CERT Training
Empowering Citizens to Prepare for and Respond to Disasters & Emergencies

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Ghosts of Katrina: Natural Disasters and Community Resilience
June 5-6, 2009
Abstract

- Citizens must be prepared for emergencies and disasters. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training provides citizens with skills, knowledge, and tools to prepare and respond to a variety of natural and man-made emergency events. CERT training is 20 hours of classroom lecture and hands-on activities developed by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and funded through state homeland security offices. Becoming CERT certified helps citizens in the event a disaster or emergency impacts their community.
Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT) is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security program that educates citizens about hazards and trains them in lifesaving skills so that they are better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities.
Emergency services cannot meet immediate needs after a disaster, especially if there is no warning.
Why CERT?

- Designed to help you protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors in an emergency situation or aftermath of a disaster
- Learn basic skills to handle your own needs and respond to your community’s needs
- Respond to others in need without endangering yourself
Why CERT?

- CERT is ALL-RISK, ALL-HAZARD training.
- CERT training is a personal insurance policy—you may never use it, but you will be prepared if you have to!
Los Angeles city officials traveled to Japan in February 1985 to learn about earthquake preparedness. They found that Japanese communities and neighborhoods had teams of citizens who could provide emergency aid—fire suppression, light search & rescue, first aid, and evacuation.
In September 1985, the LA planners traveled to Mexico following the devastating earthquake and found:

- Untrained volunteers had spontaneously tried to do search & rescue saving nearly 800 people BUT over 100 volunteers died as they tried to help
- Government officials learned that volunteers needed training to help themselves & others
In 1987 the city of Los Angeles took an aggressive stance to protect citizens and created an Emergency Preparedness Office to:

1. Educate and train the public and government sectors in disaster preparedness
2. Research, evaluate, and disseminate disaster information
3. Develop, train, and maintain a network of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).
In 1993, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) decided to take the program national and broaden its training to include all forms of disasters & emergencies.

Today CERT is part of the Citizen Corp

http://www.citizencorps.gov/
What Does CERT Teach?

- Manage utilities and put out small fires,
- Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock
- Provide basic medical aid
- Search for and rescue victims safely
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective
- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts
What Does CERT Training Involve?

- **Unit 1 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:** Introduction to disasters, impact of disasters on infrastructures, the role of CERTs in disaster response.

- **Unit 2 DISASTER FIRE SUPPRESSION:** Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards, basic fire suppression strategy, resources and techniques.
What Does CERT Training Involve?

- **Unit 3 DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS - PART 1:**
  Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions and principles of triage.

- **Unit 4 DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS - PART 2:**
  Head-to-toe assessments, treatment for various injuries.
What Does CERT Training Involve?

- **Unit 5 LIGHT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS:**
  Techniques for size-up and search, lifting, cribbing and removing victims, rescuer safety.

- **Unit 6 PRE-STORM CERT OPERATIONS:**
  Protecting your home from severe weather, personal readiness, CERT equipment, organizing your team.
What Does CERT Training Involve?

- **Unit 7 POST-STORM CERT OPERATIONS:** Organizing, deploying teams, communications, and recovery
- **Unit 8 TERRORISM & CERT:** Explains and identifies elements of a terrorist attack and the role of CERTs in response to an attack
How Do You Get Involved?

- Decide that you can sponsor training!
- Schools, churches, neighborhood associations, etc. can form Teams
- Secure a location for the training
- Publicize in local newspapers & post flyers
- Contact local EM for support
- Recruit 25 volunteers
CERT Training at GCRL

- 20 hours of lecture & hands-on training over 2.5 days
- Provide kits with tools, first aid, etc.
- Participants: librarians; physical plant staff; technical staff; MS Department of Marine Resources; Red Cross volunteers; OS Emergency Manager
CERT Training at GCRL
Other Training Opportunities

- Emergency Management Institute
  - http://training.fema.gov/
    - Residential program
  - http://training.fema.gov/IS/
    - Distance learning
Why CERT?
Questions?

Acknowledgement: