facilitate swift evacuation.

Fire Escape Plan

- **Draft a Plan:** Create a detailed fire escape plan with two exit routes from every room.
- **Practice Regularly:** Conduct biannual fire drills, ensuring every family member is familiar with the escape routes.
- **Special Considerations:** Consider the needs of elderly or disabled family members and pets.



WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS



INSTALL & TEST ALARMS

Carbon monoxide alarms should be tested at least once a month.



PLUG SPACE HEATERS DIRECTLY INTO OUTLETS

Never use an extension cord or power strip.



HEAT YOUR HOME SAFELY

Keep anything that can burn 3 feet away from a fireplace, wood stove, or space heater.



KEEP CHIMNEY & VENTS CLEAN

Hire a qualified professional to clean and inspect your chimney and vents at least once a year.



NEVER USE CANDLES FOR EMERGENCY LIGHTING

Always use flash lights and stock up on extra batteries.



USE FIREPLACE SAFELY

Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen when using your fireplace.

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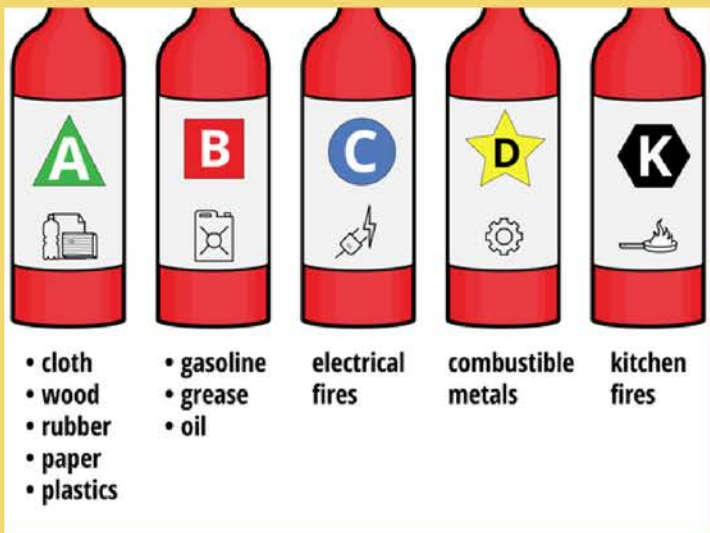
Fire Prevention Week serves as a pivotal reminder of the inherent risks associated with domestic fires and the critical importance of prevention and preparedness. By identifying and mitigating fire hazards, equipping the home with essential fire safety equipment, and ensuring every family member is conversant with the escape plan, homeowners can confidently avert the tragedy of fire incidents.

It's not just about protecting property but preserving the invaluable lives that make a house a home. This Fire Prevention Week, let's each take a step further in our commitment to fire safety, making informed decisions and implementing preventative measures that anchor the safety and well-being of our families and communities. Safety isn't accidental; it's a calculated, concerted effort that converts information into actions, and actions into lives saved.



Each winter as the cold weather settles in, many people will start up their heating system for the first time without doing the proper start-up service. Be sure to change filters, vacuum or move any dust, debris or objects that may be in close proximity to a heat source or flame. This is also a great time to clean out or replace your clothes drier lint hose.

Which Fire Extinguisher Should You Choose?



Make sure to choose the correct class of fire extinguisher for the type of material that is burning. There are ABC extinguishers that cover most situations and special K class extinguisher designed for most cooking fires. These minimize splashing of agents such as cooking oils. Do NOT use a water or type A extinguisher on an oil or combustible metal fire.



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)



Hello from the RACES and CERT Communications Group. Our monthly general membership meeting was held on Thursday, September 7th. The focus for this meeting was preparedness. Are you prepared? We are at the height of Hurricane Season. Activity in the Atlantic has been very active and it just might stay that way for the rest of the Season. Luckily for Long Island, Hurricane Lee is following a north eastward track which gives us some breathing room and hopefully a wakeup call. Many people have forgotten Superstorm Sandy which is very dangerous. Being prepared and practicing will not only help keep you and your family safe it will also help our first responders by reducing the calls for service in an emergency. Now is the time to inspect and transition your Go Bags and Jump Kits from warm weather gear to cold weather gear. Check all items that have expiration dates, this includes batteries, over the counter medications and any perishable items. Don't wait, tomorrow maybe the day you and your family will need it.

Our ICS training continued with how to prepared both a Hot Wash and After Action Report. Next month we will put all the year's trainings together with a Table Top Exercise. You will be given an incident scenario and it will be your teams responsibility to populate the necessary forms with the information provided. This type of interactive training is essential and fun too. There will also be an after meeting SkyWarn winter reportable criteria training. The entire country has been going through an unusual weather pattern which has created new problems for many communities. That is why knowing how to read the sky can help keep you safe.

