



Q: What is CERT?

A: 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. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, **CERT** members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. **CERT** members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Q: How does CERT benefit the community?

A: People who go through **CERT** training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes or workplace. If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capability, **CERT** members can apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercises to give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives. When help does arrive, **CERTs** provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed, at the disaster site. **CERT** members can also assist with non-emergency projects that improve the safety of the community. **CERTs** have been used to distribute and/or install smoke alarms, replace smoke alarm batteries in the home of elderly, distribute disaster education material, provide services at special events, such as parades, sporting events, concerts and more.

Q: How do I take CERT training?

A: To become a **CERT** member, you will have to take the **CERT** training from a sponsoring agency like an emergency management agency, fire department or police department in the area where you live or work. Contact the local emergency manager where you live or work and ask about the education and training opportunities available to you. Let this person know about your interest in **CERT**.

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.

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