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412-255-2633



# CERT in Disasters

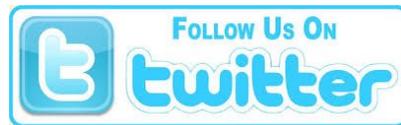
Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services may not be able to meet the demands for these services. Factors, such as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services. People will have to rely on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



What is the City of Pittsburgh

# CERT

Program?



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

## 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 officials 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.



## 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.



## What is a Community Disaster Network?

Community Disaster Networks refer to the contacts CERT members establish within their community districts. To develop these networks, teams reach out to colleagues and organizations in their neighborhoods and capture information about resources, skills, or other details that might be used to help the community better respond to or recover from a disaster. More importantly, these networks help teams connect their communities with preparedness and recovery resources.



## CERT Training

CERT training provides team members with classroom and hands on training in real-world emergency response procedures. The CERT training for community groups is usually delivered in 2.5 hour sessions, one evening per week, over a 7 week period. Training that will be administered includes:

- Disaster preparedness
- Fire safety and utilities
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Team organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism Awareness



## Training Benefits Everyone!

Joining a CERT team not only helps our community, it helps our own families! Knowing your family is safe during a time of crisis will help you proceed confidently into your community to help others who are victims of the disaster.

**The training you receive teaches you the safety procedures that will save your life!**