

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

What is CERT?

Local government prepares for and responds to many emergencies in the county. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. The Community Emergency Response Team program involves all-hazard training for citizens in the community. This valuable course is designed to help protect your family and your neighborhood in emergency situations.

CERT is a realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be “on their own” and their actions can make a difference. Persons without training will respond to others in need. One goal of CERT is to train them to do so effectively and efficiently without placing anyone in unnecessary danger. In CERT, citizens learn how to:

- Manage utilities (cutting utilities off)
- Put out small fires (Use of a fire extinguisher)
- Administer disaster first aid
- Search for and rescue victims
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.
- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

How long is the course?

The CERT program is a 16-hour instructional course and is taught in a time schedule to meet your community needs. We can bring the class to your organization or group. We have teams established to teach CERT and each instruction team has expertise from many different professions such as fire, emergency management, Red Cross, health and many more. They will teach your community group, organization, neighborhood watch group or you how to be prepared for an emergency.

For more information, contact the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management at (615) 862-8530.