

# CERT

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

### *BRECKSVILLE – BROADVIEW HEIGHTS*

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/21/2010

Time: 7:15pm-8:15pm

Location: Brecksville Community Center

The meeting was a presentation by Dale and Karen Churchill from Broadview Heights on their experience with animal rescue in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. Prior to the presentation Brian Wolf introduced new members and gave an overview of the BBH CERT structure and operation.

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

1. New Members—Two new members attended the meeting, Jeff Brubaker and Mike Pecoraro. Brian gave an overview of our structure and recent events that we have participated in. He also announced that the next set of FEMA classes will be consolidated to provide training to members from CERT groups throughout the area.
2. Upcoming Events—The picnic in August has been canceled due to lack of volunteers to plan the event.
2. Next Meeting—September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Brecksville Community Center

#### **B. Animal Rescue after Katrina—Dale and Karen Churchill**

Dale and Karen shared their experience and pictures of rescuing house pets in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. Their business is photographing dogs so they felt uniquely qualified to make a difference and get involved in saving these stranded animals. They decided to make the trip as independent rescuers and credit their organized approach as being a key component to their success.

This experience has given them insight into what can be done to help improve the handling of pets during a disaster and ways to improve recovery and reuniting pets with their owners. Some recommendations are:

- To imbed registered microchips into your pets
- To include an out-of-state family members phone number on your pets tag or collar.
- Place information on the door to your home as to what type of pets are inside to help police and fire personnel in the event of an emergency.
- Animal rescuers should maintain a log of where the animal was found and to also staple this information to the pet's collar.
- Each County should have a disaster plan that includes how to handle pets.

Because of their experience, Dale and Karen would like to help work on improving the County disaster plan as it relates to pets and hope that working with CERT may be an avenue for helping get that accomplished.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Sue Schindler*

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