



Community Preparedness Team (CPT) Program

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

The New York Oath Keepers' Community Preparedness Team (CPT) program is part of a national Oath Keepers program designed to make America strong again, from the bottom up, by having well trained, experienced military, police, first responders, veterans and other members with specialized skills come together and lead the way in preparing their local communities for any disaster, either natural or man-made.

Our primary CPT team goal is to provide direct assistance to a community (as we did by guarding shops against arsonists in Ferguson, Missouri during the riots there), but first and foremost they should be a training cadre to train other groups and individuals in the critical skills they will need in any disaster:

1. Firearms training should be held at least once a year for those interested - whether we conduct training classes at the Chapter meetings, or, work with local gun ranges, etc. Local firearms training must be provided by certified instructors.
2. Encourage all members to get their pistol carry permits - although it is much more difficult to achieve this goal in the counties adjacent to NYC. But, members should make the effort no matter. Possibly, each Chapter could provide the information to its members on how to apply for permits in that County and provide the documents that are needed, to make the process simpler.
3. Basic Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training - on line - This is a great starting point for individuals who have no prior training. The CERT Program covers many aspects of training that is needed and is provided in a relatively simple to understand format.

Resource Information for “basic” training

- Website information for ICS and NIMS Training (ICS-100, NIMS-700)
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/is/ICSResource/TrainingMaterials.htm>
- Website information for CERT Training (IS-317, Intro Course)
<http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams/training-materials>

- Sources of additional training - SEMO (State Emergency Management Office), Red Cross, Volunteer Fire and Police organizations
4. Optional "Incident Management Training" should be made available for those members who are interested in moving up the chain of command, particularly as chapter leaders. ICS/NIMS training gives our members a better perspective of how to handle different types of emergencies and events, and, also could give insight into how the New York oath Keepers could work with or fit in within the framework of emergency services/incident command in real time events. Having this training also gives our organization credibility in the eyes of those who oversee large scale emergency events. (It might also help in overcoming the stigma that the Oath Keepers is an "extremist group"). Remember this is New York and not Missouri or Wyoming - what works in those states will not necessarily work here as our gun laws are completely different.

NOTE: We cannot put people into situations where they are not prepared or trained for otherwise the program fails. Chapters have to be realistic in their planning and expectations - Don't try to do too much, too fast. Establish a solid foundation. Evaluate the resources and talent that you have at hand in your Chapter and then plan accordingly. We must also consider liability for the individual Chapters, the State organization and officers, should something go wrong.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL

Every American should be trained to at least "Combat Lifesaver" level to provide immediate care for victims of severe trauma, whether it be a car accident, a gunshot wound, a chainsaw accident, etc. to save lives. Our second level is EMT, and third level is medic/paramedic.

1. Basic First Aid Training for members and offering training to the public - to be taught by the Chapter Medical Specialist (preferably an experienced Nurse, EMT or Paramedic). Suggested textbook for the training is 'the Combat Life Saver'. Another possible resource to consider would be the Red Cross. The Red Cross provides certified medical training (at least basic first aid) and provides a certification card to those who successfully complete the course. I believe that the local Red Cross Chapters will provide this training for a fee (per head). This might be something that we should look into. Again, there could be a liability issue here for the organization, if something were to go wrong and our people treat someone without "proper/approved" training.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

As the military saying goes, “if you ain’t got commo, you ain’t got jack.” Communications are critical. Every American needs to have at least a hand-held HAM radio and the knowledge to use it for local communications. We then work to get you up to General Class level to talk to your whole state or the nation.

1. Statewide Ham Radio system to be set up (currently under way under direction of our Statewide Communications Director, Pete Norris) with operators available to assist state, county and local emergency centers if needed. Check in with local CERT via weekly radio checks.
2. We should offer classes at the Chapter level. However, I think that we need to provide the specific information needed to set up the classes – who will teach the classes/contact information for instructors – how much will the training cost – what is the cost of the license? We could prepare a handout for each chapter that would provide all of the necessary information. We could also provide Comm for local events – parades, walks for different fundraisers, etc. all need Comm people along their routes. It might be something that the local OK Chapter could volunteer to do to help the community. Some members have done this in the past as members of a local Ham Radio groups and the organizations that we assisted were very appreciative of our help, and the relationships developed into a situation where our radio group participated in the events on a yearly basis.
3. Members should have a SSB Shortwave radio i.e. Tecsun PL 660 or PL880 to receive HAM frequencies. HAM CRAM classes should be an ongoing class to get members to tech level. The NYC Oath Keeper Chapter has been using encrypted email, text and cell phone as well as developing a chapter code book for operational communications.

