

# Community Emergency Response Team





Our CERTs consist of individual residents,  
neighborhood watches and associations,  
churches and commercial employees.

The idea is engage the entire community.



## Memphis Metro area Population

2011 our count for Memphis was 670,000.  
The Metropolitan area was 1.33 million residents  
which makes us the second largest metropolitan  
area in Tennessee next only to Nashville.

# Community Emergency Response Team

- ◆ Contact Information

Memphis Fire Department  
Office of Emergency Management  
Main: 901-636-2525  
Office: 901-636-2602 or  
901-636-2605



# Presentation Objectives

- Define what CERT is / CERT History
- How to become a CERT Member
- How to create awareness of how to be prepared in the event of disasters in Memphis
- The 10 Essentials Needed for a Disaster Preparedness Kit
- CERT Training
- Let's Review



# What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.



The EOC also provides an Amateur Radio station that includes HF, VHF, UHF, and packet radios manned by OEM Reserves as needed during times of disaster.

The OEM activates the outdoor warning siren system for the City of Memphis on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. for testing and activates the sirens when there is a tornado warning issued for Shelby County by the National Weather Service.

<http://www.memphisoem.org/>





In the event of a disaster within the city, the Director may activate the Disaster Command Center (DCC). During an activation, emergency managers and department heads from with city leaders are called in to the large conference room called the "War Room." Sixteen "Emergency Support Function" representatives that include Public Works, Law Enforcement, Information, Fire Fighting, Mass Care, Animals come together to share information and make decisions about the disaster.

Fielding thousands of phone calls annually, the OEM Dispatch area is the communications hub of the agency. Operations officers man state-of-the-art communications consoles. They conduct daily communications with the public answering question about local emergencies, inclement weather, traffic signals and animal control issues. The dispatchers communicate with multiple agencies at the local, state, and federal level including the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA).

The top-left corner of the slide features a graphic of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a curved, draped manner.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees.

. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the importance of preparing citizens.

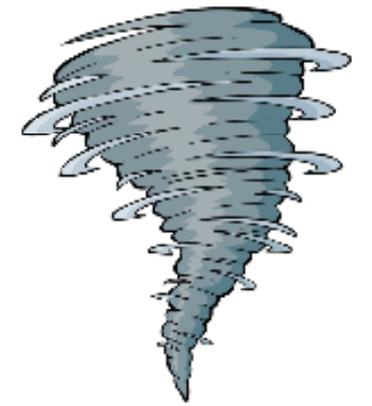
Additionally if a community wants to supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business and government teams that, in essence, will be auxiliary responders. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster. Since 1993 when this training was made available nationally by FEMA, communities in 28 states and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training.

# History



**CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team.**

- **CERT History**
- **CERT and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) NRF**
- **CERT in the Community**





# National Response Framework

- ◆ Government resources alone cannot meet all the needs of those affected by terrorist attacks, natural disasters and other catastrophic events. When disaster strikes, people throughout the community and our nation pitch in to help the response effort.
- ◆ The second edition of the [National Response Framework \(NRF\)](#), updated in 2013, provides context for how the [whole community](#) works together and how response efforts relate to other parts of national preparedness. It is one of the five documents in a suite of [National Planning Frameworks](#). Each Framework covers one preparedness [mission area](#): Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response or Recovery.



# USA Freedom Corp

- During his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush called upon every American to get involved in strengthening America's communities and sharing America's compassion around the world = United States of America Freedom Corps.
- As part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, CERT has a unique opportunity to collaborate with other safety and disaster programs.



**USA**   
Freedom Corps



# Organizational Structure



# How to Become a CERT Member?

## First Step:

Complete a 16-hour course presented in an interactive format.  
The course is broken into eight modules.

- Session 1 - Disaster Preparedness
- Session 2 - Disaster Fire Suppression
- Session 3 - Disaster Medical Operations, Part 1
- Session 4 - Disaster Medical Operations, Part 2
- Session 5 - Light Search and Rescue
- Session 6 - Disaster Psychology and Team Organization
- Session 7 – Terrorism Awareness
- Session 8 - Course Review and Simulation



# How to Become a CERT Program Manager?

- **CERT Basic Training**
- **CERT Instructor Training**
- **Assignment by Municipality**
  1. **Program Coordinator**
  2. **Program Manager**



# Challenges Encountered on the Job

- **Marketing**
- **Class Scheduling**
- **Presentations**
- **Training (updates for myself and curriculum)**
- **Real life disasters / Emergencies**



# The function of CERT members:

## CERT members can participate in Comprehensive Emergency Management:

**Preparedness:** Identifying potential hazards in their homes and workplaces, develop a disaster supply kit, teach others how to prepare (booths, presentations), take part in disaster exercises, etc.

**Mitigation:** Reduce the impact of a disaster by assisting with local projects (installation of smoke detectors, becoming FIREWISE, etc.)

**Response:** Self-activating into CERT teams, conducting damage assessment during actual disaster situations.

**Recovery:** Staffing volunteer reception centers; human needs assessments or mitigation assessments, etc.



# CERT's Role in Immediate Response

Cert members can be effective in a disaster environment by:

- Locating and turning off utilities, if safe.
- Extinguishing small fires.
- Treating injuries.
- Conducting light search and rescue.
- Helping to relieve survivor stress.





# How does CERT benefit the community?

## CERT benefits the community by:

- Teaching numerous people life long skills
- Creating a greater sense of security, responsibility, and personal control
- Performing head-to-toe assessments
- Building community pride and patriotism
- Promoting risk reduction and preparedness practices
- Preparing us all for helping others in a crisis
- Reducing the burden on first responder services by promoting mitigation and preparedness measures.
- Creating well trained, better informed, and prepared citizens to take care of themselves and others during times of crisis -- allowing first responders to address the most critical needs.



