



# Volunteer Tennessee

## 2025 CERT Resource Guide to Starting or Revitalizing a Local Community Emergency Response Team

Updated as of January 2025 - Most of the information in this CERT Guide was compiled from the public domain, FEMA materials, open sources, and links which apply to all CERT programs in the U.S.



(Photos courtesy of the Shelby County EMA - CERT program)

**Please share these guidelines and training opportunities widely with your CERT leadership, instructors, and volunteers.**

For more information please contact:  
Don Sowers - Volunteer Tennessee  
Disaster Volunteer Services Manager  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 18th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone: 615-742-6775  
Email: [Don.Sowers@tn.gov](mailto:Don.Sowers@tn.gov)  
Or email: [Volunteer.Tennessee@tn.gov](mailto:Volunteer.Tennessee@tn.gov)

[Volunteer Tennessee](#) is the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. We build capacity and sustainability in Tennessee's volunteer sector. Our Volunteer Tennessee Commission consists of a 25-member, bi-partisan volunteer citizen board appointed by the Governor and includes eleven State Government ex-officio representatives. Volunteer Tennessee is the State's lead agency for volunteers and donations in times of disaster under the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan (TEMP). Volunteer Tennessee also provides information, guidance, and acts as a liaison to FEMA for [locally sponsored CERT programs in Tennessee](#).

## Table of Contents

**Sections with Recently Added Content are Highlighted in Yellow**

Introduction .....	3
Types of CERT Programs .....	4
<b>Videos About CERT .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Steps to Start and Maintain a CERT Program Checklist .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Registering Your FEMA and Tennessee Recognized CERT Program.....	8
<b>CERT Program Manager Resources .....</b>	<b>10</b>
CERT Program Funding .....	12
Volunteer Liability Concerns .....	13
Volunteer Insurance for TN EMAs and CERT Programs* .....	15
CERT - Sample SOGs, SOPs, MOUs, and Bylaws .....	16
<b>CERT- Code of Conduct.....</b>	<b>16</b>
CERT - Resource Typing.....	17
Promoting and Recruiting for your CERT Program .....	17
CERT News - Social Media Sites, Groups, Articles, and Posts.....	19
CERT Webpages.....	20
<b>Developing Trainers to Teach CERT Courses .....</b>	<b>21</b>
FEMA - EMI Training Applications .....	23
CERT Basic Course Modules - Overview.....	24
CERT Basic Course Materials & Links .....	25
Optional Hybrid Virtual CERT Basic Training & In-Person Skills Sessions .....	26
Hybrid CERT Basic Training - Sample Skills Sessions Videos.....	27
CERT Exercises.....	28
Sample FOGs, Forms, and CERT Position Checklists .....	29
<b>CERT Training/Response Cargo Trailer &amp; Equipment Options .....</b>	<b>30</b>
CERT Basic Course Training Equipment .....	32
<b>CERT Course Certificates - Individual Gear &amp; Equipment - Logos/Patches * .....</b>	<b>33</b>
CERT Vendors & Suppliers .....	34
<b>Upcoming CERT Training Opportunities and Events.....</b>	<b>35</b>
Previously Recorded CERT Training Sessions .....	40
Additional CERT Training Videos and Webinars .....	42
FEMA Preparedness and CERT Related Webinar Recordings.....	44
FEMA-EMI - Online Independent Study Training Opportunities .....	45
About the Author and Disclaimer .....	47
Updates to this CERT Resource Guide - We would like to hear from you! .....	49



## 2025 Resource Guide to Starting or Revitalizing a Local CERT Program in Tennessee (Rev. 1/25 ds)



[Volunteer Tennessee](#) is a Tennessee State Agency and the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. In times of disaster, we are also the State's lead agency for volunteers and donations under the [Tennessee Emergency Management Plan \(TEMP\) ESF-14](#). The Volunteer Tennessee - State CERT Coordinator is the liaison to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all local CERT programs and facilitates local CERT program formation, registration, communications, and collaboration. We also share information on emergency preparedness, community assistance, response activities, volunteer training, and exercise opportunities with local CERT programs. Please share this [2024 CERT Resource Guide to Starting or Revitalizing a Local CERT Program in Tennessee](#) with your CERT leadership, co-workers, and volunteers.

Within this document you will see CERT program guidelines and over four-hundred CERT preparedness related web links. It also has sections on **CERT Program Funding, Grants and HSGP, Liability Concerns, EMA and CERT Volunteer Insurance, CERT Training Videos, CERT Exercises, Upcoming Training, CERT Conferences, and FEMA Preparedness Webinars**. We hope it is helpful to you as you consider a CERT program for your jurisdiction, agency, workplace, or organization. If you wish, Volunteer Tennessee is here to help you get a CERT program started or to provide assistance along the way. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us, or send an email to: [Don.Sowers@tn.gov](mailto:Don.Sowers@tn.gov).

- FREE [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#) preparedness training is important for Your Safety, and for the Safety of Your Family, Friends, Neighbors, and Co-Workers.
- **CERT programs are sponsored by local government agencies, schools, community organizations, non-profits, faith-based organizations, or in the workplace.**
- CERT training empowers our community by teaching basic emergency & disaster response skills.
- CERT trained individuals are better prepared for hazards which threaten our community.
- Goal of CERT is to **"Do the greatest good for the greatest number in the shortest amount of time."**

**CERT training is a locally sponsored and implemented emergency preparedness program which prepares Tennesseans to help our families, neighbors, and co-workers in the event of a disaster in our community.** If you wish, a CERT program **provides a reliable source of trained volunteers**. The CERT course teaches and trains us in basic emergency and disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to individual preparedness, volunteer training, and team organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks. When you conduct CERT training, people will have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, school, or workplace and improve community resiliency.

**CERT members can support other projects that improve the safety of the community.** CERT programs can be flexible as a community volunteer resource and provide substantial benefits to their communities. CERTs have been used to assist EMAs, Fire, and EMS personnel with firefighter rehab, basecamp support, disaster damage assessments, debris removal after a disaster, help staff EOCs, Call Center support, Disaster Case Management support, management of spontaneous volunteers and donations, shelter operations, mass feeding, wellness checks, install smoke alarms, and distribute emergency preparedness education material at events such as National Night Out. Qualified CERTs could also support law enforcement by providing traffic or pedestrian control services at special events such as parades, sporting events, concerts, points of distribution (e.g., Vaccine PODs). **CERT emergency preparedness training accommodates and serves as an inclusive entity to all community members, including underserved populations, people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or may have other access or functional needs.**

## ❖ Types of CERT Programs

CERT is a worthwhile locally led program which **helps homes, communities, business, and schools become more resilient** to disasters and makes a real difference in the lives of people affected by disasters. At its most basic level, the purpose of the CERT Program is to train and organize community members so they may prepare for and respond to emergencies. It is a terrific way for volunteers to learn valuable skills to help themselves, neighbors, and co-workers, meet new people, and make a difference in their community. CERT has become a national program that communities may take part in to prepare for and respond to the hazards they face.

A community may identify their CERT Program or CERT Teams as a [Community](#), [Workplace](#), [Campus](#), or [Teen CERT](#). Though they all still share the same requirements, rules, regulations, and common goal of training individuals in their community to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

[Community CERT Programs](#) - Communities who elect to develop CERT may identify their program in a way that matches their location and audience. As you move forward, local agencies or organizations (such as EMAs, OEMs, Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS, High Schools, Colleges, Universities, Faith-based organizations, HOAs, Service Organizations, Workplaces, etc.) can choose to either simply train people about CERT and emergency preparedness, called **“TRAIN AND RELEASE.”** This approach regularly trains community members in CERT skills but does not maintain dedicated response teams.

Alternatively, in coordination with Fire or an Emergency Management Agency, local organizations can **“TRAIN AND RETAIN”** CERT graduates as volunteers to be part of their CERT Teams for disaster response. CERT teams may then possibly assist the broader community in emergencies, after disasters or for community events. **This approach trains the CERT program’s volunteers to participate in durable CERT teams** for disaster preparedness and response.

[Workplace CERT Programs](#) equip employees with skills that enable them to react and effectively respond to an emergency event. The program is expected to generally limit its activities to the workplace property. Programs may conduct activities off workplace property with appropriate coordination, supervision, and permission from local Fire or EMA.

