



CERT Gear

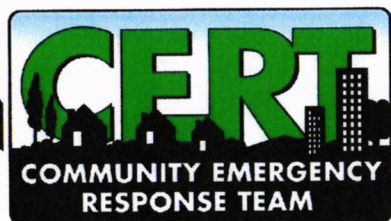
Back pack, ANSI Vest
Helmet, Gloves
Flashlight, Safety Goggles



**BUTLER COUNTY EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY**



Butler County Community Emergency Response Team



513 785-5810

website: <http://www.butlercountyohio.org/ema/>

INTRODUCTION

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. Community based preparedness planning allows us to prepare for and respond to anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster. As individuals, we can prepare our homes and families to cope during the critical period.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the City of Los Angeles Fire Dept (LAFD) in 1985. They recognized that citizens would very likely be on their own during the early stages of a catastrophic disaster and initiated some basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills for survival until responders or other assistance could arrive. In 1994, the Emergency Management Institute in

cooperation with the LAFD, expanded the CERT materials to make them applicable to all hazards.

In 2003, President Bush asked all Americans to volunteer in the service of their country. CERT training was selected as one of the primary programs offered to meet the challenge of harnessing the power of every individual through education, training and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, public health issues and disasters of all kinds. This training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are unavailable. With training and practice and by working as a team, you will be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number of victims after a disaster, while protecting yourself from becoming a victim.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of people organized as a team that receives special training to enhance their ability to recognize, respond to and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation. Teams are trained by the Butler County Emergency Management Agency in areas that will help them take care of themselves and others before, during and after a major emergency. As an organized team, individuals can provide vital services in the absence of and while waiting for the arrival of emergency responders, and they often assist once responders arrive.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is an all-risk, all-hazard training. This valuable course is designed to help you protect yourself, your family, and your neighborhood in an emergency situation.

While people will respond to others in need without the training, one of the goals of the CERT program is to help them do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

CERT recognizes that a well prepared community is a vital resource. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and blocked roads 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 sustaining needs.



As a part of the Butler County CERT training, citizens learn to:

- Manage utilities and put out small fires
- Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock
- Provide basic First Aid and CPR
- Search for and rescue victims safely
- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts
- Identify impending severe weather through Weather Spotters training with the National Weather Service



CONCLUSION

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. People who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards. We are committed to making this program widespread throughout Butler County.

Start a CERT in your Community.....

CERTs can be created within already organized groups in your community. Some examples include....

- Neighborhood Watch Organizations
- Businesses
- Faith Based-Groups
- Scouting Organizations
- School Staff/Students

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