What is CERT?

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program is all-risk, all-hazard training. This valuable course is designed to help you protect yourself and others in an emergency situation.

CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and their actions can make a difference. While people will respond to others in need without the training, one goal of the CERT program without the training is to help them do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger by giving them basic training.

CERT History

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 created an awareness of the area-wide threat of a major disaster. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees. FEMA made this training available nationally in 1993. Since this time, CERT programs have been established in more than 340 communities in 45 states.

CSU CERT Team

The **Community Emergency Response Team at CSU** is made up of campus community members who are willing to get involved and lend a hand in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. Team members undergo an extensive 20-hour training program which emphasizes hands-on-practice. Classes are taught by trained emergency professionals, including fire fighters and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel.
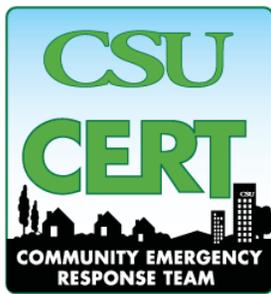
CERT Training Topics

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search and Rescue
- CERT Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism & CERT

CERT Benefits

The CERT course benefits any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, if a community wants to supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business, and government teams that, in essence, will be auxiliary responders. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster.

You will be part of a well-respected team of individuals who care about their community and enjoy working with our local safety forces and other like-minded citizens.

Who is Able to Participate?

Anyone 18 years of age or older, or 14 years of age and accompanied by an adult, who is a Cleveland State University community member.

We Want YOU On Our Team!

If you are interested in knowing more about how you can become a valuable community resource in the event of an emergency, then CERT is for you!

Name
_____

Address
_____

City, Zip
_____

Home Phone
_____

Work Phone
_____

Cell Phone
_____

E-mail
_____

Please return this form to:

CSU CERT
Cleveland State University
2121 Euclid Avenue . Cleveland, OH, 44115
216-687-9323
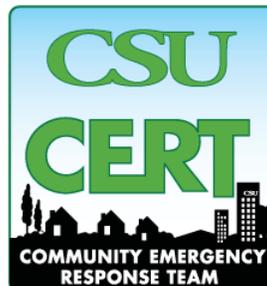www.csuohio.edu/offices/police/safety/cert.html

Campus Safety

All Campus Emergencies - Call 9-1-1. Cell phone users should tell the operator you need the CSU Police. All emergenices: ambulance response (injury/medical condidtion), chemical/hazardous materials spills, crime, and fire.

University Police--Chester Building Annex Non-Emergency 216/687-2020.

Environmental Health and Safety--Plant Services Building. 216/687-9306, 3715, or 7588.

Access Control and Security Systems
216/687-5046

The CSU Alert System allows the University to contact the CSU community in the event of an emergency by sending messages via: voice message (mobile or land-line), text message, or e-mail. www.csuohio.edu/offices/accesssecurity/alertsystem.pdf

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.

CSU CERT website:
csuohio.edu/offices/police/safety/cert.html

FEMA/CERT website:
training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT