

# WHAT IS CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is a nationally supported, but locally implemented initiative that teaches people how to better prepare themselves for hazards that may affect their communities. Since 1993, CERT trains the public in basic disaster response skills such as team organization, disaster medical operations, fire safety, disaster psychology, and light search and rescue. The ability for CERT volunteers to perform these activities frees up professional responders to focus their efforts on more complex essential tasks

The Montgomery County Maryland CERT program is under the guidance of MCFRS. We tailor the FEMA curriculum to support our unique county requirements.



[www.montgomerycert.org](http://www.montgomerycert.org)



## CONTACT US

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# MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



## HOW LONG IS THE TRAINING?

The CERT Basic Course is 24 hours and is taught in a hybrid model: a combination of virtual and in person classes. All in person classes are held at Public Safety Headquarters in Gaithersburg. The course is a total of 4 weeks. The course is open to anyone over 18 with a connection to our county.

## IS THERE A COST TO TAKE CERT TRAINING? NO!



## WHY CERT?

CERT is about neighbor helping neighbor and builds community resilience in times of disaster. CERT emphasizes rescuer safety and to do “The greatest good for the greatest number.”

CERT teaches a positive and helpful set of skills. During many disasters, our neighbors and communities may, initially, be on our own.

A CERT trained citizen can help make a difference. We teach, among many key topics, how to put out small fires and how to treat the three life-threatening conditions: opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock. CERT students also learn basic first-aid and disaster preparedness.

## AND A FEW MORE REASONS TO TAKE THE TRAINING...

- When a widespread disaster strikes, emergency agencies are likely to be overwhelmed.
- People will have to rely on each other for hours or even days.
- People who have taken the CERT training are better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster.
- CERT members can help collect information on their neighborhood status to help disaster organizations better allocate resources.



## CAN I VOLUNTEER WITH CERT?

Yes, you can! Our volunteers have many opportunities to work with the public during planned county events. Once you have completed your CERT training and some additional county required tasks, you can join us as a CERT member.

Our CERT volunteers are our greatest asset and there are many skill sets needed within CERT. From CPR Demonstrations to Preparedness to Community Outreach, our CERT team is ready to support our diverse county needs.

To see more about the types of events we support, visit our Facebook page.