[Campus CERT Programs](#) support and enhance existing emergency management capabilities by participating in efforts to increase the preparedness and resilience of the college or university campus community. The program is expected to generally limit its activities to the college or university campus property. Programs may conduct activities off the college or university campus with appropriate coordination, supervision, and permission from local Fire or EMA.

[Teen CERT Programs](#) aim to train students in emergency preparedness and basic response to ensure that they have the skills needed to protect themselves and assist others in the event of an emergency. This program can also offer students exposure to careers in emergency management or as first responders. The program is expected to generally limit its activities to the school property. Programs may conduct activities off school grounds with appropriate coordination, supervision, and permission from local Fire or EMA.

➤ To learn more [About CERT Programs](#), you should review FEMA policies and guidelines within the [FEMA 2023 CERT Program Guide](#), and watch the CERT videos below.

## ❖ Videos About CERT

Below are several introductory CERT videos which may be useful to inform our communities about CERT. Also, [Workplace CERT](#), [Teen CERT](#), or [Campus CERT](#) programs can aid in preparedness education and resilience of businesses, neighborhoods, schools, or campus communities. These CERT programs are usually expected to work within their respective properties. But with specific agreements they may be activated to work with neighboring communities. You should always coordinate your pre-authorized efforts with the local Emergency Management Agency.

### Video: [“What is CERT?” 2013 \(10:14 min.\)](#)



This [“What is CERT?”](#) video provides a terrific overview of the benefits of a CERT program. First responders may be overwhelmed in the event of a disaster. And no community can afford enough staff for major disasters or even large emergencies. At such critical times, the CERT program boosts a community’s ability to respond. Community Emergency Response Team members can help in those first few hours or even days following a major disaster. CERTs can be a force multiplier by taking steps to lessen the effects of hazards on themselves, their families, co-workers, and their neighbors. [CERT training covers basic skills](#) that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. With training, practice, and by working as a team you will be able to protect yourself and maximize your capability to help for the greatest number of people after a disaster.

### Video: [FEMA Basic CERT Training Overview 2023 \(4:15min.\)](#)



What would you do if you found yourself in the middle of a disaster or emergency? How would you respond? Would you be prepared to act? CERT basic training was created to help you answer those questions through challenging highly effective and engaging training in areas like fire safety light search and rescue team organization and disaster medical operations. Through this training CERT members are prepared to help their communities before during and after natural or man-made disasters. CERT teaches people that as situations arise you will have the capabilities to react with confidence.

### Video: [“History of the CERT Teams” 2020 \(7:56 min.\)](#)



The [“History of the Community Emergency Response Teams”](#) video, produced by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, is told by those who created CERT back in 1986. CERT later became a national program in 1993. There are now CERT programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories.

### Video: [“CERT in Action” 2013 version \(19:14 min.\)](#)



In the 2013 version of [“CERT in Action”](#), a fierce storm has struck the local community. CERT members activate in their neighborhood, set up an Incident Command Post, and assess damage throughout the area. They use their CERT skills to respond to damage and injured victims in the local community center, managing the situation until professional responders can arrive.

### **Video: “Community Emergency Response Teams in Action” 2018 (6:28 min.)**



A good FEMA video to educate people about Community Emergency Response Teams. Community Emergency Response Team members from California, Florida, and Texas explain how they come together to prepare their communities and assist their neighbors and co-workers during emergencies. And here is the companion [CERT Teams in Action - 30 second promo video clip](#) for showing to people at a Preparedness Fairs, Information booths, etc.

