

WEST COUNTY CERT CLASSES

The 20-hour FEMA-approved course includes Disaster Preparedness, Medical Operations I & II, Light Search and Rescue, Fire Suppression, Team Organization and Disaster Psychology



Basic West County CERT Class Schedule:

Friday October 3, 2014 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Saturday October 4, 2014 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Friday October 10, 2014 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Saturday October 11, 2014 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Joint Forces Training Base, Building 244
11200 Lexington Drive, Los Alamitos CA 90720

REGISTRATION: e-mail westcountycert@yahoo.com
or visit www.westcountycert.org or call 562-366-8880



CERT educates people in disaster preparedness for events that may impact their area and provides basic disaster response skills. Using the training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in projects in their community.

Please bring a sack lunch/dinner the first weekend.

WEST COUNTY CERT is comprised of those who live and/or work in Buena Park, Cypress, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach and Westminster plus their attached communities.

What is CERT?



The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life-saving and life sustaining needs.

People will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department 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.

The training program that LAFD initiated makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made this training available nationally in 1993. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy adopted and expanded the CERT materials believing them applicable to all hazards.

The CERT course is delivered in the community by a team of first responders who have the requisite knowledge and skills to instruct the sessions. The CERT training for community groups is delivered over two weekends. The training consists of the following: disaster preparedness, fire suppression, medical operations I & II, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, CERT team organization and a disaster simulation exercise

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.