Vallejo Fire Department Citizen Emergency Response Team CERT

Citizen Emergency Response Team



The CERT Program

- What is CERT?
- How it Began
- How it is Funded
- The Curriculum
- The Long Term Plan
- Questions/Comments/Suggestions

CERT – What it is, and isn't...

CERT- Citizen Emergency Response Team

- Designed as a neighborhood based program
- Enables neighborhoods to assess and help themselves until we can arrive
- o Lightens the load on all emergency responders, hospitals

CERT – What it is, and isn't...

CERT is designed to

- Prepare individuals and their households to be self sufficient after a major event
- Assist others in their neighborhood during a disaster situation.
- Facilitate response in a major emergency by assessing neighborhood and reporting to EOC

CERT- What it is, and isn't...

- Provide a group of trained people to be used in a number of ways when assigned
 - Set up and Staffing of Shelters for Evacuees
 - Filling Sandbags
 - Contact neighbors during heat/cold emergencies
 - Outreach into community, etc.

CERT – What it is, and isn't...

CERT is **NOT** designed to

- Supplant Fire & Police
- Work in the area of a potential hazardous materials event
- Work in a hazardous atmosphere
- Work in the area of a potential crime scene or terrorist attack

CERT – How it began...

August of 2006

- Citizens in Community asked for CERT program- George Miller's office staff, etc.
- Grand Jury review of readiness called for CERT type program in Vallejo
- Meetings began with Police, Fire, H. Sunga, and community activists.

CERT – How it began...

- Sept 2006
 - o Chief Parker assigned to a Captain in Training
 - Rewrite & Update City Emergency Operations Plan
 - **Reform Disaster Council**
 - Begin a CERT-type program
 - Research included
 - Oakland
 - Richmond
 - Benicia
 - Contra Costa
 - Federal Program

CERT – How it is funded...

Currently operating under a 3 year grant form FEMA Department of Homeland Security.

\$11,523.40 per year for the next 3 years

CERT – How it is funded...

- Ongoing funding for the program
 - Solano County OES
 - Future competitive grants from BA SUASI

CERT Today

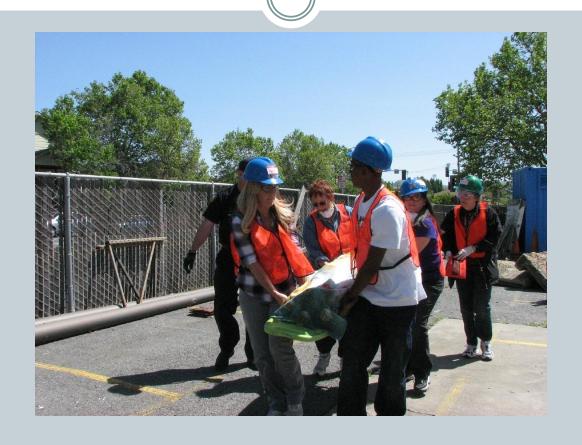
To date we have trained over 175 Citizen Volunteers

Students receive 28 hours of training

• Upon completion of the course graduates receive a backpack for CERT response

CERT is a critical program in the effort to engage everyone in America in making their communities safer, more prepared, and more resilient when incidents occur.

The program follows a national curriculum developed by FEMA.



A Six week program designed to provide the individuals with the basic skills that they will use to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster

What we teach

- #1 Personal and Household Emergency
 Preparedness
 - Basic guidelines for all types of emergencies
 - ➤ Designed to serve as a stand-alone curriculum for a 2+ hr class.
 - Work-book style family/household preparedness plan

- What we teach
 - #2 Fire Safety and Utility Control and Hazards
 - ▼ Fire Safety and Fire Extinguishers
 - ➤ Fire Size up considerations
 - ▼ Utility Controls and Hazardous Materials ID



- What we teach
 - o #3 Disaster Medical Operations
 - ▼ Triage − RPM, red/yellow/green/black tagging
 - Treatment area set up and marking
 - **Transport**
 - o Lifts, carries
 - Back boarding



- What we teach
 - #4 More emergency medical
 - × SAFETY
 - × Patient Assessment, Treating for:
 - o Burns
 - Trauma
 - Fractures Strains and Sprains
 - Environmental Emergencies



What we teach

- o #5 Light Search and Rescue
 - ▼ To assess buildings as minor, moderately or severely damaged
 - **To aid victims that have self extricated**
 - ➤ To disentangle victims that are trapped by structural contents only
 - Skills include lifting and cribbing only
 - CERT Organization and Documentation





- What we teach
 - o #6- Safety and situational awareness, including:
 - Disaster psychology for victims
 - × CISD
 - × Terrorism
 - ➤ Personal and Team Safety in a major emergency
 - Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act 2006
 - Mob mentality

What we teach

- The Drill
 - Real time, hands on drill for all participants
 - ▼ Team is given a Situational Briefing, and allowed a short time to organize themselves per the training
 - x Intentionally given unanticipated situations, and more victims than supplies will support.







After the Drill

- Incident debrief for all participants
- Graduation



CERT – Long Term Goals

- To continue to train citizen volunteers for Neighborhood teams
- To roll program over to community-based instructors, with Fire Department guidance.
- To facilitate community outreach for VFD
- To develop a group of citizen volunteers for the Fire Department, just as the Police Department has successfully done.

CERT Program

Questions???

Comments???

Observations???

Suggestions???