

# CERT

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

### *BRECKSVILLE – BROADVIEW HEIGHTS*

### OCTOBER 2013 MEETING

#### **General Meeting Minutes**

Date: 10/16/2013

Time: 7:00 pm-8:15pm

Location: Brecksville Human Services Gathering Room

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

1. Drug Round Up to be held Saturday, October 26th from 9am-3pm. FEMA certified volunteers are needed to staff two shifts (9:15am-12:00pm and 1200-2:30pm). Contact Melissa if you can help.
2. Booville at Blossom Hill is Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. Please contact Carolyn Jatsek if you would like to participate.
3. Meeting Information: Our next meeting is Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> from 7-8:30pm. It will be a year end holiday social so bring a side dish to share. There is no December meeting. The first meeting in 2014 is Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm at the Brecksville Community Center, Human Services Room. Other dates can be found on the CERT website at [www.bbhc.org](http://www.bbhc.org).
4. The full scale exercise for next year has been cancelled.
5. Background checks for all FEMA certified members are required and can be done at the Brecksville Police Station. Please call 440-526-8900 to schedule an appointment.
6. The 2014 slate of officers is being compiled. Tim Dodd will fill the office of President replacing Leslie Lesinski, who has completed a 2 year term as President. Leslie will assume the duties of the Vice President until Wayne Lewis completes his FEMA training. Then Wayne will assume the office of Vice President.

#### **B. Household Hazardous Waste**

Marc Rubin, CERT member and Director of Environmental Health and Safety at Case Western Reserve University presented the program.

The number one cause of death of children in households is poisoning. Hazardous products should be kept in their original containers. People often transfer hazardous products to other containers, most often food containers, and the product is ingested by mistake, i.e. windshield washer fluid in a Gatorade bottle.

In order to dispose of latex paints properly, they should be solidified before tossing in the trash. A drying agent can be mixed with the paint, such as kitty litter, in order to speed up the process.

RET3.org will accept donated electronics for recycling and refurbishing. They take apart the computers and devices and break them down into individual components such as plastics, glass, computer chips, and gold and recycle each part.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are replacing incandescent light bulbs since they are more efficient producing the same amount of visible light using less energy and are said to last 8-15 times longer. Since CFLs contain mercury they should be disposed of properly. If a CFL bulb is broken the mercury vapor will be released. Open a window to air out the room, use a broom to sweep up the glass and/or a mop to clean the floor, put the broken bulb and glass into a plastic bag and double bag the waste. Be careful not to cut yourself with the sharp glass.

Poisoning with pesticides is the number one way that people are poisoned. Pesticides can absorb into your body through a break in your skin, by swallowing, and by inhalation. Protect yourself when using pesticides by wearing long sleeves and goggles. Most face masks will not prevent inhalation so use the product in a well ventilated area. The EPA website has a Pest Control Guide in a pdf format or you can send away for a copy. If you suspect that someone has been poisoned, call 911, try to identify the poisonous item, and call the Poison Control Center. They can tell you whether the item is poisonous and how to treat, since inducing vomiting is not always the solution.

Bleach is a toxic substance that many use in their household for cleaning. Hydrogen peroxide (3%) can be used as a alternative to clean the mold and mildew in the shower. Salt water or salt will clean tile, but don't use in on wood as it will destroy it.

**C. Next General Meeting—Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm at the Brecksville Community Center, Human Services Room. We will gather for a Holiday Social so bring a side dish to share.**

*Respectfully Submitted, Laurie Siebert*

Cc: E.Egut, J. Hajek, C. Jatsek, T. Dodd