### **Video: “Campus CERT” Pulaski College, IL (3:03 min.)**



[Campus CERT](#) – This CERT preparedness training is led by a group of approved faculty and staff in colleges and universities. They have been professionally trained with CERT to assist victims in a disaster, an incident, or an emergency on campus. CERT members participate in drills and exercises and receive additional training. Faculty, Staff, Resident Advisors, and Students may participate in Campus CERT emergency preparedness training. [See Campus CERT](#), [CERT at UCLA – Disaster Response Training](#)

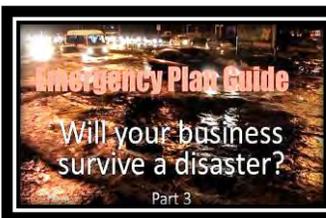
### **Video: “Teen CERT” Sandy City Hall, UT - 2013 (11:15 min.)**



High School, Scout, and [Teen CERT](#) programs play important roles in preparing youth and school staff for disasters that may affect our schools and homes. It is important to involve youth in disaster preparedness and recovery efforts to increase awareness of hazards, enhance the chance that they openly discuss how to protect their families, and seek help should their community be affected. Youth can play a range of roles in youth preparedness programs and play a role in recovery efforts. [See Teen CERT](#)

### **Video: “Workplace CERT” - Resilient Business ... (4:04 min.) \***

(\* No commercial services endorsement should be implied). Business owners should encourage employees and their families to get CERT training. Please contact your local emergency management agency to see if they offer CERT training, possibly right on your premises. You may want to build CERT training into the continuing education component or Continuity Planning for your business. Sponsoring a workplace CERT training teaches employees what to do in an emergency or disaster. See [Workplace CERT](#)



### **Video: “Workplace CERT” - Disaster Drill at the Port of Los Angeles (2:27 min.)**



The Port of Los Angeles hosted a CERT disaster drill in cooperation with Los Angeles fire and police agencies along with Dignity Health St. Mary Medical Center at the Port’s World Cruise Center. The drill allowed CERT volunteers to showcase their first responder skills. CERT trained employees utilized the training learned in the classroom and during exercises. CERT members can assist others in their workplace

following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Please contact your local emergency management agency to see if they offer CERT training, possibly right on your premises. See [Workplace CERT](#)

## ❖ Steps to Start and Maintain a CERT Program Checklist

- ✓ **Please contact the Tennessee State CERT Coordinator** for assistance: [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov)
- ✓ Always **reach out to your Local EMA** or Government Agency (Fire, EMS, etc.) about possible Sponsorship of your CERT program or your program becoming an approved Community Emergency Response Team in their community. **Maintain these partnerships!**
- ✓ Get Consensus and any necessary **Approvals** among your key Stakeholders in your Community, Group, Agency, or Organization about Starting a CERT program.
- ✓ **To REGISTER your CERT program** go to the FEMA webpage: [Registering a CERT](#). Please read that page, then at on the button of the page where it says “Ready to register?” click on the blue navigation button which reads “[Register a CERT](#)” That will take you to [FEMA CERT Registry](#). If you're having trouble logging in, make sure “cookies” are enabled on your computer. Otherwise, submit a request to FEMA for assistance. (Please see the [CERT User Guide](#) and detailed instructions on the next page.)
- ✓ Take the **CERT Program Manager course**.
- ✓ Assess your Organization’s Capabilities and Community Needs
- ✓ Identify Opportunities and **Secure Resources - Partnerships with People and Funding**
  - Budget - Determine the funding required to start and run your CERT Program. This depends on the mission of your program and resources needed to accomplish them (see CERT Funding section elsewhere in this CERT Guide).
- ✓ Develop a Set of **Goals and Objectives - Draft a Program Plan**
- ✓ Collect Training Materials (Instructor & Student Manuals, Forms, Flyers, and Brochures, etc.).
- ✓ Acquire Equipment (CERT gear, PPE, and Tools).
- ✓ Identify a Storage Location or CERT cargo trailer for Equipment and Supplies.
- ✓ Develop a **Training and Exercise Plan**.
- ✓ Establish a **Training Cadre - Take the CERT Train-The-Trainer course** (see Developing Trainers to Teach CERT Courses elsewhere in this CERT Guide).
- ✓ **Market** your program, allow plenty of lead time before the CERT course begins.
- ✓ **Deliver** CERT course training and exercises. FEMA Requires a Minimum of One CERT Basic training course and Exercise are presented each Year
- ✓ **Provide CERT emergency preparedness Training to your Whole Community annually.**
  - Facilitate training for those who may have access and functional needs or speak another language.
  - Conduct outreach to underserved or distressed communities, in-person and virtually.
- ✓ Retain CERT course participants as Retained **CERT Volunteers** or Release them after training.
- ✓ **Manage and Maintain** your CERT Program
  - **Consider having CERT volunteer leaders or a committee to help:** Run the program, Record Keeping, Communicate with public and Volunteers, Work with Funders and Sponsors, Conduct on-going Training, Communicate with Volunteers through Emails, Website, Social Media, Phone, Texts, Ham Radio, Staff community events.
  - Plan Continuous Training, Community Events, Monthly Training? Quarterly Meetings? **Consider using the videos and training links in this guide for ongoing CERT volunteer Training Sessions.**
  - Maintain Support with Leaders with Community Stakeholders.
  - Remember to Maintain Confidentiality of Personal Information
- ✓ Track and **Evaluate** Your Program
- ✓ Data Management, Maintain Training Records, Track Equipment, etc. **Update FEMA CERT Registry** and Complete **FEMA Annual CERT Program Survey**. See the [FEMA CERT Registry Dashboard](#) for the survey questions about your activities in the previous year. The [2020 Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Annual Certification results](#) provides a previous snapshot of CERT programs nationwide.
- ✓ **Contact** the Tennessee State CERT Coordinator for assistance along the way [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) And for more information please see the [FEMA - CERT Program Guide \(2022\)](#). And thanks to [CivicPlus How to Set Up a CERT](#) and [CivicPlus - CERT Program Set-up Checklist](#).

