

Training:

The CERT course is delivered in the community by our Fire Department personnel who have the requisite knowledge and skills to instruct the sessions. Community volunteers will need to complete a basic 20-hour training course to be a fully qualified CERT member. The training consists of the following:

Session I, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: Addresses hazards to which people are vulnerable in our community and covers actions that participants and their families should take before, during, and after a disaster.

Session II, DISASTER FIRE SUPPRESSION: Covers fire chemistry, hazardous materials, fire hazards, and fire suppression strategies. This session includes the safe use of fire extinguishers, sizing up the situation, controlling utilities, and extinguishing a small fire.

Session III, DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS PART I: Participants practice diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding, and shock by using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques.

Session IV, DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS, PART II: Covers evaluating patients by doing a head to toe assessment, establishing a medical treatment area, performing basic first aid, and practicing in a safe and sanitary manner.

Session V, LIGHT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS: Participants learn about search and rescue planning, size-up, search and rescue techniques, and most importantly, rescuer safety.

Session VI, TEAM ORGANIZATION AND DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY: Covers signs and symptoms that might be experienced by the disaster victim and worker. It addresses CERT organization and management, the need for documentation, and applicable laws governing volunteers in our city.

Session VII, COURSE REVIEW AND DISASTER SIMULATION: Finally, volunteers practice the skills that they have learned during the previous six sessions in a disaster activity/exercise.

Conclusion:

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and *doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people*. It is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities; extinguish small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective. We hope you'll consider joining our team. Call the number on the front of the brochure for additional information and/or an application.

CITY OF BROOK PARK, OH

COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
TEAM



Department of Public Safety
6161 Engle Road
Brook Park, OH 44142
216-433-1300



Thank you for your interest in our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Our community implemented the CERT Program to serve a critical support role to the First Responders of the city in the event of a disaster, either natural or manmade. The CERT will perform many tasks which can complement the response of the Police, Fire, Service and Building Departments. Some of these tasks may include: search and rescue, administration of basic first aid, conducting emergency shelter operations, and working with public utilities. These responsibilities will require individuals of various ages, skills, and abilities, so we encourage all residents, 18 years of age and older, to apply. Our CERT Program is a valuable asset to our community because concerned citizens like *you* are making a difference.

About CERT

Introduction:

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow

employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake, and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

First, present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services. Second, give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Third, train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Fourth, organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

Background:

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a

major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees.

The training program that LAFD initiated makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the importance of preparing citizens. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy adopted and expanded the CERT materials believing them applicable to all hazards.

The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it by better preparing each individual to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Also, if a community wants to supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business, and government teams to assist its first responders. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster.