

Preparing a Community

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, 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; provide basic medical aid; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help. While people will respond to others in need without the training, the goal of the CERT program is to help people do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

FEMA supports CERT

The Village of Huntley

Sergeant Michael Hewitt
10987 Main Street
Huntley, Illinois 60142
www.huntley.il.us

Phone: 847-669-9600
Fax: 847-515-5245

The Village of Huntley

An Introduction to the Community Emergency Response Team

CERT



Will you be prepared in the event of a disaster?

CERT *Benefits our Community*

Introduction to CERT

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing 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.

By predicting that emergency services will not meet immediate needs

following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in a tornado, and people will spontaneously volunteer, the government can assist with preparing citizens through the CERT program.



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 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.

Training provided

The CERT training is usually delivered in 2.5 hour sessions, one evening a week over a 7 week period. Topics discussed include:

- Disaster preparedness
- Team organization and disaster psychology
- Medical operations
- Damage assessment
- Disaster simulation
- Fire suppression
- Light search and rescue

Who may join

There are many jobs within a CERT for someone who wants to be involved and help. Following a disaster, CERT

members are needed for documentation, comforting others, logistics, etc. Non-disaster related team activities may include keeping databases, developing a website, writing a newsletter, planning activities, helping with special events and organizing exercises and activities. Concerns of age or physical abilities should not be an issue. We would like everyone who wants to go through the training to have an opportunity to participate and learn the skills. CERT educates participants about local hazards and trains people in skills that are useful during disaster and life's everyday events.

If you are interested in participating in CERT, please plan on attending an informational meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the Village Hall located at 10987 Main Street.