## ❖ Registering Your FEMA and Tennessee Recognized CERT Program

If you are considering starting or revitalizing a CERT program for your community, workplace, or organization in Tennessee, please contact [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) and review the steps below to apply for **CERT Program Registration**:

1. **Sponsoring Organization - FEMA policy requires an official “Sponsoring Organization.”** Any Government Agency, Service Club/Organization, Faith-based Group, 501c3, HOA, Workplace, Campus/School, etc. wishing to be recognized as an official CERT program, and use the CERT logo, requires sponsorship or approval by a government agency, such as a local Emergency Management Agency, Fire Department, EMS, Law Enforcement, etc. **CERT teams shall not self-deploy elsewhere, in their capacity as a “CERT team,” unless approved or directed by local government to respond** to a disaster or other operations within that jurisdiction. For example, if an independent disaster or recovery group or organization wishes to refer to themselves as a "CERT team" and deploy to a location other than to that individual CERT program’s workplace, campus/school, Homeowners Association properties, or faith-based group assisting their church members, etc. then they must first have a government Sponsoring organization and approval to deploy. Sponsors handle the activation, staging, deployment, and operational activities of their teams. The Sponsoring organization must develop policies, procedures, and documentation practices to support these activities. Text of the sponsorship policy can be found at [FEMA - 2023 CERT Program Guide - Pages 9 and 10](#). That policy is in place to make sure there are ongoing oversight and coordination by local government of all CERT response teams who may wish to deploy. Because FEMA manages the CERT program and the Department of Homeland Security holds a trademark on CERT marks, any group which wants to identify or respond as a “CERT team” must follow these requirements set by FEMA. Sponsoring Organizations help support many CERT Program functions and add to its credibility. The following organizations may provide sponsorship for a CERT Program:

- State, regional, local, territorial, commonwealth, unincorporated or tribal government-operated public safety agencies, including those responsible for law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medical services.
- State, regional, local, tribal, or territorial emergency management agencies.
- Departments under the authority of local, municipal, or tribal governments, including health departments, fire protection districts, regional planning districts, and city councils. Non-emergency service agencies and offices may sponsor CERT Programs, but must enable coordination with emergency services for training, mobilization, and supervision as needed.
- Elected officials or their offices and other government organizations, if they ensure the program can interface with emergency service organizations.

