

LETTER FROM THE COORDINATOR

I would like to thank everyone for attending the first meeting of the new year. We have a lot of events in the upcoming New Year. A couple of items that I would like to remind our volunteers of. As members of this organization we ask that you attend at least 2 meetings a year as well as participate in at least 2 events. Our organization has grown so much and my aspiration is that our group to be one of the best in Bergen County.

Volunteers are reminded to work on any outstanding courses that you may need to complete. The office is here if you need assistance with these classes as some of them can be difficult to take on line with no instruction. Courses that must be taken by all volunteers are ICS 100, 200, 700,800 and the CERT Training. As I mentioned at the meeting last week I will be working diligently to make sure that there is training at every single OEM meeting. The training that took place at the January Meeting was HAZCOM. For those who missed it please contact the office and we can assist you in making up the training. The new meeting schedule has been created and will be posted on the website in the next couple of days. Events will continue to be posted on the Website and in the monthly newsletter.

Our organization will also be looking to hold a RACES Ham Radio class within the upcoming months as well as another CERT class to start up in March. Yigal Rechtman has been appointed to our RACES Coordinator and we look to expand this group and become more active within our municipality as well as the county.

We have a lot of events coming up this year and I will try to keep everyone up to date on all the dates and what our tasks will be. Our equipment will be sorted once again in the spring and gone through. Minutes from the January Meeting will be sent out shortly so that those who did not attend may keep up to date with what is happening. However it is very important that you attend meetings.

I encourage all of our volunteers to sign up for **Nixle** as this platform sends out alerts from officials on weather, traffic and other various public safety messages. Tell a neighbor to sign up as well. Also continue to monitor our website and our **Facebook** page for weather postings and other announcements. Remember to stay safe and keep warm.

Sincerely,

Cathy Umrichin

Cathy Umrichin
OEM Coordinator

"Plans are nothing; planning is everything"
General Dwight D. Eisenhower

Every month there are different topics of preparedness. Below please find this month's topics. Additional information on these topics are also included in this newsletter.



FEBRUARY

Winter Storm

Extreme Cold

- Dress Warmly This Winter
- Heat Your Home Safely
- Six Ways to Protect Pets in Winter
- Important Dates to Remember



Important Dates to Remember

February 4-7: [National Sheriff's Association Winter Conference](#)

February 7: [FEMA Region II American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign and Pillowcase Webinar](#)

February 12-15: [2017 National Conference of Regions](#)

February 14-15: [National Tornado Summit](#)

February 23-25: [EMS Today - Journal of Emergency Medical Services \(JEMS\) Conference and Expo](#)

Keep snow and ice 3 feet away from fire hydrants.

In case of fire, firefighters need to be able to get to the hydrants quickly to protect people and property.

3 feet

U.S. Fire Administration | FEMA | Fire a Corporation's

The infographic features a red fire hydrant in the center, surrounded by snow. A red double-headed arrow below the hydrant indicates a 3-foot radius. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes. Logos for the U.S. Fire Administration, FEMA, and Fire a Corporation's are at the bottom.

winter weather tips:

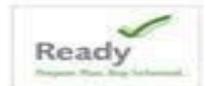
know winter weather terms.

- Watch=winter storm is possible in your area. Follow local officials and media for tips and updates.
- Advisory=conditions expected to cause major delays & may be hazardous. Use caution.
- Warning=winter storm is occurring or will occur soon your area.

winter storm tips.

- Prepare for possible power loss: add warm clothes to emergency kit, check flashlight (never use candles) & radio batteries, charge mobile devices, fill car tank, take cash out (ATM's may not work).
- Only use generators in open areas away from windows & home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Bring pets/animals inside and move livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.
- Travel only if necessary. Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle.
- Let family and friends know where you are. Check on neighbors before, during and after a storm to make sure they are OK.

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS.



Who to Call



Where to Meet



What to Pack

Ready

Winter Weather Travel Tips

- Follow directions from local officials
- Only travel if necessary
- Keep gas tank full and get car serviced before winter months

BUILD AN EMERGENCY CAR KIT

- Charged cell phone and portable charger
- Snack food and water (for each passenger & pet)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Basic tool kit
- Jumper cables, emergency flares and flags
- Warm clothes and blankets
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Road salt and sand
- Shovel and ice scraper

WHEN IT'S FREEZING...

