
COURSE OVERVIEW

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training is to provide the private citizens who complete this course with the basic skills that they will need to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available. By working together, CERTs can assist in saving lives and protecting property using the basic techniques in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course, the participants should be able to:

1. Describe the types of hazards that are most likely to affect their homes and communities.
2. Describe the functions of CERTs and their role in immediate response.
3. Take steps to prepare themselves for a disaster.
4. Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes or workplaces.
5. Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources, and safety measures to extinguish a pan fire.
6. Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock.
7. Conduct triage under simulated disaster conditions.
8. Perform head-to-toe patient assessments.
9. Select and set up a treatment area.
10. Employ basic treatments for various wounds, and apply splints to suspected fractures and sprains.
11. Identify planning and sizeup requirements for potential search and rescue situations.
12. Describe the most common techniques for searching a structure.
13. Work as a team to apply safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication.
14. Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue operations.
15. Describe the post-disaster emotional environment and the steps that rescuers can take to relieve their own stressors and those of disaster survivors.
16. Describe CERT organization and documentation requirements.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

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COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience for this course will be private citizens who desire the skills and knowledge required to prepare for and respond to a disaster.

COURSE AGENDA

The agenda for this course is shown below and continued on the following page. Please note that some adjustments to the agenda may be required to allow discussion of hazards specific to a community and—depending on class size—to allow all participants to take part in the exercise portions of this course.

Unit	Topics
1	<i>Disaster Preparedness</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introductions▪ Recent Disasters and Emergencies▪ Course Preview▪ Disasters and Disaster Workers▪ Impact on the Infrastructure▪ Structural and Nonstructural Hazards▪ Hazard Mitigation▪ Home and Workplace Preparedness▪ Community Preparedness▪ Protection for Disaster Workers
2	<i>Fire Safety</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fire Chemistry▪ Reducing Fire Hazards in the Home and Workplace▪ Hazardous Materials▪ CERT Sizeup▪ Firefighting Resources▪ Fire Suppression Safety
3	<i>Disaster Medical Operations—Part 1</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Treating Life-Threatening Conditions▪ Triage

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COURSE AGENDA

Unit	Topics
4	<i>Disaster Medical Operations—Part 2</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Public Health Considerations▪ Functions of Disaster Medical Operations▪ Establishing Treatment Areas▪ Conducting Head-to-Toe Assessments▪ Treating Burns▪ Wound Care▪ Treating Fractures, Dislocations, Sprains, and Strains▪ Splinting▪ Nasal Injuries▪ Treating Hypothermia
5	<i>Light Search and Rescue Operations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Search and Rescue Sizeup▪ Conducting Search Operations▪ Conducting Rescue Operations
6	<i>CERT Organization</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CERT Organization▪ CERT Decisionmaking▪ Documentation
7	<i>Disaster Psychology</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Team Well-Being▪ Working with Survivors' Trauma
8	<i>Terrorism and CERT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What is Terrorism?▪ Terrorist Targets▪ Terrorist Weapons▪ B-NICE Indicators▪ Preparing at Home and Work▪ CERTs and Terrorist Incidents
9	<i>Course Review and Disaster Simulation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Course Review▪ Disaster Simulation

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ABOUT THE COURSE MATERIALS

Support materials required to facilitate conducting this course include:

- The *Community Emergency Response Team* Instructor Guide.
- The *Community Emergency Response Team* Participant Manual.
- Course visuals.

Please note that the Unit 1 course visuals that describe natural and manmade hazards are generic in nature. The Instructor may use these materials or substitute other visuals that are specific to the locale in which this course is delivered.

Before conducting the training, take time to become familiar with all course materials. A brief description of each type of course material is included on the following pages.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

With the exception of selected visuals, descriptions, and activities that need to be specific to a given community's potential disaster events, the Instructor Guide provides all of the materials needed to conduct this course, including:

- Instructions for using the Instructor Guide (IG).
- A sample course agenda.
- Notes to help the Instructor facilitate training each session, including suggested timeframes and required materials.
- Content outlines for lectures and group activities.
- Course exercises, including directions and a description of possible discussion items resulting from the exercises.
- Paper copies of all visuals.









ABOUT THE COURSE MATERIALS (CONTINUED)

The section titled, *Instructor Responsibilities*, which begins on page 1 of this Instructor Guide, provides guidance for preparing to teach this course. Beginning with Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness, all information is provided using the following format:

- Introductory information on the unit is provided first. This information includes learning objectives, the scope of the unit, training methods, references, and a time plan for the unit. Some units also contain information on advance preparation that needs to be completed before the session begins.
- The course content is presented in a two-column format.
 - Instructor Notes, which are presented in the left column, provide information for the Instructor, including which type of training aid (e.g., visuals or pages from the Participant Manual) should be used and guidelines for time allowances.
 - Lesson Content, which is presented in the right column, provides the lesson plan and instructions for facilitating the exercises.
- To provide for easy use of the Instructor Guide, eight icons are used throughout the IG.

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ABOUT THE COURSE MATERIALS (CONTINUED)

Icon	Meaning
	Present content
	Conduct an exercise or activity
	Ask a discussion question
	Display a visual (Note that a small version of the visual appears in the training content column for easy reference.)
	Refer the participant to the Participant Manual
	Record participant responses on chart paper
	Show a video
	A note for the Instructor that includes important information about the content

Be sure to follow the Instructor Guide carefully when conducting this course.

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ABOUT THE COURSE MATERIALS (CONTINUED)

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM PARTICIPANT MANUAL

The Participant Manual (PM) is an easy-to-use reference to the primary information that will be presented in this course. The PM contains text with supplementary graphics that illustrate key points in the text. It also includes charts and tables that present very important information in summary form that the participants can refer to easily after completing the course. At the end of each unit, there is a summary of key points, an assignment for the participants to complete before the next session, additional references about the topic, and in some chapters, additional materials that supplement the information in the chapter.

Emphasize to the participants that the PM is theirs to keep after the training, and encourage the participants to take notes in their PMs.