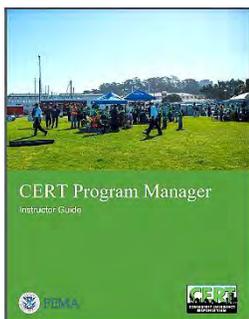
The sponsor's role is to define program goals and expertise to align with community needs and resources. Sponsors train or supervise CERT members, and act as a liaison between the local CERT program and the community to conduct emergency preparedness training. In an emergency, local CERT members may be called upon to assist professional responders with operational activities under the command and control of an affiliated or sponsoring local government agency. The sponsor may also choose to fund, administer the program, conduct training, organizes teams, and set CERT program policies. Though for an independent organization's CERT program, such as a workplace, faith-based group, 501c3, etc., the independent organization usually does all those activities themselves. But the organization's CERT program would still need approval from the local government agency to deploy as a CERT team elsewhere in their county or state. **All CERT program costs are at the discretion of the host agency or sponsoring organization that directly supports these teams. We recommend all CERT programs develop in close consultation with the local or county Emergency Management Agency.**

2. **Identify a Contact person**, selected by your organization to be [CERT Program manager](#).
3. **FEMA Registration** - The program must register online at the FEMA registration portal at <https://community.fema.gov/register>. A group or organization wishing to start a CERT program must complete the initial [FEMA - Preparedness Community - CERT Registry application](#) and the program must be accepted by FEMA and verified by the Tennessee State CERT Coordinator who considers whether the sponsoring agency can supply the personnel and resources to support the program and annual training and drills. If you have not previously created a personal account to register a CERT program, click on "[Register](#)" and submit your personal information to create your personal access account. After that is done, submit the initial [FEMA - Preparedness Community - CERT Registry application](#) for your program in order to appear on the [Find a CERT website](#) which allows the public to easily search for a nearby CERT program by mileage and Zip code. To see an existing program's account log into [CERT dashboard on FEMA's Preparedness Community website](#). If you need help with a **CERT Registry Password Reset or Account Reactivation** verify "cookies" are enabled on your computer. Otherwise, submit a request to [FEMA for assistance](#).  
**Starting June 2024, after you create your account the following new login guidelines apply:**  
An automated email is triggered if there's no login activity for 90 days. Every 60 days, you'll receive a prompt to update your password when you log in. If there's no login activity for 120 days, your account will be automatically deactivated. Should this occur, please contact the [FEMA Preparedness Community - Password/ Reactivation Help Desk](#). If you previously had an approved CERT program registration and no longer have the password, please send FEMA an email at [FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov) to obtain a new password. Let me know if FEMA does not respond and I will help with that process [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) If you encounter any technical issue accessing your Preparedness Community account, please email [FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov) for assistance.
4. **Training - Conduct at least one mandatory [CERT Basic Training Course](#) per year**. This course can be presented in the usual 12-16-hour classroom in-person format or there is a new [TN approved hybrid online CERT Basic training](#) that allows community members to complete the classroom portion of the CERT course online. A 6-hour in-person [Skills Session](#) is also required, usually at the end of the training classes. An excellent 8-minute video about the [History of the Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Training](#) by the Los Angeles City Fire Dept. which describes how community members can be trained in emergency preparedness. And here is more information about [CERT training resources](#) and a [Sample CERT Application and Waiver](#). **In Tennessee, each CERT program Sponsoring Organization determines whether additional training is required for their volunteers beyond the CERT Basic course.**
5. **Exercises** – If your program **trains and retains** CERT team volunteers, for assistance in disasters or other response activities, you must **hold a [CERT exercise](#) at least once a year** with them.
6. **Program Updates** - Please complete your [Annual CERT Program Certification](#) by March 31st each year to ensure your program is kept active, accessible to potential volunteers, and officially recognized as a resource to your community! Good record keeping is an important part of a CERT program evaluation, risk management, goal setting, and funding. At least annually, the CERT program manager **must** login to their page on the [FEMA CERT Registry Dashboard](#) website to answer **survey questions** about your activities for the previous year. Questions will include your number of CERT volunteers, training classes, and exercises. While FEMA asks you verify your CERT profile in the Annual Certification, you can update your CERT profile at any time from your program dashboard. The [2020 Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Annual Certification results](#) provides a snapshot of CERT programs nationwide.

