

Role of CERTs in an Emergency

CERTs have been used to:

- Search for lost or kidnapped children
- Staff the Emergency Operations Center and monitor events
- Emergency Operations Center security; driving, information, assisting special needs, minor first aid
- Manage “spontaneous volunteers”
- Assist other relief organizations

How can I Join the team?

To become a CERT member

- you must be at least 18 years old
- Complete the Gloucester CERT application
- Pass a background check
- Complete the CERT training program

For more information, contact
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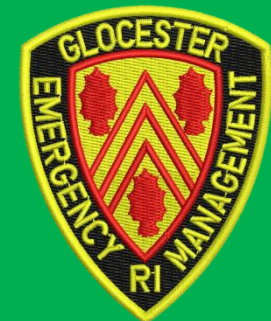
FEMA

Become a



VOLUNTEER

*Be part of an organized team
trained to protect and save
families in your community
during times of need or
disaster.*



What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood, civic groups or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The Whole Community CERT Mission:

It is the mission of the Whole Community CERT Project to organize existing members of church and civic organizations and provide training to those members so that they will be able to support the overall and comprehensive emergency response system of the Town of Gloucester during times of emergency and disaster.

Course Overview

The CERT program is free, 20 hour training program taught over an eight week period. Instructors are emergency responders, firefighters, emergency medical and law enforcement personnel and others from the community. The course includes the following:

Session I: *Personal and family preparedness for disasters*

Session II: *Fire safety*

Session III: *Medical Operations*

Session IV: *Light duty search and rescue*

Session V: *CERT organization*

Session VI: *Disaster psychology and mental health first aid*

Session VII: *CERT and terrorism*

Session VIII: *Team exercise and graduation*



Glocester Emergency Management Agency



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CERT Training will teach participants to:

- Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect your homes and communities
- Describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response.
- Take steps to prepare themselves and family members for a disaster.
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in your 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.
- Use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extraction.
- Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue.

Within the first five minutes of a disaster, all available resources will have been committed, leaving you, your family, neighbors or co-workers to help yourselves. CERT can minimize the effects of a disaster and facilitate recovery.