

Community Emergency Response Team



Department of Homeland Security
Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate
FEMA

Introduction

- ◆ The purpose of the Community Emergency Response Team program (CERT) is to provide disaster preparedness and training to community members



Concept of CERT

- ◆ Developed by Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985
- ◆ Recognized that citizens would likely be on their own during the early stages of a catastrophic disaster
- ◆ Local citizens need basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills to survive until first responders arrive



Training Program

The training program initiated proved to be so beneficial that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encouraged the concept and the program to be made available to communities nationwide.

Therefore creating
C.E.R.T.

Community Emergency
Response Teams



What is CERT?

- ◆ The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



How Does CERT Benefit the Community?

- ◆ If a disaster happens, CERT members can give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives.



How Does CERT Benefit the Community?

- ◆ CERT members may volunteer to assist first responders with evacuation, at shelters, or with damage assessments



How Does CERT Benefit the Community?

- ◆ CERT members can also assist with non-emergency projects that improve the safety of the community such as distributing disaster education material.



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Why Take the CERT Training?

- ◆ A disaster can overwhelm the community's immediate response capability. While adjacent jurisdictions, State and Federal resources can activate to help, there may be a delay for them getting to those who need them.
- ◆ People will want to act and help. We have seen this time and again in our history. CERT training teaches skills that people can use to safely help while waiting for responders. The alternate is to do nothing and that is not in our nature.

Basic CERT TRAINING

Basic CERT Training is designed to:

- ◆ Prepare local citizens to help themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods in the event of a catastrophic disaster for up to **72 hours** until first responders can arrive.
- ◆ Prepare local citizens to extinguish small fires, turn off natural gas inlets to damaged homes, perform light search and rescue, render basic medical treatment, and assist disaster survivors cope with their emotional stressors



Basic CERT TRAINING

- ◆ Individual CERT member
- ◆ Community CERT Teams
- ◆ Neighborhood Association CERT Teams
- ◆ Private Business/Industry CERT Teams
- ◆ Teen CERTs (High School)



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- ◆ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwV3e1XfIF0>



CERT Requirements

- ◆ 20 hours of training
- ◆ Volunteers can be any community member who is 18 years or older (under 18 - parent supervision unless it is Teen CERT)
- ◆ Physical strength is not a requirement. There are many different tasks that do not require any lifting.
- ◆ Free trainings and opportunities to participate in exercises will be offered so that CERT members can maintain skills or further their training

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Additional CERT Training Opportunities

- ◆ Weather spotter
- ◆ Damage assessment
- ◆ Shelter management
- ◆ Community relations
- ◆ Donations management
- ◆ Volunteer Management
- ◆ Concerns for persons with functional/access needs
- ◆ Debris removal
- ◆ Utilities control
- ◆ Outreach Events



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Any Questions?

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