

CERT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

BRECKSVILLE – BROADVIEW HEIGHTS

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/19/2010

Time: 7pm-8:30pm

Location: Brecksville Community Center

The meeting started with general announcements by Carolyn Jatsek followed by a presentation about Emergency Operations by Gary Shoffstall from the US Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District.

A. General Announcements

1. Upcoming Events—please sign-up to volunteer for any of the following events
 - a. Volunteers are needed to carry the flag during the Memorial Day parade.
 - b. Brecksville Home Days: booth duty, fire extinguisher demo, fireworks patrol and staff various stations for the 5K and 1 mile fun run.
 - c. Broadview Hts. Home Days: parking patrol
2. Influenza vaccination follow-up—the BBH Cert was recognized at the POD appreciation event for administering 12% of the total vaccines that were given in Cuyahoga County this past flu season.
3. Board Position—One board position is open for Brecksville, if interested please contact a current board member.

B. Emergency Operations—Gary Shoffstall

1. Most communities are overwhelmed when a disaster happens and calling on other communities to help is a necessity.
2. There are four stages to a disaster:
 - a. Response
 - b. Recovery

- c. Mitigation--fix the problems that caused some issues
- d. Planning--should occur before an event happens

3. The structure of the Army Corps of Engineers is mostly military in nature. The Corps may be asked to respond to floods, post flood activities, ice jam assistance, non-flood events (i.e. boats evacuated people from Manhattan during 9/11), dam safety programs, rehabilitation of flood damaged structures and water emergencies (i.e drought or contamination). Examples of the types of assistance provided by the Corps during a flood response include:

- a. Assist in rescue operations.
- b. Furnish technical advice and assistance.
- c. Provide emergency repairs to levees and other flood damage reduction projects.
- d. When the Corps is actively participating in a flood fight materials such as sandbags, polyethylene sheeting, lumber, pumps or rock for stabilization will be provided. Sand and the labor to fill the bags must be provided by the community.

4. A Federal Disaster needs to be declared in an area before the Corps will provide materials. In most cases a written request for assistance must be provided by the Governor to the Federal Government before FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers can respond. FEMA will not bring supplies into an area of a disaster until the community can prove that they can distribute those supplies. These Points of Distribution (PODs) must be set-up by the community.

5. Teaching the Community about preparedness should be CERTs number one goal. Educating members of your community to be responsible for saving themselves is invaluable when a disaster strikes. Each Community should also do a risk assessment to determine vulnerable area and what steps should be taken to mitigate those risks.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Schindler

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