

CERT-What is it?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community. CERT is a nationwide initiative.

The events of September 11 will never be forgotten; also not forgotten is how the spirit of America was awakened that day and citizens came forth to volunteer their services. President George W. Bush harnessed this spirit of volunteerism with the Citizen Corps program. CERT is a part of the Citizen Corps Program.



The CERT training consists of 20 hours of instruction over an eight-week period. Classes

are taught by emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency medical and law

enforcement personnel from your community. The course includes the following:

Session I: Disaster Preparedness
Introduction to disasters specific to the community, and the impact of disaster on infrastructure.

Session II: Disaster Fire Suppression
Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards and basic fire suppression.

Session III: Disaster Medical Operations
Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions and principles of triage.

Session IV: Disaster Medical Operations cont
Head-to-toe patient assessment and treatment for various injuries.

Session V: Light Search & Rescue Operations
Techniques for sizing up and searching, lifting, cribbing and removing victims; rescue safety.

Session VI:
Disaster Psychology & Team Organization
The post-disaster emotional environment will be discussed. CERT organization, decision making and documentation.

Session VII: Terrorism
A brief overview of terrorism weapons. Identifying targets in an area and discuss time/distance/shielding.

Session VIII: Final Exercise
Disaster Simulation realistic to your community.

CERT Training Will Teach You to:

- Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and communities.
- Describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response.
- Take steps to prepare themselves for disaster.
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and workplaces.
- Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources, and safety measures to extinguish a burning liquid.
- Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating shock.
- Conduct triage under simulated conditions.
- Perform head-to-toe assessments
- Select and set up a treatment area.
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds.
- Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations.
- Describe the most common techniques for searching a structure.

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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue.

Role of CERTs in an Emergency

The Lodi CERT has been utilized to:

- Staff our Emergency Operations Center and monitor events
- Evacuate and transport children from a child center with a noxious discharge and set up a reception center to reunite them with their parents
- Evacuate and transport displaced residents from fires and flooding
- Set up and staff temporary shelters during Hurricanes Irene and Sandy and other storms

Other CERTS have been used to:

- Search for lost or kidnapped children
- Emergency Operations Center security; driving, information, assisting disabled visitors and minor first aid
- Manage “spontaneous/convergent” volunteers
- Assist Red Cross and other relief organizations on mass care

How Can I Join?

To become a Lodi CERT member you must be at least 18 years of age. If you want to volunteer your services and become trained to protect yourself and families from disasters; natural or man-made

For more information, contact the Lodi Office of Emergency Management at 973-365-4005 x333, or send us an e-mail at

LodiOEM@gmail.com



Become a



VOLUNTEER

*Be Part of an
Organized
Team Trained
To Protect &
Save Families
& Communities*