

WHAT IS CERT ?

Local governments prepare for and respond 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 (CERT)** program teaches all-hazards training for citizens in the community. This training is geared towards groups interested in forming a **CERT** team. This free and invaluable training is designed to help you help 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 be able to respond effectively and efficiently without placing anyone in unnecessary danger. In **CERT**, citizens will gain valuable knowledge in:

- Disaster Preparedness (Hazards, disaster kits/plans, utility shut off, etc.)
- Terrorism Awareness
- Fire Suppression (includes hands on activity)
- Disaster Medical First Aid (includes hands on activity)
- Disaster Medical Triage (includes hands on activity)
- Light Search & Rescue (includes hands on activity)
- Disaster Psychology & more!!

Have you ever seen one of these before?



If you have gas in your home, then you should know how to turn off your **GAS METER** in case of an emergency!

Do you know how to administer **DISASTER FIRST AID**? How about having to administer first aid to dozens of victims? We have experts that can show you the basics.



Have you ever used a **FIRE EXTINGUISHER**? What if there was a small fire and the fire department couldn't reach you right away? Do you know how to safely extinguish a fire before firefighters arrive? Now you will!



Do you have an **EMERGENCY DISASTER KIT** in your home? Do you know what items are necessary in this kit? How about how to create a Family Emergency Plan? We will advise you how to do this as well!

How long is the course?

The **CERT** program is a 16 hour instructional course and is taught in a time schedule to meet your groups needs, either during the week, weeknights or weekends; we will work with you to find the best available time for everyone. We will bring the entire class to your location. There are just a few logistical items we would need to coordinate with you for this class, but you will be very pleased with the end result for your team.

We have teams of subject matter experts to teach the **CERT** Program. Our instructional team have expertise from many different professions such as the Nashville Fire Department, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, American Red Cross, Metropolitan Health Department, and many more. They will teach you, your community group, organization, neighborhood watch group or church group how to be prepared for any emergency!

For More Information:

Mayor's Office of Emergency Management
2060 15th Ave South
Nashville, TN 37212
Phone: 615-862-8530
Email: oem@nashville.gov

www.nashville.gov/oem



How did CERT start?

1985: The idea to train volunteers from the community to assist emergency service personnel during large natural disasters began. In February of 1985, a group of Los Angeles city officials went to Japan to study its extensive earthquake preparedness plans. Single-function neighborhood teams were trained in either fire suppression, light search and rescue operations, first aid, or evacuation.

In September 1985, a Los Angeles city investigation team was sent to Mexico City following an earthquake there that registered a magnitude 8.1 on the Richter scale and killed more than 10,000 people and injured more than 30,000. Mexico City had no training.

The lessons learned in Mexico City strongly indicated that a plan to train volunteers to help themselves and others, and become an adjunct to government response, was needed as an essential part of overall preparedness, survival, and recovery.

1986: The City of Los Angeles Fire Department developed a pilot program to train a group of leaders in a neighborhood watch organization. A concept developed involving multi-functional volunteer response teams with the ability to perform basic fire suppression, light search & rescue, and first aid. The first team of 30 people completed training in early 1986 and proved that the concept was viable through various drills, demonstrations, and exercises. Expansion of the program, however, was not feasible due to limited city resources, until an event occurred in 1987 that impacted the entire area.

1987: On October 1, 1987, the Whittier Narrows earthquake vividly underscored the threat of an entire area-wide major disaster, and demonstrated the need to expedite the training of civilians to prepare for earthquakes and other emergencies.

1993: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decided to make the concept and program available to communities nationwide. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI), in cooperation with the LAFD, expanded the CERT materials to make them applicable to all hazards.

2002: In January 2002, CERT became part of the Citizen Corps, a unifying structure to link a variety of related volunteer activities to expand a community's resource for crime prevention and emergency response.

2003: As of July 2003, 48 states and six foreign countries are using CERT training. Nashville started its program in October of 2003.



Mayor's Office of Emergency Management

2060 15th Ave South

Nashville, TN 37212

Phone: (615) 862-8530

Fax: (615) 862-8534

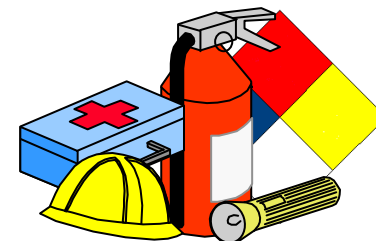
Visit us at www.nashville.gov/oem



ADA Contact:
Kevin Penney, 862-8530

Community
Emergency
Response Team
Training

CERT



Metro Nashville

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a cooperative effort between the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management and other Metropolitan Agencies and Corporate Sponsors to educate and train the community on response and recovery efforts during catastrophic events in Nashville/Davidson County.

For more information:
615-862-8530 or www.nashville.gov/oem