

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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Free Disaster Preparedness Seminar for Bergen County Residents

North Jersey: The Alumni of Bergen LEADS (ABL), the graduate organization of the premier leadership program for adults in Bergen County, is hosting a one-night Disaster Preparedness seminar for Bergen County citizens to be presented by Bergen County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Disasters can strike at any time. Blizzards, drought, heat waves, floods, ice storms, and hurricanes are just a few in a diverse list of potential catastrophes that can threaten a community. Knowing what to do if a disaster forces evacuations or home confinement, or if basic services like water, gas, electricity or phones are cut off, can mean the difference between life and death.

Detective Gidget Petry, Bergen County OEM 's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordinator, will discuss how people can prepare for disasters before they occur, such as creating a personal disaster plan or assembling an emergency kit . She will also discuss how residents can become part of the nationwide CERT program by attending additional training courses offered throughout Bergen County.

“Local officials and relief workers may not be able to get to everyone immediately after a disaster strikes,” says Mary Swatek Hudson, graduate of the Bergen LEADS Class of 2009 and vice-chair of ABL. “Citizens may initially be on their own; they will need to know how to help themselves and their neighbors effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.”

The Disaster Preparedness Seminar will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Northern New Jersey Girl Scout offices at 300 Forest Avenue in

Paramus. This free seminar is open to the general public. Adults and children 12-17 may attend but pre-registration is required. E-mail amissey@bergenvolunteers.org by October 23rd to reserve a space.

Bergen LEADS and its alumni association, ABL, are sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. Founded by the Junior League in 1966, the mission of the Volunteer Center is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, to operate model volunteer programs, to build capacity for effective volunteering, and to participate in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

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