



WHAT IS A CERT? A CERT is a group of responsible, trained individuals who have come together to form a skilled group of Disaster Service Workers. The CERT Program can be used in neighborhoods, businesses, and schools. The CERT members realize that in the event of a major disaster they will have to rely on their neighbors and themselves to handle emergencies until professional help arrives.

THE INSTRUCTION: The 24 hour course covers topics such as Introduction to Disaster Preparedness, First Aid, Light Search and Rescue, Fire Suppression, and Disaster Psychology.

Residents that complete the entire CERT Training Program are certified Disaster Service Workers, ready to help their neighborhoods in the event of a disaster.

October 15, 16, 22, 23, 2010

CLASS SCHEDULE (Beginning CERT):

Friday, Oct. 15, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Saturday, Oct. 16, from 8:00am to 5:00pm
Friday, Oct. 22 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Saturday, Oct. 23, from 8:00am to 5:00pm

LOCATION:

Los Alamitos Military Base
11200 Lexington Drive
Los Alamitos, CA 90740

All four days equal one class.

REGISTRATION: Go to www.westcountycert.com to register, send an email to westcountycert@yahoo.com or call (562) 799-4100 x1121.

Class is \$13 per person. Please bring a check or money order to the first class.

Space is limited.

ARE YOU PREPARED? Recent California history has shown the need for neighborhoods, schools, & businesses to rely on themselves for a minimum of 7 days to 2 weeks following a major earthquake.

WEST COUNTY CERT is comprised of those who live and/or work in Buena Park, Cypress, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Westminster and their attached communities. For questions or problems, please contact Marie at westcountycert@yahoo.com. To find a class in a city near you, go to www.citizencorps.gov/cert/.



Frequently Asked Questions

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. With this training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

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. CERT members can also assist with non-emergency projects that improve the safety of the community and have been used to distribute disaster education material, provide services at special events, such as parades, sporting events, concerts and more.

Q: Why take the CERT training?

A: While State and Federal resources can activate to help, there may be a delay for them getting to those who need them. The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help. While people will respond to others in need without the training, the goal of the CERT program is to help people do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

Q: Who can take the training?

A: It is open to anyone 18 years or older; 16+ with parent or guardian permission; 14+ with parent or guardian participation

Q: What if I want to do more than just the basic training?

A: CERT members can increase their knowledge and capability by attending classes on animal care, special needs concerns, donation management, community relations, shelter management, debris removal, utilities control, advanced first aid, Automatic External Defibrillator use, CPR skills, and others. CERT member also can use their skills to help the program flourish by volunteering to schedule events,.

Q: How do CERT members maintain their skills?

A: CERT members and the local sponsoring agency work together to maintain team skills and the working partnership by attending refresher classes and an annual exercise where all CERT members are invited to participate. Some response agencies have conducted joint exercises with CERT teams and operate as they would during an actual disaster.

Q: What if I have concerns about my age or physical ability?

A: There are many jobs within a CERT for someone who wants to be involved and help, such as documentation, comforting others, logistics, etc. Non-disaster related team activities may include keeping databases, developing a website, writing a newsletter, planning activities, helping with special events and organizing exercises and activities.

During CERT classroom training, if one has a concern about doing a skill like lifting, just let the instructor know. You can learn from watching. We would like everyone who wants to go through the training to have an opportunity to participate and learn the skills. CERT educates participants about local hazards and trains them in skills that are useful during disaster and life's everyday emergencies.

Q: What about liability?

A: The text of the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 is available for viewing. Also there is information about State Liability Laws located on the Citizen Corps website. During training, each sponsoring agency should brief its CERT members about their responsibilities as a CERT member and volunteer.