

How long does CERT training last?

The CERT course requires at least 24 hours of training. If a county so desires to include further detailed training, additional time may be required. Typically, most counties dedicate approximately two to three hours per week over an eight to ten week period to complete training.

What does CERT training include?

CERT trainees receive the following during

- An introduction to CERT.
- Two instruction units on medical operations, including triage, treatment and first aid.
- Basic fire suppression instruction.
- How to organize and conduct CERT operations.
- CERT role in a terrorist initiated emergency.
- Disaster psychology instruction to help victims cope with the situation.

After completing the above, CERT members participate in a realistic and challenging emergency exercise, where the team members respond, demonstrating and using the skills they acquired.

CERT teams receive periodic refresher training and regularly participate in emergency exercises in their county.

How many people are in a CERT team?

The recommended number of trained volunteers per team is ten (10).

Can a CERT from Indiana be called upon for use in another state if there is a national emergency?

Yes. CERT training is standard throughout the United States allowing CERT members to serve in communities other than their own. In 2004, and 2005, Indiana CERT volunteers traveled to the Gulf Coast to assist residents after devastating hurricanes.

An emergency or disaster may occur at any time in your community. If it happens, will your community be ready?

- CERT in your community means community volunteers.
- CERT in your community means immediate response.
- CERT in your community means lives saved.

Visit www.in.gov/dhs for more information or contact your county emergency management agency to learn more about CERT!



Community Emergency Response Team Coordinator
Indiana Government Center South
302 West Washington Street
Room E046
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-3980
www.in.gov/dhs

Who Will Respond Until Help Arrives?



**COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
TEAM**



Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.
Governor

Joseph E. Wainscott Jr.
Executive Director

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Certain things set people from Indiana apart, such as our love for a competitive basketball game, or an exciting auto race. But, what also makes Hoosier unique is our ability to roll up our sleeves and volunteer our skills and abilities to aid our communities.

Hoosiers know when their neighbors need assistance, when to answer a call to action, and when to step up and offer a helping hand!



CERT: A Community Volunteering

Over the years, either on television, in the newspaper or in your own community, you likely witnessed Hoosiers helping victims of events common to Indiana, such as floods or tornadoes. Many of these volunteers are CERT members.

CERT is a nationwide program that can train **you** how to respond to emergencies in your communities. When an emergency or disaster occurs, CERT members provide critical support to first responders, assist victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site.

CERT groups can form in communities, at businesses and even in schools. In Indiana, there are over 2,000 CERT Volunteers and nearly 380 certified CERT instructors.

CERT: A Community Taking Action

CERT members receive training that allows them to take immediate and effective action in an emergency.

CERT training sessions cover disaster preparedness, fire suppression, basic medical operations, team operations, and light search and rescue. First responders that complete CERT Train-the-Trainer courses conduct the CERT training. After completion of training, CERT members receive a backpack filled with basic materials and equipment needed at the scene of an emergency.

CERT: A Community Helping Its Citizens

CERT is **not** a replacement for professional first responders. CERT is a program that trains you on how to aid your fellow citizens, and even first responders, during an emergency or disaster.



CERT FAQ

How can my community start a program?

Contact your county's local Emergency Management Agency to find out if your county is participating in CERT. If so, you can request recruitment and training of a team or ask to join an existing Citizen Corps team as a member.

A signed agreement between the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and county's commissioners is necessary to receive funding and support for a local CERT program.

If your county is not currently a Citizen Corps participant, contact your county commissioners to let them know you want the program! They can contact IDHS to learn how to bring this beneficial response program to your area.



How can I become a CERT team member?

Contact your county's local Emergency Management Agency to complete an application and learn more on joining a CERT in your area. In some circumstances, a local background check is required.

After the appropriate paperwork is complete, you will participate in the required CERT training to build appropriate competencies and skills. After completing training, you will receive an assignment to a CERT team near you.

Can anyone be a CERT team member?

There is a job for almost everyone in a CERT. At times, strenuous tasks may limit some individuals' ability to assist. However, these individuals can assist by calming and tending to victims or completing necessary documentation.

Although some counties in Indiana currently have CERT in high schools, members under the age of 18 operate under a limited scope of work. These members can serve as beneficial assistance at an emergency scene while having limited exposure to danger.

CERT members 18 and older may participate in all CERT functions.