



## NYC Citizen Corps Council Communications Network

Newsletter  
November 2008

### Greetings!

The weeks leading up to Thanksgiving are always spent stocking up for a holiday feast for family and friends. While picking up your roast or pie crust, do not forget to also stock up on extra batteries, a flashlight and non-perishable food items. Now is as good a time as any to be thankful for your health and safety. And while there are Thanksgiving sales, now is a great time to prepare for the unexpected. Take advantage of the season of giving to give yourself, and those you love, the gift of preparedness.

Be sure to prepare your list of Go Bag items and to replenish your Emergency Supply Kit. Also take the time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

With so much to do this holiday season, don't forget to stay prepared. Check out the OEM website to keep up with new tips of the week to make preparedness a breeze.

Uniting Communities,

### The NYC Citizen Corps Council

## Emergency Rest Center Training



The Emergency Rest Centers program helps improve the care of our communities during emergencies. The summer 2007 tornado and the 2003 blackout highlighted the important role that houses of worship have played during times of emergency. In New York City, parishioners and community members often turn to their houses of worship for support during a disaster. The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) would like to help improve houses of worship's ability to respond to those needs.

By partnering with faith-based organizations, OEM can now provide important Emergency Rest Center training that will allow houses of worship to open their doors and provide emergency information, basic safety, and comfort to their communities. It is important to note that Emergency Rest Centers are not shelters, daycare facilities, recreational centers, or feeding programs.

When activated, interested houses of worship must be able to offer the following services for their communities:

- Space to shelter from the elements
- Access to a basic first aid kit
- Battery-operated radio/television for emergency information
- Landline phone communication
- Tap/bottled water and cups
- Bathroom facilities (ADA compliant)
- Snacks (preferred; nut free, hallal/kosher suggested)

### Ready Launches Video Blog



The national *Ready* campaign is launching a new tool to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare: a video blog. The campaign is looking for Americans who have recently experienced an emergency situation such as Hurricanes Gustav or Ike to help tell Americans why it is important to take steps in advance to prepare. This new video blog will be hosted on *Ready's* website [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and aims to inspire more Americans to get an emergency supply kit, make an emergency plan, and be informed about the different emergencies that can happen.

You can use any recording device to record your video clip (such as cell phones) and clips should be no shorter than 60 seconds and no longer than three minutes. Upload the video to [www.youtube.com/fema](http://www.youtube.com/fema) by responding to the video that requests submissions. Any video format that can successfully be uploaded to YouTube will qualify for a submission. Good quality cell phone videos can qualify. Make sure your lighting and audio will come out well before shooting the video.

### White House Conference

Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness: A Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Preparedness Training Workshop will focus on equipping DHS/FEMA partners in emergency preparedness with the resources, knowledge, training, and skills necessary to respond to, and recover from all threats, hazards, and adverse incidents.

The workshops will highlight the National Strategy for Homeland Security, the National Response Framework, the National Incident Management System, the Homeland Security Grant Program, and the role of grassroots, faith-based, community-based, and other non-governmental organizations in emergency management and preparedness.

The workshop will also provide faith-based and community organizations with a unique

**If you represent a house of worship and meet the Emergency Rest Center program requirements, please [email](#) the NYC Citizen Corps Council to schedule your training TODAY!**

opportunity to meet and discuss pertinent issues with DHS and FEMA leadership, as well as state and local emergency preparedness and emergency management officials.

To RSVP visit: [www.dhs.gov/fbci](http://www.dhs.gov/fbci)

NYC Citizen Corps Council



For more information about [NYC Citizen Corps Council](#), its members and activities, visit our [Resource Guide](#).

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