Many of our Amateur Radio Operators have received SkyWarn training with the National Weather Service (NWS). Because of this, we have the ability to report local weather activity giving the NWS a real time report of our local weather. If you need a refresher or would like to take the SkyWarn Training, send us an email.

**If you are interested or just curious about Emergency Communications we invite you to attend our meetings and trainings. The next RACES / CERT Communications meeting will be held on Thursday October 5th at 7:30pm in the lecture hall, 510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage NY. Hope to see you there.
Thanksgiving Food Drive**

RACES along with Faithful Response, a 501 c3 not for profit organization, are holding its annual Thanksgiving food drive for those Long Island families in need. By donating you are not only feeding those who are hungry, but also showing kindness and support to those who are less fortunate. Won't you please help make it possible for this annual charitable tradition to continue?

Any in-kind donation, no matter how large or small, will make a difference. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated, and will make a difference in the lives of so many people, right here on Long Island. We will be collecting donations, non-perishable food items and gift cards at the October and November RACES General Membership meetings.

If you need further information or have any questions please contact me at 516.417.0416.



If you SEE Something SAY Something



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)

Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday, October 22nd will be the 9th Running of the Suffolk County Marathon - For more information go to the GSBARC Website www.gsbarc.org click on Special Events

Sunday, Sept 24th the Ocean to Sound Relay Race - For more information go to the ARES website at www.nassaucountyares.org.

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RACES Leadership

Website: www.nassauraces.net

Email: nassaucountyny.races@gmail.com

If



If you SEE Something SAY Something

Narcan Training

Session Dates

Date	Location	Time
Sep 7, 2023	Baldwin Park - Community Room, 3232 Grand Ave, Baldwin	6:00 PM
Sep 12, 2023	Bellerose Village Hall, 50 Superior Road, Bellerose Village	6:00 PM
Sep 12, 2023	Henry Waldinger Library, 60 Verona Place Valley Stream	6:00 PM
Sep 21, 2023	Island Trees Public Library, 38 Farmedge Road, Levittown	6:00 PM
Sep 27, 2023	Wantagh Senior Center, 1150 Seamans Neck Road, Wantagh	3:00 PM
Sep 28, 2023	Hempstead Town Hall, Nathan L.H. Bennett Pavilion. 1 Washington Street, Hempstead	7:00 PM
Oct 12, 2023	Franklin Square Public Library, 19 Lincoln Road, Franklin Square	6:00 PM
Oct 18, 2023	Island Park Library, 176 Long Beach Road, Island Park	7:00 PM
Oct 19, 2023	Hempstead Town Hall, Nathan L.H. Bennett Pavilion. 1 Washington Street, Hempstead	7:00 PM
Oct 23, 2023	Freeport Memorial Library, 144 W. Merrick Road, Freeport	6:00 PM
Oct 27, 2023	Levittown Public Library, 1 Bluegrass Lane, Levittown	3:00 PM
Nov 13, 2023	Merrick Senior Center, 2550 Clubhouse Road, Merrick	3:00 PM
Nov 14, 2023	Woodmere Fire House, 20 Irving Place, Woodmere	6:00 PM
Nov 15, 2023	West Hempstead Library, 500 Hempstead Avenue, West Hempstead	6:00 PM
Nov 16, 2023	East Rockaway Library, 477 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway	6:00 PM
Nov 16, 2023	Hempstead Town Hall, Nathan L.H. Bennett Pavilion. 1 Washington Street, Hempstead	7:00 PM
Nov 21, 2023	Island Trees Public Library, 38 Farmedge Road, Levittown	3:00 PM
Nov 30, 2023	Peninsula Public Library, 280 Central Avenue, Lawrence	6:00 PM
Nov 30, 2023	Elmont Memorial Library, 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont	6:30 PM
Dec 4, 2023	Salisbury Senior Center, 460 Salisbury Park Drive, Westbury	3:00 PM
Dec 7, 2023	Baldwin Library, 2385 Grand Avenue, Baldwin	6:00 PM

Register online at
toh311.net/narcan-signup

Word Scramble

Good luck, and have fun unscrambling these words related to Fire Safety.
Answers are upside down at bottom of page.

1. **FIER** - _ _ _ _
2. **MOSKE** - _ _ _ _ _
3. **LARMA** - _ _ _ _ _
4. **CPAEES** - _ _ _ _ _
5. **LRILD** - _ _ _ _ _
6. **TODECERT** - _ _ _ _ _
7. **CERUES** - _ _ _ _ _
8. **NGXTIEEIRHSU** - _ _ _ _ _
9. **VEUACTAE** - _ _ _ _ _
10. **LRPINKESR** - _ _ _ _ _

1. FIRE, 2. SMOKE, 3. ALARM, 4. ESCAPE, 5. DRILL, 6. DETECTOR, 7. RESCUE, 8. EXTINGUISHER, 9. EVACUATE, 10. SPRINKLER

2023 Theme: Preparing for Older Adults

The Ready Campaign's 2023 National Preparedness Month theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3". The campaign will focus on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.