SECURITY/TEAM TACTICS

Most American gun owners have little or no training in how to fight together, as a team. Whether it is a husband and wife, father and son, or neighbors, you need to know how to move, shoot, and communicate as a team. Bad guys, like MS-13 or ISIS, attack in teams. You need to know how to fight back as a team and how to form up a neighborhood watch to protect yourselves and each other. Security is everyone's responsibility, and our infantry and police veterans will teach you how.

1. All Members should receive Neighborhood Watch familiarization training.
2. Consider the creation of Statewide "Incident Management/Action Response Teams (SMART)" made up of volunteers who can pick up and go anywhere in NYS on short notice. Specialized training and equipment may be needed. We should model the team after the "Incident Management/Action Teams" that most states now have to deal with major events within their boundaries. As far as training, I believe that it should follow what the State IMT's have in place – requiring that certain levels of ICS/NIMS training has been taken and that the individuals are certified in those functions. (This training is available through the NYS Emergency Management Office – we might look into forging some kind of relationship with NYSEMO, where our members could obtain necessary training – at least for State officers and Chapter leaders). As for vetting prospective members of such a Team, I believe that a personal interview should be conducted, where the candidate would be asked to provide proof of background and credentials.
3. SMART TEAM LEADERSHIP: Qualifications must also be set for the leader of this type of team. Mobile Response Team members must be card carrying members only or well vetted friends of Oath Keepers. Anyone in a leadership role for this should have military or LEO background with possible EMT level medical training and HAM license. It is important to remember that certain areas of NYS face stricter restrictions than other areas of the State and may not be able to function as other areas of the State do (e.g. NYC, Long Island, and Westchester). All areas may not be able to operate similarly – what works in one area of the State may not work in other areas.
4. Self Defense Training: Chapters should consider providing basic training in self-defense. In NYS, this might be difficult to address because of all of the restrictions that we face. There are some security companies who offer this training (some of our members conduct such a training) and maybe we should investigate the possibility of setting up training of this sort on a more regional scale (multi-county/chapter training).

EMERGENCY ENGINEERING

In any emergency, whether it be during an ice storm, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or aftermath of riots and social breakdown, you need shelter, clean water, alternative power, transportation and delivery of supplies, and the ability to deal with fire dangers and hazardous materials.

1. General equipment: Members and the community should be encouraged to have ready access to backup generator, oil lamps, space heaters, stabilized gas (25 gallons), chain saw, hand tools, ABC fire extinguishers, H2O tabs or Brita type filters, means of securing ground floor windows and doors. Security cameras and night vision capabilities are a plus.
2. We should consider buying a trailer and stock it with items for major events. The trailer should have a generator, portable lighting, hand tools that could be used in almost any situation, fire extinguishers (various types), cots and blankets, water, personal gear for volunteers (helmets, gloves, goggles, flashlights, vests, etc.). Possibly, each Chapter could accumulate similar supplies and store them at a central location, where they could be easily accessed, when and if needed. Obviously, cost is a concern here, and not all Chapters have a budget that could absorb this expense. It might also be a good idea to consider having an assembly area, where supplies have been stored and members can meet, determine a plan of action and be able to defend (if necessary) a single location.

GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Americans are told by FEMA to be able to self-rescue and self-supply for at least 72 hours, but clearly emergencies can last much longer. You need to be able to take care of yourselves and each other for extended periods, including effective food storage. We will show you how.

Even if you are not a veteran, you are welcome to join us and get trained, and then help train others. We find that nearly everyone has some skill or life experience that is useful to the community, and we will help you pick a training track to focus on, and get trained up by more experienced team member mentors. And even if you have physical limitations that would prevent you from being on a field team, you can still help with support, security as a “home guard,” and logistics.

And if you already have an existing group, such as a neighborhood watch, church group, veterans group, political or social group, we would be happy to train your group in all of the above skills.

We believe that strong neighborhood watches (with teeth) are the most critical first steps toward a strong America, working from the bottom up to provide local security while we also strengthen what is already there (search and rescue, volunteer fire, volunteer emergency medical, CERT teams, reserve deputy and police auxiliary, etc.). We encourage the formation of Sheriff Posses behind constitutional sheriffs.

