



## The CERT Report

May 2009

### H1N1 Flu and NYC CERT

New York City is one of the focal's points for the H1N1 (Swine Flu) virus. The CDC confirmed 90 cases in New York City as of May 5th.

All New Yorkers must take extra precautions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy. CERT members can lead the way by setting the right example and sharing good health practices:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often, especially after being outdoors
- Cover coughs and sneezes with the crook of your arm or better with a tissue, and dispose of the tissue immediately
- Stay away from sick people.

To find out about pandemic influenza, click here for Ready NY's latest preparedness guide, Ready NY: Pandemic Influenza. This guide is available in 23 languages online: [http://nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/flu\\_guide.shtml](http://nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/flu_guide.shtml)

To learn more about the national situation, visit the CDC's H1N1 Flu page: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>

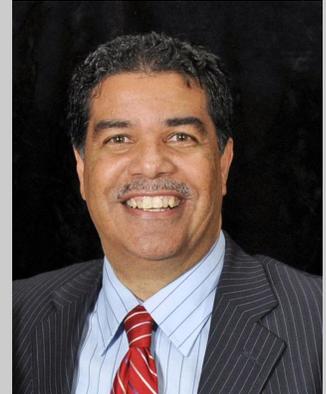
### CERT Volunteers Help Out at NYC's Five Boro Bike Tour



Members of CERT Queens 1 at the Con Ed Learning Center rest area.

On May 3rd, a cold and rainy Sunday, CERT teams across New York City came out to help support the TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour and the more than 31,500 riders.

### CERT Member Feature



Julio Batista has been an active member of Manhattan 12 CERT since the team was founded in 2003. Over the years, Julio has established a long-term and very successful partnership between MN 12 CERT and the Emergency Preparedness Division of New York - Presbyterian, where he works as Assistant Director of Community and Government Relations.

During CERT training in 2003-04, Julio leveraged the hospital's state-of-the-art training center as a second home for the team and its instructors. Through Julio's efforts, the hospital awarded the team a grant for supplies and materials, as well as a scholarship to pay for CPR training.

In 2006, Julio arranged for MN 12 CERT to co-host an emergency preparedness fair with Presbyterian hospital at the new Morgan Children's Hospital. This opportunity introduced the team to the community and hospital staff and helped them recruit new members.

In October 2008, Julio arranged for the team to attend a special presentation by Dr. David Bristow, a world-renowned expert in emergency medical preparedness, on the medical response to the Mumbai terrorist acts.

CERT members were able to put their training to good use by directing the flow of traffic in critical areas and managing the distribution of much-needed resources, like water and snacks.

At one rest area, the teams provided a warming van to help riders escape the cold. They directed the serious cases to professional medical care.

Thanks to all who helped on Sunday. "This would not happen without the dedication of volunteers," said one tour organizer.

## Mayor Bloomberg Increases Civic Engagement



OEM Commissioner Bruno, program staff, and CERT team chiefs gather for a photo after the event.

On April 20, Mayor Bloomberg unveiled NYC Service - A Blueprint to Increase Civic Engagement in New York City - to a boisterous crowd at the historic Armory Track and Field Foundation in upper Manhattan.

The theme of NYC Service asks New Yorkers to harness their strengths and volunteer to help fellow residents. This initiative builds on the motivation to serve and the drive to help.

"New York has always been fortunate to be home to everyday people who want to pitch in and help--and we need as much help now as ever before," said Mayor Bloomberg.

MTV's Sway Calloway emceed the event, and other notable figures, including Broadway actress and singer Carol Woods and Caroline Kennedy, contributed songs and speeches.

Emergency preparedness is one of the six volunteer opportunities highlighted by the campaign. Joining a CERT team is one way to help prepare New York City's communities.

"Americans have always showed how much we care to help one another. You can see it during the holidays, during an emergency, and in everyday living. But we can always improve--we need to connect those who volunteer with opportunities that address our communities' needs," observed CERT Bronx 11 Secretary Janet Portuallo.

"During my six-year tenure as the Team Chief of MN 12, I cannot imagine being able to sustain our team without the consistent and critically important support of Julio Batista," says CERT Manhattan 12 Team Chief Pamela Palanque-North

By Pamela Palanque-North, MN 12 Team Chief

### Deputy Chief Recognized

On March 16, Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes announced the 31 recipients of his third annual Extraordinary Women award. Among the honorees recognized for their accomplishments and service to their communities, was Brooklyn 10 Deputy Team Chief Janet General. Congratulations Janet!

### The T in CERT Stands for "Team"

As the CERT Report recognizes individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty, both as an individual and as a team member, it is important to remember that the ultimate goal of the NYC OEM CERT program is to reinforce team unity and cohesion in events and responses.

"My CERT team all shares a common ideal and a common goal to keep our community informed, prepared, and ready to face any ordeal," said Sue Macinick, CERT Queens 11 Team Chief. "We believe in each other and strive shoulder to shoulder, confident in one another's help, advice, trust, and commitment,"

### Graduation

On February 24, 167 volunteers completed the NYC OEM CERT Training Program. The ceremony, which took place at One Police Plaza, opened with a procession by the NYPD honor guard.

OEM Commissioner Joseph Bruno, NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly, NYPD Inspector Angelo Maroulis, and FDNY Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano congratulated the graduates in front of an auditorium filled with their instructors, friends, and relatives.

NYC CERT welcomes all our new graduates! We are happy to have you in

our ranks.

### CERT Quiz

- 1.) Which section lead organizes the tactical aspects of response?
- 2.) What is the medical condition that may result from trauma and heat exhaustion?
- 3.) What effect of disasters may result in problems with memory, appetite, sleeping patterns, and mood swings?

Answers:

1.) operations    2.) shock    3.) traumatic stress

Check out the National FEMA CERT Newsletter: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/newsletter.shtm>

For more information about NYC OEM CERT, log on to the website at [www.nyc.gov/cert](http://www.nyc.gov/cert) or give the CERT hotline a call at (718) 422 - 8585.

Remember, CERT is always looking to train motivated individuals to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

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