



The national Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program trains volunteers to prepare for the types of disasters that their community may face. Through hands-on practice and realistic exercises, CERT Volunteers:

- Learn how to safely respond to man-made and natural hazards;
- Help organize basic disaster response; and
- Promote preparedness within their communities.

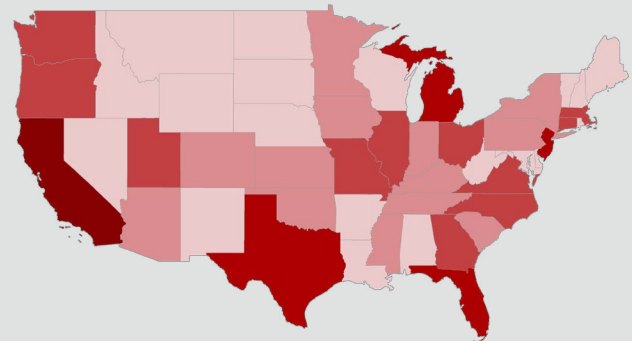
CERT Volunteers aim to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

Since 1986, **more than**

600,000 individuals

have completed **CERT training.**



Specialized CERT Programs:

- Campus CERT
- Teen CERT
- Workplace CERT



Members Learn:

- Light search and rescue
- Disaster medical operations
- Fire safety and utility controls
- Leadership in disasters
- Traffic and crowd management



CERT and the National Qualification System

The National Qualification System (NQS) is a collection of documents that describe the minimum criteria for responder qualifications. It was developed to create consistency for responders when working on incidents, including outside their home area. FEMA is developing Job Title/Position Qualifications and Position Task Books for three key CERT positions: CERT Volunteer, CERT Section Chief, and CERT Team Leader. These documents cement CERT in the National Response Framework. It is not mandatory for CERTs to participate in NQS, but will be encouraged to be consistent with the National Incident Management System. These documents can be found on the Resource Typing Library Tool: <https://rtlt.preptoolkit.fema.gov/Public> once published.



Nationwide, there are more than **2,800+ local CERTs**. **CERT Volunteers build preparedness** by organizing their communities before disasters.



There is a role for everyone in CERT. Speak with your local **CERT Program Manager** to learn how to get involved.

Prepared to Act

CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks.

Trainings and Tools

Online and in-person courses, as well as other local training activities, help CERT Volunteers to be ready when disaster strikes.

Full Courses

IS-317-Introduction to CERT (Online):

An independent study course that serves as an introduction to CERT.



CERT Basic Training Course:

Delivered in the community by a team of first responders and other qualified volunteers, this course is the foundation of the program.



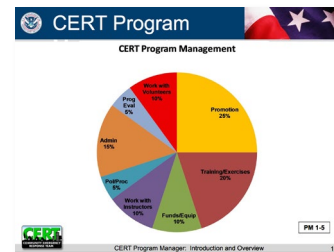
CERT Train the Trainer:

Experienced CERT leaders teach new CERT trainers how to train their own teams.



Program Manager:

New CERT leaders learn how to start, develop, and sustain local CERTs.



Additional Resources



Hazard-Specific Training

Additional training modules allow communities to provide more in-depth training on the hazards they are most likely to face.



Specialized Modules

CERT Volunteers build robust skill sets through trainings on advanced topics such as emergency communications and animal response.



Inclusive Training

Accommodations to make CERT training accessible for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.



Community-Based Trainings

Many CERT training materials and program management tools are available free of charge.

Get more information at ready.gov/CERT.