

CommunityEmergencyResponseTeam

When deployed appropriately **CERT** can complement and enhance first-response capability in neighborhoods and workplaces by ensuring the safety of themselves and their families working outward to the neighborhood or office and beyond until first responders arrive. CERTs can then assist first-response personnel as directed.

CERT is the grass-root movement that actively involves everyone in making our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared. While people will respond to others in need without training, one goal of the **CERT** program is to help our citizens do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

Major disasters in a community can overload the capabilities of our first responders, especially during the first critical 12 to 72 hours of the event. Citizen Corps provides the community with a well-trained, readily available pool of local people who know their community and who can help during this critical time when assistance may have not yet arrived.

Eight, three hour sessions are scheduled over the next three months. The sessions include basic self-help, fire safety, first aid, CPR and AED (**A**utomatic **E**xternal **D**efibrillator) and other functions of disaster response.

Accept the challenge and volunteer today. It starts with you.

Classes begin at 7 PM in the Basement Meeting Room, Austin County Courthouse. For more information visit www.austincountycert.com or contact Ray Chislett at 979-865-5911 ext. 2228

- **Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness:** Topics include: local disaster threats, disaster impact, mitigation and preparedness concepts, and an overview of Citizen Corps and CERT.
- **Unit 2: Fire Safety:** Fire chemistry, mitigation practices, hazardous materials identification, suppression options, using a fire extinguisher to suppress a live flame, and wearing basic protective gear.
- **Unit 3: Disaster Medical Operations part 1:** Students learn to identify and treat certain life-threatening conditions in a disaster setting. Hands-on skills include performing head-tilt/chin-lift, practicing bleeding control techniques.
- **Unit 4: Disaster Medical Operations part 2:** Topics cover mass casualty operations, public health, assessing patients, and treating injuries. Students practice patient assessment, and various treatment techniques.
- **Unit 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations:** Size-up is expanded as students learn about assessing structural damage, marking structures that have been searched, search techniques, as well as rescue techniques and cribbing. Hands-on activities include lifting and cribbing an object, and practicing rescue carries.
- **Unit 6: CERT Organization:** Students are introduced to several concepts from the Incident Command System (ICS), and local team organization and communication is explained.
- **Unit 7: Disaster Psychology:** Responder well-being and dealing with victim trauma are the topics of this unit.
- **Unit 8: Terrorism and CERT:** Students learn how terrorist may choose targets, what weapons they may use, and identifying when chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive weapons may have been deployed. Students learn about CERT roles in preparing for and responding to terrorist attacks.