# CERT Training, Why Needed?

## CERT Training will teach participants to:

- Understand the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and community
- Take Steps to prepare themselves for a disaster
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and work places
- Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies and resources to safely extinguish a burning liquid
- Apply First Aid for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating shock
- Conduct triage



## CERT Training, Why Needed? (Cont)

### CERT Training will teach participants to:

- Select and set up treatment area
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds
- Identify planning and size up requirements for potential search and rescue situations
- Understand the most common techniques for searching a structure
- Use safe techniques for debris and victim removal
- Understand ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue
- Understand the function of Cert Members and their roles in immediate response



## CERT does not....

### Cert members do not do the following:

- suppress large fires.
- enter structures that they consider heavily damaged and dangerous (e.g., leaning or moved from foundation).
- perform hazardous materials cleanup or respond to incidents involving radiological, chemical, or biological agents.
- perform medical, fire, or search and rescue operations beyond their level of training.
- activate or deploy unless called for in their procedures.



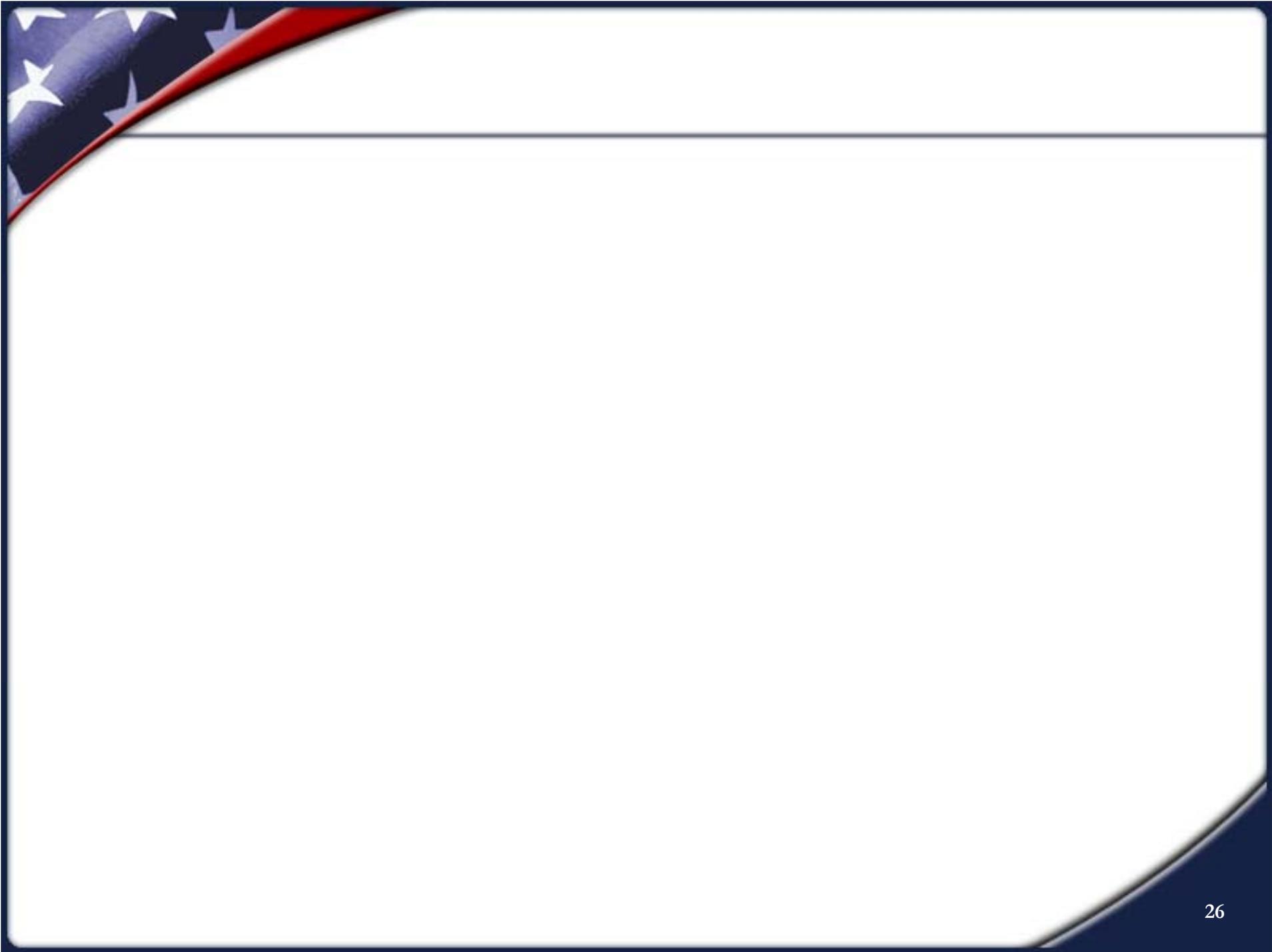


# Nondisaster CERT Roles

CERT members can:

- ◆ Distribute preparedness materials.
- ◆ Staff first aid booths at special events.
- ◆ Assist with installation of smoke alarms.





# Additional CERT Training Opportunities

- ◆ Shelter management
- ◆ Community relations
- ◆ Donations management
- ◆ Special needs concerns
- ◆ Debris removal
- ◆ Utilities control
- ◆ Advanced first aid and CPR Skills
- ◆ Automated External Defibrillator use
- ◆ CERT Rodeo



# Let's Review



- Began in 1985
- In 2002, became part of the USA CORP Initiative
- To become a CERT member, one must complete a 16 hour course presented in a train-the-trainer format
- CERT training teaches people multiples skills
- CERT benefits the community
- CERT Members must do/must not do
- Questions or Comments

