



Montgomery County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team/Training) Who We Are & What We Do

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The CERT Concept



- Started by Los Angeles, CA Fire Dept after Mexico City earthquake in 1986
- Recognized the importance of neighbors helping neighbors, especially in the first 72 hours after a disaster strikes
- FEMA's National CERT Program, developed in the early 90's is locally administered by MC Fire Rescue Service, which provides standardized training
- One of five federal programs promoted under Citizen Corps
- Volunteer emergency workers who have received specific training in basic disaster response skills, and who agree to supplement existing emergency responders in the event of a major disaster
- Provide critical assistance when professional responders are not immediately available to help

Civilian auxiliary - similar to Civil Defense

CERT performs a large number of tasks needed in emergencies. This frees other professional responders for more technical tasks.

CERT training includes the Incident Command System and organization, so CERT members fit easily into larger command structures.

Although individual members may assist when their own neighborhood is affected by disaster, in Montgomery County they do not self-activate (self-deploy)

A CERT member may help size-up the loss in their neighborhood and begin performing the skills they have learned to minimize further loss of life, property, and environment but once first responders arrive we stand down unless officially deployed.

CERTs perform:

- Triage victims involved in a mass casualty situation
- Data gathering, especially to locate mass-casualties requiring professional response, or situations requiring professional rescues
- Simple fire-fighting tasks (for example, small fires, turning off gas)
- Light search and rescue
- Damage evaluation of structures
- First Aid & CPR/AED

In the longer term, CERTs may assist in

- The evacuation of residents
- Assist with setting up a neighborhood shelter
- Safety escorts for areas affected by a disaster or fire



Community-based Training Program

- Train community residents in disaster preparedness
 - 5 week, twice a week – FREE 30 hour training program (e.g. Wed 7:00pm – 9:00pm & Sat 9:00am-1:00pm)
 - Fire Extinguisher/ Fire Safety
 - Disaster First Aid/ Triage (RPM)
 - Mass Casualty Operations
 - Light SAR
 - Lifts and Carries
 - Damage Assessment
 - Haz Mat Awareness
 - Disaster Psychology
 - NIMS & ICS
 - Basic Radio Procedures
 - CPR/AED

Other MCCERT Offerings

- Half day “Storm Camps” for parents & “Storm Pirates” for children
- Outreach programs
 - NIH & NCI – Take Your Child to Work Day
 - Planned Events – Go-Team events
 - First Aid stations
 - Crowd Control
 - Parade Marshals
 - Roving Emergency Teams
 - Lost Children
- Assist OEMHS in training exercises
- Assist HHS with Donation Management in Shelters

Go-Team Activities

Supporting MCFRS, MCPOD, OEMHS, & HHS

- High Rise Evacuation
- Post Fire Escort
- Search and Rescue
- Damage Assessment
- Evacuations
- Neighborhood Windshield Surveys or On Foot Damage Assessment.
- Light SAR
- Triage and Rapid Trauma Assessment
- Basic Life Support
- Shelter Management
- Donation Management
- Crowd Control

Montgomery County, MD CERT

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