

Douglas County, KS

Community Emergency Response Team



An Introduction to CERT

Did you know...

- ▶ There is a very good chance that your community will be on its own during the early stages following a disaster.
- ▶ After a disaster, citizens will volunteer to help. Without proper training these people can expose themselves to potential injury and even death!
- ▶ Experience has shown that basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills improves the ability of citizens to survive until responders or other assistance arrives.

The Douglas County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

Douglas County Emergency Management is part of a national network of CERT communities that uses a program designed to help individuals prepare for and respond after disasters such as tornadoes, fires, and other major emergencies.

CERT training promotes a partnership between emergency services and the people they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for the area.

When a disaster or emergency overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, CERT members assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills they learned during training. These skills help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives. CERT skills also apply to the recovery portion of disaster response and to daily emergencies.

CERT In Action



TRAINING

Next **free** training offered:

Friday, April 12, 2019
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 14, 2019
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**At Flory Meeting Hall,
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Lawrence, KS**

Participants must attend the entire weekend to receive a certificate suitable for framing!



CERT Course Content

The basic course includes several components necessary to get citizens trained and capable of performing basic CERT functions. The **free** training concludes with a simulated disaster where CERT members put into practice the skills they have learned. Certificates are issued upon satisfactory completion of the course.

Participants will learn:

Disaster Preparedness

- How to identify the types of threats possible in our community and their impact on the local infrastructure; structural and nonstructural hazards; personal safety and secondary hazards; how to deal with pets in a disaster.

Terrorism & CERT and Disaster Psychology

- Explains and promotes the idea of situational awareness. Covers critical incident stress for victims and workers.

Medical Operations

- Recognizing, assessing, and treating life threatening situations during a disaster.

Fire Safety

- Basic fire situation size-up and fire suppression; firefighting resources and firefighting safety; ways to reduce fire hazards; how to recognize hazardous materials threats and how to respond safely as a CERT member.

Light Search & Rescue

- Includes how to plan for search and rescue; using simple techniques for searching a structure; debris removal and victim extrication; search and rescue safety.

Skills Test

- A small-scale skills test, covering topics taught in the course, is the final part of the training certification.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is CERT?

CERT is about:

- Readiness to respond
- People helping people
- Rescuer safety
- Doing the greatest good for the greatest number

The CERT concept is a realistic approach to emergencies where ordinary citizens will be on their own initially and where their actions do make a difference!

What is a CERT member?

A CERT member is a person who is trained to prepare for and respond after a disaster in their community. A team is comprised of Douglas County Emergency Management volunteers.

Who may take the CERT training?

Anyone over the age of 18 who is interested in helping their community prepare for a disaster and provide assistance afterward may take the CERT training.

How much does it cost?

The training is free to the participants.

How do I sign up for the Fall 2017 CERT Basic Training?

Call 785-832-5259 or

e-mail kdinneen@douglascountyks.org or

visit <http://bit.ly/2au4JGn>

Where can I get more information about preparedness?

Contact Douglas County Emergency Management at

<http://www.douglascountyks.org/depts/emergency-management>

