

Press Release
Borough of Westwood
Office of Emergency Management

**Bergen County Office of Emergency Management
Awards CERT / CART Certificates to Westwood Team**

12/6/13



(l-to-r – Christopher Miras, Pauline Mavridis, Christopher Morgan, Mayo Credle Jr. , Damon Vincenty, Beth Holmes, Janet Dunn, Matt D’Elia)

Challenging a graduating class of more than 340 Community Emergency Response Team and County Animal Response Team members to continue the FEMA vision of creating a “resilient and secure nation in the face of disasters and large scale emergencies”, FEMA Director of Preparedness David Musick offered his congratulations and his support of community based volunteerism. The graduation was held 12/6/13 in the Hall of Heroes at the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute in Mahwah.

Under the guidance of Bergen County Police Detectives Gidget Petry and Ronald Salzano, both also Deputy Coordinators of the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management, graduates completed course work and practical exercises during twelve sessions adding up to 36 hours of training from a number of subject matter experts.

CERT graduates trained in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, terrorism awareness and disaster medical

operations. Using their knowledge and skills CERT teams are prepared to provide for their own safety as well as assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available, or when the scope of a disaster requires manpower to support the efforts of first responders. CERT members are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. Currently, Westwood’s CERT graduates will work under the direction of the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management and will be available to serve the borough’s needs in a disaster emergency through Westwood’s Office of Emergency Management.

CART graduates trained in animal preparedness, rescue & evacuation, animal bite safety, handling livestock and sheltering companion animals. They are prepared to provide community awareness of disaster planning and preparedness for the families of companion animals as well as livestock, and to assist in emergency sheltering of companion animals. CART operates under the direction of the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management and in conjunction with the NJ Department of Agriculture.

Graduates also received certificates of commendation from the Bergen County Freeholders, and a personal commendation from County Executive Kathleen A. Donovan.

If you would like to learn more about CERT or CART, please contact Westwood’s Office of Emergency Management at:

DeputyOEM@westwoodnj.gov

or

201-664-7100 Ext. 123

Full list of Westwood graduates:

Mayo Credle, JR	CERT / CART
Matt D’Elia	CERT / CART
Janet Dunn	CERT / CART
Beth Holmes	CERT
Pauline Mavridis	CERT / CART
Christopher Miras	CERT / CART
Christopher Morgan	CERT / CART
Damon Vincenty	CERT / CART
Nick Ariemma, OEM Deputy	CERT / CART