

Why Join Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)?



In the ebb and flow of our busy lives, the possibility of severe weather or natural disasters are real and you should be prepared. The CERT program is a safe and fun way to learn about disasters and how to better prepare yourself and your family. Along the way, you will learn many valuable skills, including how to properly shut off your utilities in an emergency, how to operate a fire extinguisher and much more. You will also be trained in basic disaster response skills.

CERT classes are free. There are no physical requirements; anyone over the age of 14 can participate.

CERT training is the perfect way to help our community during those times when the local, state, and federal help is overtaxed. During the first few hours and days after a disaster, families, neighborhoods, and businesses will be on their own. By joining CERT you will learn basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training, you can then assist others in your neighborhood or workplace following a disaster. CERT teams are known and trusted resources to emergency responders and their communities.

History:

1985

Feb.- Los Angeles City officials go to Japan to study their extensive earthquake preparedness plan. Japan trained entire neighborhoods in one of four aspects of disaster recovery: fire suppression, light search & rescue operations, first aid, or evacuation.

Sept. - an LA City investigation team travel to Mexico City following an 8.1 earthquake that killed more than 10,000 and injured more than 30,000 people. Mexico City had no training program prior to the disaster. However, large groups of volunteers organized themselves and performed light search and rescue operations. **Volunteers are credited with more than 800 successful rescues; but unfortunately, more than 100 of these untrained volunteers died during their 15-day rescue operation.** The lessons learned in Mexico City indicated a plan to train volunteers to help themselves and others was needed as an essential part of overall preparedness, survival, and recovery.

1986

City of Los Angeles Fire Department develops a pilot program, a concept involving multi-functional volunteer response teams with the ability to perform basic fire suppression, light search and rescue, and first aid.

1993

FEMA decides to take the concept and program nationwide. The Emergency Management Institute, expanded CERT materials making them applicable to all hazards.

2004

All 50 states, three territories and six foreign countries use the CERT training program. There are currently over 2,700 local CERT programs nationwide, with more than 600,000 individuals trained since CERT became a national program.

CERT classes will begin Friday, April 13. For more information check out their FACEBOOK page.



Basic Community Emergency Response (CERT) Training

Aumsville CERT is offering a FREE training. It is a 21 hour Basic Training course. Upon successful completion, students are eligible to join a local CERT team. However, you're not required to join a team in order to take this training. Anyone over the age of 14 may attend.

Please register at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/490b48a9aa2da4fb6-basic>

Fri., Apr. 13 - 6-9 pm / Sat., Apr. 14 8am-5pm
Fri., Apr. 20 - 6-9 pm / Sat., Apr. 21 8am-5pm

Location: Aumsville Fire Station, 490 Church St., Aumsville

TOPICS COVERED

Disaster Preparedness
Fire Safety and Utility Controls
Disaster Medical Operations I and II
Light Search and Rescue Operations
CERT Organization
Disaster Psychology
Terrorism and CERT
Course Review and Disaster Simulation