- *LIMIT TIME OUTSIDE
- *CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS



DURING A SNOW STORM...

- *LISTEN TO LOCAL OFFICIALS
- *STAY OFF ROADS
- *CHARGE DEVICES IN CASE THE POWER GOES OUT
- *CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS



Dress Warmly This Winter

Remember to stay vigilant of the cold temperatures brought on by winter for both you and your loved ones. Here are some tips on how to keep warm when venturing out in the cold:

- Dress for winter weather by wearing several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, if possible, which are warmer than gloves.
- Cover as much exposed areas of your body as possible. This includes wearing a hat and scarf, insulated and waterproof shoes and covering your mouth to protect your face from cold and windburn. These tips can help to prevent loss of body heat.

Find more winter safety information in the America's PrepareAthon! [How to Prepare for a Winter Storm](#) guide.



DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

CHILLY

- 1-2 layers
- long layer
- outer layer to keep out wind, rain
- warm shoes water proof

COLD

- 2-3 layers
- gloves
- warm hat
- outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow
- boots water proof
- 1-2 layers

EXTREME COLD

- 3+ layers
- 1 insulating
- gloves
- warm hat
- face mask
- outer layer to keep out wind
- boots water proof
- 2+ layers

 weather.gov/safety

Heat Your Home Safely

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February. Make sure your home heating device is safe by following USFA heating tips to maintain a fire-safe home this winter.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three (3) feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Only use space heaters that have automatic shut off if it tipped over or becomes too hot.
- Use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen when using your fireplace.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.



For more information on how to keep specific heating devices safe, such as a furnace, space heater, kerosene heater, fireplace or wood stove, visit the USFA's Heating Fire Safety page.



Six Ways to Protect Pets in Winter

If it's too cold for you, it is probably too cold for your pet. Remember to bring animals inside.

Make sure your four-footed family members stay safe and warm by following these simple guidelines from The Humane Society:

- Remember to bring your pets inside. Do not leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops.
- Exposed skin on noses, ears, and paw pads are at risk for frostbite and hypothermia during extreme cold snaps. Even during short walks, short-haired dogs can become cold quickly and may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater.
- Rock salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet and may be toxic if ingested. Wipe all paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth. Use pet-safe products whenever possible.

If there are feral or stray cats in your area, they need protection from the elements as well as food and water.

- Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. Bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

If you encounter a pet left in the cold, politely let the owner know you're concerned. If someone you raise these concerns with continues to neglect their animals, follow these steps to report wintertime neglect.

For more information, visit the Humane Society or find Cold Weather Guidelines for Large Animals and Livestock on www.ready.gov.

Mark your Calendars



- **April 1st 2017**—Spring Cleanup
- **April 8th, 2017**—Spring Cleanup round 2
- **April 26, 2017** - OEM Meeting at 6 pm at Fort Lee Police Headquarters
- **May 1st—5th**— NJEPA Conference in Atlantic City—Last day for early bird registration is Feb 28.
- **May 7th** — Run The Palisades - at the Community Center.
- **May 21st**— Gran Fondo NYC
- **May 29th**— Memorial Day Parade
- **June 4th**— Fort Lee Arts & Music Festival on Lemoine Avenue between Main Street & Bruce Reynolds Blvd.
- **July 26th, 2017**—OEM Meeting at 6pm at Fort Lee Police Headquarters
- **October 25th, 2017**— OEM Meeting at 6pm at Fort Lee Police Headquarters

The Nixle logo features the word 'nixle' in a stylized font with an orange dot over the 'i'. Below it, the text 'RECEIVE COMMUNITY SAFETY ALERTS' is displayed. A smaller line of text reads: 'Stay connected to feeds from your local Police, your children's schools and other local organizations.' At the bottom of the graphic are two emergency lights, one blue and one red.

nixle
RECEIVE COMMUNITY SAFETY ALERTS

Stay connected to feeds from your local Police, your children's schools and other local organizations.

**Text 07024 to:
888777**

**STAY INFORMED ABOUT
EMERGENCY
SITUATIONS!**

Fort Lee Office of Emergency Management

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR VOLUNTEERS **FEBRUARY 2017 BIRTHDAYS**

Thomas Bennett—February 4th
Phil Triantafillou — February 16th
Elizabeth Bennett — February 26th