

It starts with YOU!

CERT is an integral part of Citizen Corps, the initial movement that actively involves everyone in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger, and better prepared. All over America, communities have organized Citizen Corps Councils to inspire people to take action and get involved.

No matter where you live, no matter who you are, we all have a role in hometown preparedness. What role will YOU play?

"We will find ways to train and mobilize more volunteers to help when rescue and health emergencies arise."

President George W. Bush



For more information about becoming a CERT member and helping prepare your community, contact the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services.



**GEAUGA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES**

12518 Merritt Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024

Director: Dale B. Wedge
1-440-279-2170

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The CERT program was made possible by resolution of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners.

**GEAUGA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY
SERVICES**

Community Emergency Response Team

Local training for a safer community.



Distributed by the Geauga County
Department of Emergency Services and:

About CERT...

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, using the model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, began promoting nationwide use of the CERT concept in 1994. Since then, CERT's have been established in hundreds of communities.

CERT is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency service personnel may not be able to reach everyone immediately. By becoming trained as a CERT, you will acquire the skills necessary to help emergency responders save lives and protect property.

As a member of a CERT team, you may respond to disasters, participate in drills and exercises, and take additional training. CERT teams are a trusted resource in their communities.



In 95% of all emergencies, the victim or bystander provides the first immediate assistance on the scene. Would you know what to do?

CERT in emergencies

Under the direction of local emergency responders, CERT teams may help by:

- Giving immediate assistance to victims
- Providing Damage assessment info
- Organizing volunteers at the disaster site
- Shelter support
- Crowd control
- Evacuation
- And more

CERT in the community



Local CERT training being held at the Russell Fire Department

Aside from the role of supporting emergency responders during disasters and emergencies, the CERT program builds strong working relationships between emergency responders and the people they serve. Also, CERT teams benefit the community year round by helping with community emergency plans, neighborhood exercises, preparedness outreach, fire safety education and workplace safety.

CERT Training

CERT training is generally about 20 hours and provides critical skills in emergency preparedness and response.

*Photos courtesy of the Russell Auxiliary Force

CERT Training cont...

Participants who complete the training will have acquired skills in identifying and anticipating hazards, reducing fire hazards, extinguishing small fires, assisting emergency responders, conducting light search and rescue, setting up medical treatment areas, applying basic medical techniques and helping reduce survivor stress, to name a few.

CERT Needs You:

- People interested in taking an active role in their community
- Neighborhood Watch Groups
- Community leaders
- Parents
- Communities of faith
- Scouting and youth organizations
- Students, teachers, and administrators
- Members of clubs and civic organizations

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