



CERT members are a valuable asset because they can assist others in their neighborhood or work place following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

For more information on CERT  
[charlottecountycert@gmail.com](mailto:charlottecountycert@gmail.com)

Call or Text: 813.702.3785

# Community Emergency Response Team



## Ask Yourself a Few Questions?

Would your neighborhood know where to begin after this disaster?



Could you give live saving treatment during an emergency?

### Response team learns skills at mock emergency drill

On Saturday, Feb. 6, Charlotte County Emergency Management held a mock emergency drill at the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center on Airport Road. The drill was the culmination of a four-hour day.



Sue Paquin  
Photo: [unreadable]

Charlotte County Emergency Management Team training course designed to teach the skills and knowledge needed to assist others following an emergency event. CERT is a volunteer program that educates people about disaster preparedness. For more information about basic CERT training courses, email [charlottecountycert@gmail.com](mailto:charlottecountycert@gmail.com) or call 813-782-3766.



RIGHT: Media Make makes a visual inspection and assesses her "victim" injuries.

BRUCE English volunteered to play one of the "victims" during the mock emergency.



Members of CERT, April Chatterbox, Instructor Nancy Hill, Tony Sampson, Geoff North, Dobby Maki and her dad Chris Maki, discuss their response to the first "casualty" they encounter.



Sharon Spector takes a pulse on one of the injured, played by Ellen Proden.



Do you know how to use a fire extinguisher or how to prepare for emergencies?

## What Is CERT About?

- Presenting citizens with the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services.
- Training people in needed lifesaving skills with an emphasis on proper use of a fire extinguisher, rescuer safety, light search and rescue, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.
- Organizing teams so that they are an extension of the first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrives.

## CERT Member's Help The Community

If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capability, CERT members can apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercised to give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives. When help does arrive, CERTs provide useful information to responders and support their efforts as directed at the disaster site.

CERT members can also assist with non-emergency projects that improve safety in the community. CERTs have been used to distribute and/or install smoke alarms, replace smoke alarm batteries in the homes of disabled and elderly Floridians, help with fire fighter rehabilitation during wild fires, public outreach programs, working planned events like the Airshow and Waterfest.

## Become a Member of CERT

To become a CERT volunteer, a volunteer must complete the classroom training offered by Charlotte County Emergency Management. The classes are free and are only 3 days. Training is offered 3 times a year. Email [charlottecountycert@gmail.com](mailto:charlottecountycert@gmail.com) to get on the emailing list.

Once you have finished the 3 day training course you will have opportunities to take CPR and AED training, Advanced Search and Rescue classes, Advance Medical training, map reading and orientation, as well as many other courses.

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