

## CERT in Disasters

Following a major disaster, first responders may not be able to meet the demands for these services. Factors, such as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens maybe initially isolated and their actions can make a difference.



## Why Should I Join CERT?

Your community needs you! Join CERT if you want to have the opportunity to:  
Educate yourself, your family, and others about preparing for emergencies.  
Help your neighbors in times of disasters.  
Strengthen your relationship with your community.

## Where can I get more information about the CERT program?

Contact the City of Pittsburgh Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

412-255-2633

[pittsburghemergencymanagement@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:pittsburghemergencymanagement@pittsburghpa.gov)

## CERT Website Resources:

### City of Pittsburgh OEMHS

<https://pittsburghpa.gov/oemhs/cert>

### FEMA

[https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/welcome-to-cert?language=en\\_US](https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/welcome-to-cert?language=en_US)

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and

**X**

## City of Pittsburgh

Office of  
Emergency Management  
and Homeland Security



## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



Office: 412-255-2633

Email: [pittsburghemergencymanagement@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:pittsburghemergencymanagement@pittsburghpa.gov)

# Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

## What is CERT?

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are groups of community-based volunteers trained in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation techniques. The team responds to help their neighbors in times of disaster and crisis situations.

## CERT Mission

To work in partnership with state and local public safety responders and the community to create a pool of citizens trained in disaster preparedness and response; to provide leadership and coordination during an emergency and for immediate assistance to victims.



## CERT Team Training

CERT team training provides team members with classroom and hands on training in real-world emergency response procedures.

Training includes:

- Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Utilities Shut Off
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Triage
- Stop the Bleed
- CERT History
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism
- Light Rescue



## CERT Team History

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985; as a result of earthquakes in Southern California CERT to address the need for training civilians to meet immediate needs in a major Emergency.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognized the value of preparing citizen to respond to assist government in an emergency. FEMA adopted and expanded the CERT materials making them applicable to All Hazards Incidents.

