

CERT—What is it?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community. CERT is a nationwide initiative.

The events of September 11 will never be forgotten; also not forgotten is how the spirit of America was awakened that day and citizens came forth to volunteer their services. President George W. Bush harnessed this spirit of volunteerism with the Citizen Corps program. CERT is a part of the Citizen Corps Program.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

Course Overview

The CERT training consists of 20 hours of instruction over an eight-week period. Classes are taught by emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency medical and law enforcement personnel from your community.

The course includes the following:

Session I: Disaster Preparedness

Introduction to disasters specific to the community, and the impact of disaster on infrastructure.

Session II: Disaster Fire Suppression

Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards and basic fire suppression.

Session III:

Disaster Medical Operations Part I

Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions and principles of triage.

Session IV:

Disaster Medical Operations Part II

Head-to-toe patient assessment and treatment for various injuries.

Session V:

Light Search & Rescue Operations

Techniques for sizing up and searching, lifting, cribbing and removing victims; rescue safety.

Session VI:

Disaster Psychology & Team Organization

The post-disaster emotional environment will be discussed. CERT organization, decision making and documentation.

Session VII: Terrorism

A brief overview of terrorism weapons. Identifying targets in an area and discuss time/distance/shielding.

Session VIII: Final Exercise

Disaster Simulation realistic to your community.

CERT Training Will Teach Participants to:

- Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and communities.
- Describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response.
- Take steps to prepare themselves for disaster.
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and workplaces.
- Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources, and safety measures to extinguish a burning liquid.
- Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating shock.
- Conduct triage under simulated conditions.
- Perform head-to-toe assessments
- Select and set up a treatment area.
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds.
- Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations.
- Describe the most common techniques for searching a structure.
- Use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication.
- Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue.