

# Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

## Florida CERT Program Guidance

### What You Learn in CERT

**24-30 hours of classroom training**

- Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness
- Unit 2: Fire Safety and Utility Controls
- Unit 3-4: Disaster Medical Operations
- Unit 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations and Victim Care
- Unit 6: CERT Organization
- Unit 7: Disaster Psychology
- Unit 8: Terrorism and Hazardous Materials Safety
- Unit 9: Course Review, Final Exam, and Disaster Simulation

### Core Messages

Safety, Preparedness/Self-reliance, Leadership, Teamwork, Practice, Everyone has a place, Problem solving, Part of the solution not the problem, Doing the greatest good for the greatest number in the shortest amount of time

### CERT Add-On Training

- Animal Response
- Emergency Communications
- Flood Response
- Firefighter Rehab
- Logistics
- Mass Care
- Points of Distribution (POD)
- Shelter Operations
- Traffic and Crowd Management
- Volunteer and Donations Management

### Common CERT Activities

- Animal response
- Call Center
- Community event support
- Donation Management
- Education outreach
- Firefighter rehab
- Flood response
- Logistic Support
- Shelter Operations
- Traffic and crowd control
- Volunteer Management

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for all hazards that may occur where they live. CERT trains volunteers in basic response skills, such as: fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

The CERT program offers a consistent approach to volunteer training that professional responders can rely on, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

There are various CERT Programs throughout the State of Florida; Campus CERT, Adult CERT, Teen CERT, Workplace CERT.

### Leadership Training

- CERT Program Managers Course
- CERT Train-The-Trainer Course
- FCA CERT Team Leader Academy

## CERT PROGRAM PROCESS

A CERT Program can exist as a City or County CERT, Teen CERT, Campus CERT, or Workplace CERT.

- Connect with Volunteer Florida and register your Program.
- Be Sponsored by one of the three: Emergency Management, Fire Department or Law Enforcement
- Be approved by the State-level government.
- Designate a Program Manager.
- Conduct the CERT Basic Training Course and a CERT exercise or drill at least once a year
- Must conduct the CERT Basic Training course in its entirety in accordance with the standardized CERT curriculum,
- All CERT Basic Training should have a certified CERT Instructor in the room whose responsibility it is to make sure the standardized CERT curriculum is fully covered.
- All program and training records are to be maintained at the local level by the registered CERT Program. Certificates of course completion are issued by the official sponsoring agency.
- Teen, Campus, and Workplace CERT programs should limit their response activities to campus/workplace property. However, such can form terms of formal agreement to work with the local government sponsor to support CERT activities elsewhere.



**Find a CERT Program Near You**



[Register a CERT Program](#)

[Register a Florida CERT Program with Volunteer Florida](#)

## Deployment Process

State Emergency Operations Center is activated for an event

- Local County Emergency Management requests support of CERT Teams from outside their jurisdiction in WebEOC (local teams do not need to be requested, use county policies for local deployments)

Stipulations for requesting CERT Teams:

- All CERT requests must come from County Emergency Management through WEBEOC
- Request should include timeframe of mission
- Duties to be performed
- Number of personnel
- If lodging has been identified

Volunteer Florida will work with FCA and Local County CERT Program Managers to fill the request

- Sponsoring Agency determines if a team or individual is deployable
- Volunteers must complete FDEM CERT Liability Authorization Form
- Signed by Sponsoring Agency and FDEM

Volunteer Florida will coordinate deployment and update WebEOC Mission

## Program Funding Sources

Volunteer Florida administers Florida's CERT/Citizen Corps program and funding through Volunteer Florida's Foundation. Typically funding announcement is sent out annually around May or June. To make sure you receive emails from Volunteer Florida, go to our website [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org) and sign up for our Newsletter.

- Interested parties may apply for funding for a CERT program, a Citizen Corps program, or both. If seeking funding for both CERT and Citizen Corps, a separate application must be submitted for each. Each subgrant application may request what they anticipate is needed (not to exceed \$10,000), but awards may be restricted to \$5,000.
- The CERT program is a training program that allows citizens to receive training in basic disaster response skills which allow these volunteers to provide critical support, giving immediate assistance to victims before emergency first responders arrive on scene.
- Eligible applicants include local units of government, counties and cities within the State of Florida, Fire Tax Districts, other tax districts, regional planning councils, state-supported community colleges, colleges and universities, and federally recognized tribes or nations within the State of Florida.

## Florida CERT Association

The **Florida CERT Association (FCA)** is a 501(c)3 (not-for-profit) organization established in 2001 with the primary goal of supporting the statewide training and education in disaster planning/emergency preparedness for citizens and established CERT teams.

The Association, in concert with local, state and federal agencies, serves as a mentoring and resource asset for local CERT teams and programs. From Fire Chiefs to Fire Marshals, all board members are volunteers from the fire service and emergency management arenas who donate their time to assist in the organization and the education of CERT programs within the State of Florida.

A component of resources provided is an annual statewide conference where CERT teams are able to learn from subject matter experts on a variety of topics designed to enhance individual and team performance. Team members also have the opportunity to drill and network with like motivated CERT graduates from all around the state of Florida.

To learn more about FCA go to <https://www.flacertassociation.org/>

