

The County Emergency
Response Team
C E R T Academy



The CERT Academy

Community Emergency Response Team

Presented by
Sarasota County
Emergency Services



Sarasota County Government
Emergency Services/CERT Academy
1660 Ringling Blvd., 6th Floor
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) - Training for local community preparedness

CERT training includes:

Disaster Preparedness

- Hazards
- Impact on Infrastructure
- Mitigation and Protection

Fire Safety

- Fire Chemistry
- Utility Hazards
- Hazardous Materials

Medical Operations

- Triage
- Assessments
- Basic First Aid

Light Search and Rescue

CERT Organization

Disaster Psychology

- Trauma
- Team Well-Being
- Survivors Trauma

Terrorism

- Targets
- Weapons
- Indicators

Disaster Simulation



CERT training brings people together. It's good to get to know your neighbors and feel confident that we can work together efficiently and with confidence in the event of an emergency.

— Paul Hensley, CERT Incident Commander for the Isles of Palms Ranch, Sarasota, FL

ABOUT SARASOTA COUNTY'S CERT PROGRAM

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The basic course will include those components necessary to get the team started and become capable of performing basic CERT functions. Each member must complete no less than 20 hours of class time in order to receive the official CERT certification.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Sarasota County has become a part of a national network of CERT communities. The program is designed to help neighborhoods respond effectively after a catastrophic disaster such as a hurricane, tornado or other major emergency.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, using the model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team concept in 1994. Since then, CERTs have been established in hundreds of communities throughout the United States.

WHY CERT TRAINING?

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train citizens in basic response skills, in order to become a self-deployed team. CERT members are then able to assist with the initial emergency response for their area, maintaining operations until professional responders arrive.

There is a very good chance your neighborhood will be on its own during the early stages following a disaster. After a catastrophic disaster, citizens will volunteer to help. Without proper training 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 professional responders arrive. Trained CERT teams can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster.



CERT ACADEMY

For more information about the CERT Academy education and training program, please contact:

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1660 Ringling Blvd., 6th Floor
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Phone: (941) 861-5000
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RESOURCES

On the web:
www.scgov.net/EmergencyServices/NeighborhoodPrep/cert.asp

Citizen Corps - www.citizencorps.gov/cert

Florida Division of Emergency Management - www.floridadisaster.org/citizencorps/

Or call:
Emergency Services at 941-861-5000

