

CERT is about

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

CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency situations where ordinary citizens will be initially on their own, and where their actions can make a difference.

Through training, local citizens can manage utilities, put out small fires, provide basic medical aid, search for and rescue victims safely, and organize spontaneous volunteers to be an effective part of the emergency response.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks. Through CERT, the capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is built and enhanced.

When able, Douglas County Emergency Management hosts this Free CERT course in the Spring and Fall. Course instruction takes place Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Email emergmt@douglascountyks.org or call (785) 832-5259 if you or your organization or business is interested in participating in our next CERT Course!



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Douglas County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



Where individuals are empowered to help their neighbors and family before, during and after a disaster!

WHAT IS CERT?



CERT training promotes a partnering effort between local 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 their area.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional responders, CERT members can assist others where they are by applying the basic response and organizational skills they learned during training. These skills can 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 Training Topics

- **Disaster Preparedness:** Identifying disasters that might threaten our community and their impact on local infrastructure, structural, and nonstructural hazards; and learning about personal safety and secondary hazards
- **Disaster Medical Operations:** Recognition and assessment of life-threatening situations including triage and treatment; and public health considerations and practices during a disaster
- **Light Search & Rescue:** Includes aspects of planning; search and rescue size-up; using common techniques for searching a structure; debris removal and victim extrication; and search and rescue safety



Training Topics Cont.

- **Fire Safety:** Basic fire situation size-up and fire suppression; firefighting resources and firefighting safety; ways to reduce fire hazards; and recognition of hazardous materials threats and how to respond
- **Other Topics:** Team organization, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism, CERT decision making, and the relationship of CERTs to the local emergency response Incident Command System
- **Disaster Simulation:** The course concludes with an exercise where CERT members put into practice the skills they have learned in a simulated disaster scenario.



Certificates are issued upon satisfactory completion of all course sections.