

CERT Course Outline

The CERT Basic Training course consists of the following classes:

UNIT 1: Disaster Preparedness

- Introduction to types of disasters and their impact on infrastructures
- Identification of hazards
- Description of various risks and how to reduce or eliminate them
- How to plan and prepare to be ready
- Role of CERTs in disaster response

UNIT 2: Fire Safety and Utility Controls

- Fire chemistry and basic fire suppression
- Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards
- Firefighting resources and techniques
- Introduction to Hazardous Materials Incidents

UNIT 3: Disaster Medical Operations I

- Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions
- Principles of triage

UNIT 4: Disaster Medical Operations II

- Head-to-toe patient assessments
- Establishing treatment areas
- Treatments for burns, lacerations, fractures, sprains, and other injuries

UNIT 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations

- Search and rescue priorities and resources
- Size-up techniques and rescuer safety
- Lifting, cribbing, and victim removal

UNIT 6: CERT Organization

- CERT structure and the Incident Command System
- CERT mobilization
- Decision-making and documentation

UNIT 7: Disaster Psychology

- Psychological impact of a disaster on rescuers and victims
- Providing “psychological first aid” to yourself, team members, and survivors

UNIT 8: Terrorism and CERT

- Risk and threat analysis

- Types of terrorism weapons
- Travel and terrorism

UNIT 9: Course Review and Simulation

- Course review
- Disaster simulation exercise