

What is CERT ?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area. CERT also trains them in basic disaster response skills. Skills include fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the skills gained in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can



CERT team members organizing to help their neighborhood.

assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event

when professional responders

are not immediately available to help. CERT members are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.



There are many sources available to you for disaster preparedness!

Check out some of these:

www.ready.gov

www.emd.wa.gov

Pierce County Emergency Management offers PC-NET classes to help you and your neighbors prepare.

Contact: Barbara Nelson (253) 798-6595



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Become A Member of the Team!

Get Ready!



Contact: 253-582-4600
for more information

Why is CERT important?

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as the number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing the emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.



CERT members are trained to help their community.

Under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other.

Trained individuals can do the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

What can CERT members do to help?

CERT is about readiness, neighbor helping neighbor, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

How are CERT members trained?

The CERT course is delivered in the community by a team of first responders who have the requisite knowledge and skills to instruct the sessions. The CERT training for community groups is usually delivered in 2 1/2 hour sessions, one evening a week over a 7 week period, but is very flexible.

What topics are covered in CERT training?

- Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Fire Suppression
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search & Rescue Operations
- Disaster Psychology
- Team Organization



Help your community—become a CERT volunteer