



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 classes  
[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?



Would you know how to enter this scene safely or should you even try?



Do you know how to use a fire extinguisher or help a badly injured person?



## 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

- **CERT** members can support their family, loved ones, neighbors and associates until help arrives by applying the training they learn in **CERT** classes.
- When help does arrive they can 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, distribute disaster education material, provide services at special events, such as parades, sporting events, concerts and more.

## Become a Member of CERT

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.

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.

More than 220 communities throughout The State of Florida have CERT programs. For more information about a CERT program visit [www.floridadisaster.org/citizenscorps/](http://www.floridadisaster.org/citizenscorps/)

