

CERT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

BRECKSVILLE – BROADVIEW HEIGHTS

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/17/2010

Time: 7:00pm-7:45pm

Location: Brecksville Community Center

The meeting was a presentation by retired Maple Heights Fire Chief James Castilucci about his involvement with the Extreme Home Makeover event that took place in Maple Heights in September. The presentation was followed by general announcements and a Holiday Social.

A. General Announcements

1. Upcoming Events

- Volunteers are needed to march in the Christmas Parade on December 5th.
- The January 19th meeting will be a triage refresher by Mike Packard

2. The new web site redesign is now live and contains a google calendar

3. Cuyahoga County CERT is now on Facebook.

4. See Leslie if you are interested in getting involved in the Medical Reserve Corp.

B. Extreme Home Makeover—James Castilucci, retired Fire Chief, Maple Heights.

Mr. Castilucci discussed his role in the coordination of this event in the city of Maple Heights. The use of the incident command structure was instrumental in the planning and achievement of this goal. Absolute secrecy had to be maintained or the producers would not use this family for the show. The team had to develop a plan to maintain traffic patterns for the neighborhood. Mail, garbage pickup and deliveries had to be maintained for the residents. Three

staging areas were created, one being a closed school in the area. Over 7,000 volunteers had to be coordinated for a one week period including food, facilities and security which was provided by an outside firm. All this logistical planning was done under strict secrecy. Once the family was notified as being chosen for the show all residents in the neighborhood were informed by going door to door. The "Mutual Aid" contract was used with other cities helping support some services (i.e. street sweepers, fire, police, CERT, Human Services). Marymount hospital provided squad support and nurses for first aid. CERT covered all the staging areas. Logistically this event was very challenging and reliance on the unified command system was the only way to get it done. Constant communication was used instead of a central command center. Each individual involved needed to know their role and perform that task which was essential to the completion of the project. The home was built in 96 hours with the show being aired on December 5th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Schindler

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