

# Brecksville Broadview Heights



## Training Pays Off in Local Search

October 2014 issue

Each spring The Brecksville Broadview Heights CERT plans and executes a training exercise. The June 7<sup>th</sup> exercise was designed by Brian Russo, Tim Dodd and Leslie Lesinski in cooperation with the Brecksville Fire Department. This year's exercise took place in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The teams were tasked with finding a missing person anywhere from Independence to Boston Mills. The exercise was complicated by 100 runners ready to take off for their 5K race from the parking lot where we were supposed to stage our command post. But improvisation wins the day and command post was set up at a slightly more quiet area. Not even six weeks later the



Brecksville CERT team was called out to assist in the search and rescue efforts for an Eastlake woman in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Our local CERT members were part of nearly 1000 first responders, FBI, Medical Reserve Corps, police and local fire departments. Each year, the spring drill is planned for May or June. Anyone interested in helping to organize is asked to email [bbhcert@gmail.com](mailto:bbhcert@gmail.com).

See this [link](#) for more.



New emergency information network for [Cuyahoga County](#) including a new Ebola warning.

### Calendar:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| October 23  | FBI<br>(at the Brecksville Fire House) |
| November 19 | Service Animals and Holiday Party      |

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## Meet the President: Tim Dodd

CERT would like to welcome its new president **Tim Dodd**. After spending 27 years as a Broadview Heights fire fighter and EMT, Tim has decided to volunteer with us. When asked why he wanted to be a CERT member Tim said "I am already fully trained as a first responder. I want to pass on my knowledge

and keep connected to the community." Tim began work in powdered metallurgy and volunteered for the Broadview Heights fire Department. Then in 1995, he became full-time and an EMT. Despite being retired, Tim is still an active blacksmith and you can see him during Fall Fest, shoeing horses and



regaling you with great stories from of the history of blacksmithing.

Welcome Tim.

### Special points of Interest:

- We meet each month (except June- August) alternating between Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- **BBHCert.org** is kept up-to-day with drills, training and volunteer opportunities.
- Get registered with Ohio Responds.

Click on any underlined word to go to that website.

## Drugs are Rounded Up Again

Whatever name you have for it: "Operation Medicine Cabinet", "Drug-Round Up" or "Prescription Drug Take Back"



the purpose is the same- to get unwanted prescription drugs out of homes. For the past four years, the Brecksville Broadview Heights CERT- in cooperation with CAPA and the local D.A.R.E. officer- set up collection sites to accept and dispose of any unwanted prescription drugs. Officer John Chrisopulos coordinates the efforts between community volunteers and law-enforcement. Officer John said "Every time we do this we collect so much that we think it will be our last one. And it never is". We do

this collection to give people a safe way to dispose of prescriptions. These drugs harm the environment if they get into the water system. Some drop boxes have been installed at police stations, but for the time being we are still continuing to have our operation medicine cabinet as well. Officer. John brings donated food for the volunteers. So a word of advice, if you are volunteering for the drug round up make sure you come hungry.

*"I am already fully trained as a first responder. I want to pass on my knowledge and keep connected to the community."*

From "Meet the President"

## Getting Ohio to "Respond"

According to the state of Ohio, anyone who responds outside of their local community is required to be registered in the [Ohio Responds](#) Volunteer Registry. This volunteer opportunity site is shared by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) and

the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). You will be asked to upload the pdf files for three certificates so have them handy when you register. There is a sidebar that indicates the % completion of your registration and your account status. Before registering,

volunteers must complete some form of relevant training. There are a variety of trainings that count (e.g., CERT Basic Training, CPR/AED, first aid, or a FEMA online course).

## Special Interest Story Headline

Cert badges, Ohio Responds, Intermediate Training Recognition ---- Ahhhhh---I can't keep them straight. To help remedy the situation, the CERT Association of Cuyahoga County was granted a

badge making machine with the goal of reissuing new credentials called a PIV-I card to all local CERT members. The software to make the badges, the training required to get the badges and the timeline for

completion have yet to be determined. So in the meantime our CERT team will continue to issue our own badges. So if you need a new badge or have completed the FEMA training and have not been issued one yet please contact Carolyn Jatsek.