

Douglas County, KS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



An Introduction to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Did you know...

- ▶ There is a very good chance that your community will be on its own during the early stages following a disaster.
- ▶ After a disaster, citizens will volunteer to help. Without proper training these people can expose themselves to potential injury and even death!
- ▶ Experience has shown that basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills improves the ability of citizens to survive until responders or other assistance arrives.

The Douglas County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

The Douglas County Emergency Management Agency is a part of a national network of CERT communities. Douglas County Emergency Management has developed a program that is designed to help individuals prepare for and respond after disasters such as tornadoes, fires, and other major emergencies.

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for the area.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, CERT members can assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills they learned during training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives. CERT skills also apply to the recovery portion of disaster response and to daily emergencies.

CERT In Action



Once trained, a CERT member will be able to provide the following services to their community:

- ▶ Increase their disaster readiness
- ▶ Assess damage after a disaster
- ▶ Extinguish small fires
- ▶ Perform light search and rescue



Free training begins:

**Tuesday,
April 3, 2012
6:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Nazarene Church
1470 N 1000 Road
Lawrence, KS**

Douglas County Emergency Management

CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM FREE TRAINING

Training Information

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Nazarene Church
1470 N 1000 Road
Lawrence, KS

Participants must attend all sessions to be eligible for a certificate!

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|-------------------|---|
| Tuesday, April 3 | CERT Introduction Disaster Preparedness Pets in Disasters |
| Tuesday, April 10 | Disaster Medical Operations, Part 1 |
| Tuesday, April 17 | Disaster Medical Operations, Part 2 |
| Tuesday, April 24 | Light Search and Rescue |
| Tuesday, May 1 | Disaster Fire Safety |
| Tuesday, May 8 | NO CLASS |
| Tuesday, May 15 | Disaster Psychology Terrorism and CERT |
| Tuesday, May 22 | Disaster Scenario |

Schedule is subject to change.

Class size is limited to 40 students. Register early!!

Call 785-832-5260 or e-mail smeggison@douglas-county.com to register.

CERT Course Content

The basic course will include several components necessary to get the team started and become capable of performing basic CERT functions. The free, 24-hour course concludes with an exercise where CERT members put into practice the skills they have learned in a simulated disaster scenario. Certificates are issued upon satisfactory completion of the course.

Participants will learn:

Disaster Preparedness: Identification of disasters that might threaten our community and the impact on local infrastructure, structural and nonstructural hazards; learn about personal safety and secondary hazards; learn how to deal with pets in disasters.

Terrorism & CERT and Disaster Psychology: Explains and promotes the “if you see something, say something” campaign. Covers critical incident stress for victims as well as workers.

Medical Operations: Recognition and assessment of life threatening situations including triage and treatment; public health considerations and practices during a disaster.

Fire Safety: Basic fire situation size-up and fire suppression; firefighting resources and firefighting safety; ways to reduce fire hazards; recognition of hazardous materials threats and how to respond.

Light Search & Rescue: Includes aspects of planning search and rescue size-up; using common techniques for searching a structure; debris removal and victim extrication; search and rescue safety.

Disaster Scenario: A small-scale disaster scenario is the final part of the training certification.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is CERT?

CERT is about:

- Readiness to respond
- People helping people
- Rescuer safety
- Doing the greatest good for the greatest number

CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency situations where ordinary citizens will be initially on their own, and where their actions can make a difference!

What is a CERT member?

A CERT member is a person who is trained to prepare for and respond after a disaster in their community. A group of ten or more members of a neighborhood, apartment complex, business, or similar residential area comprise a team.

Who may join CERT?

Anyone over the age of 18 who is interested in helping his or her community prepare for a disaster and provide assistance afterward may join CERT. Team training is preferred, however persons may be trained even if they are not affiliated with a team.

How much does it cost?

The training is free to the participants.

Where can I get more information about the CERT program?

Contact Douglas County Emergency Management at (785) 832-5260 or e-mail: smeggison@douglas-county.com. CERT program information and preparedness tips are available at www.douglas-county.com/depts/em/em_home.aspx.





Douglas County Emergency Management

CERT
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TEAM
TRAINING REGISTRATION

Provide either work or home information.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Fax (785-832-5101)
Mail (111 East 11th Street, Unit 200, Lawrence, KS 66044)
E-mail (smeggison@douglas-county.com)