

# CERT

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

### *BRECKSVILLE – BROADVIEW HEIGHTS*

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/16/2010

Time: 7:00pm-7:45pm

Location: Brecksville Community Center

The meeting was a training session on how to perform a damage assessment and was conducted by Brecksville Chief Building commissioner Scott Packard and Brecksville Fire Chief Ed Egut. General Announcements were also given by Leslie Lesinski.

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#### **A. General Announcements**

1. Online Training--CERT training courses will soon be available on-line.
2. Update Training Records—Each member should register on [ohiorespond.org](http://ohiorespond.org) which asks for all training that was completed in the last 3 years.
3. Central School Drill—Those that are participating must complete and sign the liability form and wear both your badge and vest the day of the drill.
4. April General Meeting, 4-21—The Army Corp of Engineers will speak on their role in Emergency Operations particularly as it relates to floods. National Flood Smart Week is coming up, find out more at [ready.org](http://ready.org) or [floodsmart.org](http://floodsmart.org).

#### **B. Damage Assessment—Chief Egut and Scott Packard**

1. Purpose for the training—Timelines are very short when disasters occur to report damage which may result in government assistance. Local governments need assistance with this task as Fire and Building Departments are stretched thin during emergencies. Training CERT members to perform this task should help meet these timelines. An accuracy rate of about 80% is acceptable as each house with damage will be reassessed by a city team.

2. Reports--Damage assessments reports are completed for the following reasons:
  - a. To request federal assistance
  - b. Reports are mandated by the Federal Government if FEMA assistance is requested
  - c. Reports help keep the media and public informed as to the extent of a disaster
  - d. Resources needed are identified based on reports
  - e. Hazard mitigation opportunities are identified
  
3. Timeline—Reports need to be submitted as follows:
  - a. The 1<sup>st</sup> form is a 12 hour event overview and is submitted to Cuyahoga County Emergency Management.
  - b. Within 24 hours an additional form with more details needs to be submitted. This form describes the level of debris, emergency measures needed, utilities that are down and if schools are affected.
  - c. Every 12 hours another update form needs to be sent to the County.
  
4. Procedure--Damage assessment is the systematic process of determining and appraising the extent of loss, suffering and/or harm to a community. There are four categories used in assessing structures; Destroyed-unlivable and not repairable, Major-unlivable extensive repairs needed, Minor-livable, repairable, not life threatening, Affected-livable, minor cosmetic damage. If CERT is needed to help with damage assessment the following will occur:
  - a. The team will be called up and directed as to where to meet
  - b. A plan will be determined, mapped out and routes decided
  - c. Teams will be formed with 4 persons per car; a leader, driver, scribe and spokesperson
  - d. A refresher review will be conducted on the use of the forms and the damage assessment process
  - e. Teams will be deployed to the areas of heaviest damage first and will be monitored and redirected as necessary.

Assessment should be made from as far away as possible. Safety is each team's number one priority.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Sue Schindler*

Cc: E.Egut, J. Hajek, C. Jatsek, P. Koss