

The New Hanover County CERT program's mission is to assist citizens in becoming self-sufficient for up to 96 hours following a disaster, and to help educate the general public to do the same.

WHAT IS CERT? WHY IS THERE A NEED?

Each year, many North Carolina communities are rocked by severe weather such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods or flash floods, winter storms or "man made" disasters. The damage caused by such disasters affects everyone.

Disasters can severely restrict and overwhelm emergency response resources, communications, transportation and utilities and can leave individuals and neighborhoods cut off from outside emergency support.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are trained to take care of themselves and then help others in their communities for the first three days following a disaster. This is when debris-clogged or damaged roads, disrupted communications or a high volume of calls may prevent access by emergency response personnel.

The training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available.

With training and practice and by working as a team, you will be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people after a disaster, while protecting yourself from becoming a victim.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The Community Emergency Response Team course consists of 21-25 hours of hands-on training.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

- Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect your home and community.
- Take steps to prepare yourself and your family for a disaster.
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in your home and workplace.
- Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating shock until first responders arrive.
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds.
- Use safe techniques for debris removal.
- Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue.

COURSE AGENDA

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Introduction to disasters, impact of disasters on infrastructures, the role of Community Emergency Response Teams in disaster response

FIRE SAFETY
Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards, basic fire suppression strategy, resources and techniques

EMERGENCY MEDICAL OPERATIONS
Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions and principles of triage, head-to-toe assessments, treatment for various injuries

LIGHT SEARCH & RESCUE
Techniques for size-up and search, lifting, cribbing, and rescuer safety

CERT ORGANIZATION
Team organization, decision-making, and documentation

DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY
Team well-being, working with survivors' trauma

TERRORISM AND CERT
Terrorist targets and weapons, preparing home and work

COURSE REVIEW
Disaster simulation, hands-on practice of techniques learned throughout the course

The target audiences for this course are private citizens, community groups, businesses, home owners associations, and schools that want the skills and knowledge required to prepare for and respond to a disaster.

**For Further Information
Contact:**

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www.nhcgov.com

