



Ontario County Community Emergency Response Team

What is CERT?

CERT is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency service personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. By getting trained in CERT, you will have the skills to help emergency responders save lives and protect property. CERT team are known and trusted resources to emergency responders and their communities.

What do CERT teams do in an emergency?

Under the direction of local emergency responders, CERT teams help provide critical support by giving immediate assistance to victims, providing damage assessment information, and organizing other volunteers at a disaster site. Volunteers trained in CERT also offer a potential workforce for performing duties such as shelter support, crowd control, and evacuation. The role of a CERT volunteer is to help others until trained emergency personnel arrive.

The benefits of CERT training?

CERT training takes about 24 hours to complete and provides critical skills in emergency preparedness and response. Participants learn how to: Identify and anticipate hazards, reduce fire hazards in the home and workplace, extinguish small fires, assist emergency responders, conduct light search and rescue, set up medical treatment areas, apply basic medical techniques, and help reduce survivor stress.

The next CERT class is scheduled to start on March 4, 2009 at 7pm. Training takes place at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility. Pre-registration is required and you must be at least 18 years old. Call (585) 396-4310 to register.