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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** July 19, 2011  
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**The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ, [www.ho-ho-kuscert.org](http://www.ho-ho-kuscert.org), recently held its first joint exercise in conjunction with the Bergen County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) unit in the cool weather and blustery winds of Saturday, April 16, 2011, at the parking lot of the Bergen County Community Services Center in Paramus, NJ. (see the accompanying photos IMG\_7100a.jpg; IMG\_7076a.jpg; and IMG\_7084a.jpg)**

**Stanley Kober (KC2ZXB), Ho-Ho-Kus CERT Manager and Bergen County RACES Deputy/CERT Liaison and Ronald Bosco (WB2GAI), Bergen County RACES Director and Radio Officer, organized and conducted the first such drill in Bergen County between the CERT and RACES organizations because the two groups complement each other in the skills**

**and needs of each organization during an emergency. Bosco said, “When an incident occurs in our area we are going to need the resources and skills of each group in order to fill in the gaps created during the emergency.”**

**The combined unit of RACES and CERT in Bergen County, “*Bergen County Emergency Response and Communications Team*”, conceived by and reporting to SGT Barry Leventhal, Bergen County Office of Emergency Management, welcomes all the CERT units in the various municipalities and all the radio operators in RACES and other amateur (“ham”) radio operators to participate in the joint drills and exercises.**

**Anyone wanting to join Ho-Ho-Kus CERT should go to the Ho-Ho-Kus website at [www.ho-ho-kuscert.org](http://www.ho-ho-kuscert.org) for information or contact Stanley A. Kober ([sakober@yahoo.com](mailto:sakober@yahoo.com)) at 201-445-1121 or pick up an Expression of Interest Card at the Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus Police Department at 330 Warren Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ.**

“...the Federal Government established the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program as part of the Citizens Corps to “stand in the gap” until professional responders have the ability to respond. CERT is designed as a “neighbor helping neighbor” program. [*Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus CERT Standard Operating Guidelines*]

**Those Bergen County residents outside Ho-Ho-Kus should contact Det. Gidget Petry ([petry@bcoem.org](mailto:petry@bcoem.org)), Bergen County Office of Emergency Management at 201-785-5746 for an**

## **application and to learn when the next scheduled training will begin to become CERT qualified.**

“CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.” [*Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus CERT Standard Operating Guidelines*]

**Anyone wishing to join the RACES organization and/or become a “ham” radio operator should contact Ron Bosco (WB2GAI) at 201-785-5750 or via e-mail at [nj2bc@aol.com](mailto:nj2bc@aol.com) or [wb2gai@aol.com](mailto:wb2gai@aol.com).**

[RACES volunteer operators are:

- Licensed Radio Amateurs
- Certified by a civil defense agency
- Able to communicate on Amateur Radio frequencies during drills, exercises and emergencies
- Activated by local, county, and state jurisdictions and are the only Amateur Radio operators authorized to transmit during declared emergencies when the President of the United States specifically invokes the *War Powers Act*.
- Protocols embraced by RACES volunteers across the nation include the *National Incident Management System* (NIMS), which provides a consistent nationwide template to enable federal, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents]