

# CERT

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

### *BRECKSVILLE – BROADVIEW HEIGHTS*

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/15/2010

Time: 6:35pm-8:15pm

Location: Brecksville Community Center

The meeting was a Skywarn training session presented by Gary Garnet, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Cleveland. Skywarn is a class that trains citizens to be weather spotters. Trained weather spotters are relied upon to report real time severe weather situations to the Weather Service. The meeting was followed by general announcements from Leslie Lesinski.

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#### **A. Skywarn presentation—Gary Garnet**

1. Skywarn is a program that trains volunteers to communicate adverse weather conditions to the Weather Service. The Weather Service is able to give scientific approximations of what is going on but spotters report what is the reality of the situation. A lot of input is needed to make weather warning and the spotters play a critical part in this process. Reports from these volunteers help protect life and property.

#### 2. The warning process consists of 3 steps.

- a. Outlook—The Storm Prediction Center outlines areas of severe weather risk in the U.S.
- b. Watch—Tells which specific areas need to have a heightened awareness for severe weather conditions.
- c. Warning—Are issued based on current actually severe conditions that in large part are based on reports from trained spotters. The areas are marked on weather maps by polygon boxes not by counties.

### 3. What to Report:

- a. Tornado, funnel cloud, waterspout or wall cloud
- b. Large hail of 1/2" or greater
- c. Wind damage or winds estimated at 50 mph or greater, wind speeds of greater than 50mph are estimated if twigs and small branches break off with a few larger dead or weak branches may break.
- d. Flooding, streams that are out of their banks, dam failure, ice jam flooding or more than 1 foot of water in the street.
- e. Heavy rain of 1 inch or more or heavy snow
- f. Death or serious injury caused by any weather event.
- g. Do not report lightning—No matter how intense, lightning is not a criteria for a severe thunderstorm therefore no reports need to be given for lightning.

### 4. How to Report:

- a. Trained spotters—Identify yourself as a Skywarn spotter. Provide your name, spotter number, location, a brief description of the severe weather, any damage and the time it occurred. Reports can be communicated by either calling reports directly to the National Weather Service office at 1-800-262-9683, reporting via the internet web site [spotter.weather.gov](http://spotter.weather.gov), reporting on Twitter or through amateur radio by district. Do not exaggerate your report or assume it is not important. After storm damage can also be reported.
- b. Non-trained spotters can also report severe weather via the Public Observing Program by calling 1-877-633-6772

### 5. Additional Information

- a. Every year approximately 16 tornados occur in Ohio, usually between 5pm-8pm.
- b. When observing a suspicious lowering, be sure to look for persistent and organized rotation to determining if it is a tornado threat and look to the ground for debris. Thunderstorms will often have lowering that do not rotate called scud clouds. These are often confused for funnels.
- c. Remember the warning criteria: Severe Thunderstorm is 1" hail and 58 mph or greater winds.

d. Shelf clouds occur on the storm front and can indicate damaging winds. Wall clouds form in the back of a storm and can mean a possible tornado

e. Additional information can be found on the web site:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures.shtml](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures.shtml)

## **B. General Announcements**

### **1. Search and Rescue Exercise in September**

A search and rescue evidence class may be held in the fall by the Metropark Rangers.

### **2. Upcoming Events and Meetings**

- a. H1N1 POD Volunteer Appreciation Gathering, Monday April 19<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm, at the Skyline Hotel. Please RSVP by Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> as per the email invitation.
- b. May Meeting, Wed. May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, Flooding and Erosion by a representative from the Army Corp of Engineers.
- c. Brecksville Home Days, June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, a fire extinguisher demo will be held at the booth, volunteers are needed to work the booth and patrol the boarder during fireworks.
- d. Broadview Hts. Home Days, July 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are needed to patrol during the fireworks.
- e. Nominations are now being accepted for an open board position; it is acceptable to nominate yourself.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Sue Schindler*

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