Visit www.ready.gov for more info

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR OLDER AMERICANS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Plan how you will communicate if you have a communication need.



Plan for your transportation if you need help evacuating.



Plan how you will evacuate with any assistive devices.



Plan for food, water, and essentials for you and pets or service animals.



Include medicines, medical supplies, batteries, and chargers.

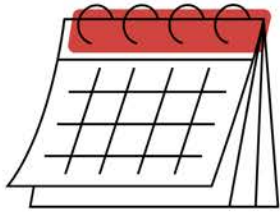


Make copies of Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurance cards.

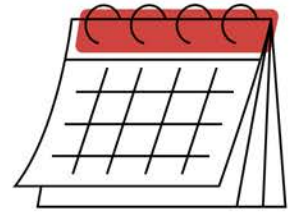
WHAT TO INCLUDE IN AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

- ✓ Contact information for important people and care providers.
- ✓ A list of medicines you need, dosage instructions, and any allergies.
- ✓ Contact information for your durable medical provider.
- ✓ Need-to-know information for first responders and others who might need to help you.

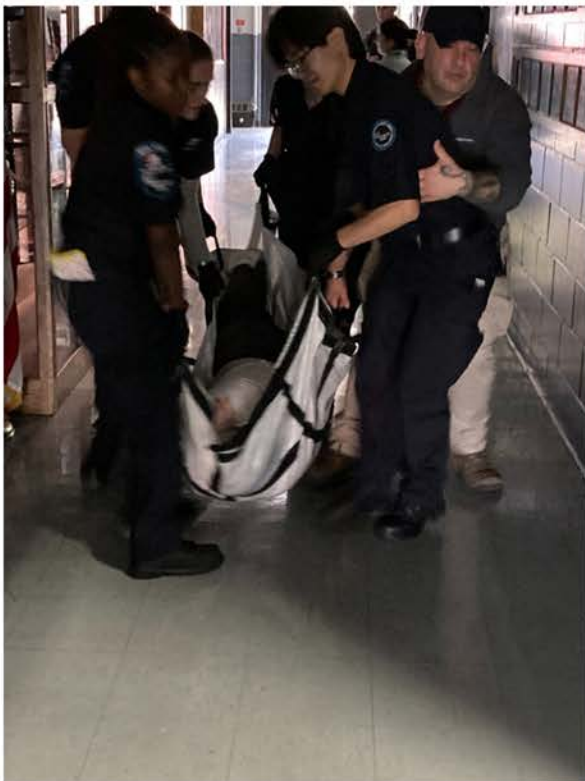




Planned Events & Trainings



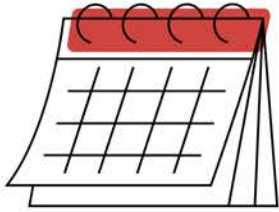
Group photo of CERT members at FSA Training Day



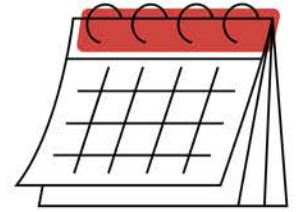
A CERT member (Victim) being carried to safety



Another "victim" awaiting rescue



Planned Events & Trainings



Latest CERT Basic class learning first aid



Learning team bonding and critical thinking skills



CERT Basic class learning cribbing rescue



A happy team after a successful rescue



Please send in any photos you have taken of news worthy items or from any CERT events that you have attended and I will select some to be used in the newsletter. Send images to:
rdelucia@nassaucountyny.gov

Calendar of Events

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4 DIV 1	5 RACES Meeting 7:30pm	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 DIV 2	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 				

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2 RACES Meeting 7:30pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



**CERT Division Meetings
7:00pm**



**RACES Meeting
7:30pm**



Important Dates

RACES Meeting - 7:30pm Thursday October 5th, November 2nd

CERT Division 1 Meeting - Wednesday Oct. 4th at 7:00pm

CERT Division 2 Meeting - Tuesday Oct. 17th, 7:00pm at:

Rockville Centre Recreation Center

111 N. Oceanside Rd.

Rockville Centre, NY 11570



Report Storm Damage

To report damage from the recent heavy rain event, please follow the link, and use the Damage Self Report Tool located on the bottom left of the page. Reporting damage is not a guarantee of money. It is a data collection tool to determine if the overall threshold of damage has been met throughout the County to allow the release of funds.

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/1620/Emergency-Management>

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