SUGGESTED PROGRAMS FOR THE CHAPTERS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Preparedness training/awareness for people in your county or town – New York Oath Keepers should establish guidelines. This should be an important part of a Public Relations campaign. It offers us the opportunity to become known in the community and potentially generate new membership. e.g., Preparedness Days in the Community, where members of Oath Keepers distribute information. Materials are available from FEMA and Flood Smart for free. You can obtain them by downloading the order form from their websites and ordering the pamphlets, booklets, etc. It may be a good idea to use an organization name other than Oath Keepers when ordering – e.g. a name with a community theme, e.g. Preparing _____ (your County). Public activities like this, will improve the organizations image, and clarify any misconceptions about Oath Keepers. These events can also be used for recruitment of new members. Sources for obtaining the information are listed below:

- For FEMA materials - <http://www.ready.gov/publications>
- For Flood Information materials - <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/national-flood-insurance-program-publications#1>

OUTREACH / SUPPORT OF POLICE – POLICES LIVES MATTER - Chapters in Fulton Co and Warren County have already stood in front of sheriff's and local police stations with signs that read "Police Lives Matter" and "We support the police" with very good response from the public and from the police themselves - this is a great program. – We (State OK) may want to put out an information bulletin to inform those who wish to organize one of these events, on the protocols that should be followed (notify local police agency, media, etc. – make your own video and put it on youtube or other social media sites). We can use previous best practices as the basis of this advice.

OUTREACH AND SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND VETERANS - If your chapter is located in an area where units deploy or return (e.g. Stewart Air Base in Orange County – Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island), you might consider going to the airport and wish the troops well as they deploy or thank them and welcome them home upon their return. We might also think about marching in any veterans parades, identifying ourselves as the local OK Chapter and thanking/supporting the veterans. One issue that I know that veterans could most likely use help with, especially in the bigger parades, is communications. Possibly, the local OK Chapter could provide Comm for a local parade.

BASIC FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING – Prepper training by Oath Keepers for the community is a good idea although we should call it “Basic family preparedness training” offered by your local Chapter of Oath Keepers. We could use the CERT training model for this, and use the materials associated with the CERT program. NYS OK should establish guidelines. Teach community members how to defend themselves if someone is breaking into their house. – We have done this already in our Westchester County Chapter and have a class designed for that purpose. We could expand the training for the community, without any problem. We could share this program with other Chapters if they would like it. NYS OK should establish guidelines.

CHAPTER PHONE TREES – Each chapter must set up an internal Phone Trees. – communications is critical in any emergency, and if you can’t contact the troops, the outcome will not be good.

MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS – a Mutual Aid system should be set up between chapters, particularly within each multi-chapter team area. – This could be very helpful if a chapter in a specific area has encountered a serious emergency, and supplies are limited, they could call on an adjoining Chapter or Chapters to possibly supplement the needs of the affected Chapter. It could also be used if one chapter is holding a “Police Lives Matter” or some other type of public function and needs additional personnel to help. Mutual Aid Chapters could also provide Comm and other needed functions.

NATIONAL OATH KEEPERS S.T.O.P. PROGRAM - In the wake of Umpqua Community College shooting, Oath Keepers to form college student groups on college campuses across the U.S. (starting here in Oregon) to teach the students to fight back. As part of its new S.T.O.P (Students Taking Over Protection) program, Oath Keepers military, police, and first-responder instructors will teach the students to fight back with empty hands, improvised weapons, knives, and firearms, and will teach them effective combat mindset and awareness techniques and strategies so the students can be their own “first-responders” and take out an active shooter. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ONLY EXPERIENCED, PROFESSIONAL SELF-DEFENSE PEOPLE TEACH THIS COURSE. - WE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER RECRUITING DEFENSIVE ARTS INSTRUCTORS.**

Before the NY Oath Keepers offer such training, however, we must consider the following:

FIRST - We would need permission from the school itself to conduct this training. If the school allowed us in, we would need to show that we were teaching a “certified” program, with “certified” instructors. In NYC, and the surrounding counties, we might have a serious problem obtaining access to the campuses, because of the liberal mindset of the schools and public administrations.

SECOND: We must investigate the potential for liability here which may be great for the overall OK organization. If someone was injured or worse, following instructions that we provided, we could face serious liability that could destroy our organization. The program is a good idea, but it has not yet been properly evaluated and we must work out all the details of how a program like this would be implemented in a way that best protects OK, our leaders and the students.

IDENTIFY LOCAL RESOURCES – Each chapter should identify locations in your community where you can obtain resources necessary to operate in an emergency (fuel, food, supplies, ammo, etc.). Make connection now, before they are needed. – I believe that it is important to realize, that our groups will be competing with other groups trying to obtain what they also need, during an emergency, and that supplies will be very limited. I suggest that Chapters consider stockpiling non-perishable supplies prior to an emergency (possibly in a central location), meaning that when an emergency occurs, there will be less items needed, during periods of limited supplies. Better preparation makes for a better outcome.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC – Chapters should host public meetings to teach local residents about the Constitution, origin of their rights, jury nullification and current violations of the Constitution like the NY SAFE Act, etc.

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