Community Emergency Response Team

Department of Homeland Security
Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate
FEMA

citizen corps
Please ask yourself . . .

As an individual, what could I do to assist my community during a widespread emergency or disaster?

If another natural disaster or terrorist attack should occur, am I ready to help myself, my family, my friends, my neighbors and my colleagues?
“We want to be a Nation that serves goals larger than self. We have been offered a unique opportunity, and we must not let this moment pass.”

President George W. Bush
State of the Union, January 29, 2002
Community Emergency Response Team

- During widespread disaster, trained volunteers have the ability to assist in emergency response during critical first hours before sufficient first responders (firefighters, EMTs) can replace them.

- Areas of emphasis for CERT Teams:
  - Natural Emergencies
  - Man-made Disasters
  - Terrorism
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is a FEMA approved program that educates citizens about the hazards they may face in their community and trains them in lifesaving skills.
CERT training is based on a model created by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department to respond to earthquake related emergencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began to promote nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994. Since then, CERTs have been established in hundreds of communities.
The basic CERT training program includes both academic and hands-on instruction.

The course consists of 27 hours of instruction, often taught as 7 weekly sessions (each 3 hours long), followed by a 6 hour session that includes a course review and a simulated disaster training exercise.
Program Objectives

- Promotes partnership between emergency management, response agencies and people in the community.

- Goal is to train members of neighborhoods and workplaces in basic response skills.

- CERT Teams are often formed and maintained as an integral part of the emergency response structure.
CERT Training

- Disaster Preparedness & CERT Organization
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations
  - Triage and Treating Life Threatening Injuries
  - Assessment, Treatment and Hygiene
- Light Search and Rescue
- Team Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT
- Final Exercise
Target Audience

- Neighborhoods
- Businesses
- Communities of Faith
- Scouting Organizations
- School Staff / Students
- Clubs / Organizations
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services
Non-disaster CERT Roles

CERT members can:

- Distribute preparedness materials.
- Staff first aid booths at special events.
- Assist with installation of smoke alarms.
CERTs in a Disaster Setting

- Assist first responders when requested
- Initially assume many of the same functions as response personnel as necessary until help arrives:
  - Fire safety
  - Light search and rescue
  - Disaster medical operations
CERTs should respond by:

- Locating and turning off utilities, if safe.
- Extinguishing small fires.
- Treating injuries.
- Conducting light search and rescue.
- Helping to relieve survivor stress.
Additional CERT Training Opportunities

- Shelter management
- Community relations
- Donations management
- Special needs concerns
- Debris removal
- Utilities control
- Advanced first aid
- Automated External Defibrillator use
- CPR Skills
Summary

- CERTs are among a variety of agencies and personnel who cooperate to provide assistance in the aftermath of a disaster.
- CERTs have proven themselves to be invaluable in the areas in which they were tested.
- CERTs have become a key component of the Citizen Corps program.
Join the Team…

CERT TRAINING

*GREATLY ENHANCES*

INDIVIDUAL AND

COMMUNITY READINESS