

How can I get involved?

- ◆ Contact your county emergency management agency.
- ◆ Speak with your neighbors about forming a CERT.
- ◆ Visit the CERT website at www.citizencorps.gov/cert. This site contains information about organizing a community emergency response team, pictures, videos, and contact information.
- ◆ Contact PEMA by email at: RA-CertRequests@pa.gov.



pennsylvania

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Bureau of Strategic Planning

Community Outreach and Planning Division

2605 Interstate Drive

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

www.pema.pa.us

www.citizencorps.gov



Tom Wolf, Governor

Richard D. Flinn, Jr., Director



**"Together, we can
engage the
whole community"**

citizen  **corps**
UNITING COMMUNITIES
PREPARING THE NATION
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What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team is a group of neighbors trained in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation techniques. The team responds to help their neighbors during disaster situations.

Anyone can become a CERT member. Local regulations may require a team member to be eighteen years of age or older.

Team Members will:

- Train to recognize hazards in the home and workplace and the measures necessary to reduce or eliminate those hazards
- Learn safety procedures; how and when to use a fire extinguisher, and hazardous material recognition
- Learn disaster medical treatment procedures
- Learn light search and rescue techniques
- Learn disaster psychology techniques
- Learn how to handle situations involving animals and disasters
- Learn terrorism awareness



What Disasters May Strike Pennsylvania?

Pennsylvanians may become affected by tornadoes, blizzards, micro-bursts, flooding, severe thunderstorms, lightning strikes, sinkholes, and earthquakes.

There are also technological hazards in the form of chemical plants, manufacture and transportation of hazardous materials and terrorist activity.

When a Disaster Strikes

Many people depend upon professional emergency responders- firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical services personnel- to assist during an emergency

During a disaster, responders become overwhelmed with hundreds of calls for help. They may not be able to respond to your emergency immediately due to backup in calls or because of the inability to reach you due to damage caused by the disaster. Telephone and electric service outages are common and may prevent you from being able to summon help. **You** may have to handle the situation as best as you can until the professional responders arrive.



CERT Mission

To work in partnership with the state and local public safety agencies and the community to produce a pool of citizens trained in disaster preparedness and response to provide leadership and coordination during an emergency and for immediate assistance to victims.



CERT Training Benefits Everyone!

Joining a CERT team not only helps your community, it helps your own family! The knowledge that your family is safe helps you to proceed confidently into your community to help others who are victims of the disaster. The training you receive teaches you the safety procedures that will protect your life.

Are you prepared?