## ❖ CERT Program Manager Resources

**Virtual K0427 - CERT Program Manager course** - The audience for this course includes professionals and volunteers who plan to be a local CERT Program Manager in Tennessee, or for those already in a CERT Program Manager position. The K0427 classes fill up quickly, but FEMA offers the course several times per year. [CERT Program Manager - Participant Manual](#). To sign up for a FEMA-EMI course, you will first need to obtain a FEMA Independent Study [Student Identification Number \(SID\)](#). Or if you have forgotten your SID, please go to the [FEMA SID website](#). Each CERT Program Manager course offering meets 4 days in 1 week for 4 hours per day. Students must attend all sessions of their delivery. All class times listed above are Eastern Time (ET). Class size is limited to 20 students. **And please note the important [FEMA - EMI Application](#) information in the “FEMA - EMI Training Applications” section later in this Guide.**

### K0427 CERT Program Manager Course ([Participant Manual pdf](#))



Here is the schedule of the upcoming virtual 14-hour CERT Program Manager Course deliveries offered by FEMA:

- December 10 – 13, 2024
- April 1-4, 2025
- May 6-9, 2025
- August 12-15, 2025

Register to take this course at <https://training.fema.gov/emicourses>.

However, before submitting a FEMA-EMI CERT training course application for a virtual or in-person class, please contact [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) for assistance in completing your training application and to facilitate the necessary approvals.

**CERT Program Best Practices - Before starting or Revitalizing a CERT program, draft a program plan with goals and objectives, but be realistic.** [FEMA’s Starting a Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\): Guidelines and Recommendations](#). And please feel free to contact us at Volunteer Tennessee for assistance. Also, consider reviewing [How to Form a Community Emergency Response Team](#), [FEMA - CERT Fact Sheet](#), [CERT Draft Program Plan](#). Also, here are several recorded FEMA webinars: [Developing and Organizing Your CERT Team to the Max](#), [Maintaining and Revitalizing your CERT Program](#), [How to Launch a CERT Program in Your Community, by Galaxy Digital](#), [Restart and Rejuvenate Your CERT Program After COVID-19](#), [CERT Program Manager Plan \(Sample\)](#), [CERT Program Manager Plan \(Blank Template\)](#). FEMA registered CERT programs also have access to [FEMA’s Free CERT printed materials - online ordering tool](#). Many more suggestions are presented in the [CERT Program Manager course](#).

**Volunteer Management** - The CERT Program should ensure its structure meets the needs of a community and is appropriate for the resources available. The program may have an internal structure for its program leadership and a hierarchy of its components—CERT training and component CERTs. A CERT Program should build its leadership structure to accomplish all administrative tasks required to keep the program running efficiently and meet FEMA requirements, as well as state or local rules and regulations. Consider establishing a cadre or leadership group of your experienced CERT members to assist you in training, management, and administrative tasks. Communicate what you expect of them. Create written SOPs or guidelines. **And it is a local choice whether to conduct background checks of retained CERT volunteers.** But background checks are recommended for volunteers who respond to a disaster or an incident that may involve interaction with vulnerable populations, those with Access and Functional Needs, or

the handling of sensitive data. See: [IS-368: Including People with Disabilities & Others with Access & Functional Needs in Disaster Operations](#). And the U.S. Fire Administration just released a new [USFA Manual on Retention and Recruitment in the Volunteer Emergency Services \(May 2023\)](#). While not directly addressing CERT, much of the content in the USFA manual is also applicable to EMA and CERT volunteers. And see: [10 Best Practices in Volunteer Management](#), [Volunteer Management: Best Practices to Drive Success](#), [Volunteer Surveys: The Best Questions to Ask \(& Templates!\)](#), [Smart Social Media Campaigns for Your Volunteer Program](#), [6 Ways to Better Support Volunteers](#), [The Importance of Communicating Impact to Volunteers](#), [Your Lapsed Volunteers: Here's How to Get Them Back](#), [Get Connected Volunteer Mgmt. Software - Galaxy Digital](#), and [DeployPro Team Management System](#). Your program can post volunteer opportunities on our [Tennessee Serves portal](#).

**Celebrate Dedicated Volunteers - Recognize the great value of CERT volunteers. According to**



**the [Independent Sector](#), the value of a volunteer hour in Tennessee in 2024 is \$29.93. This is important to potentially offset FEMA cost-share reimbursements in a Federally Declared Disaster.**

Consider awarding the [President's Volunteer Service Award](#) to CERTs. It helps you show your most outstanding volunteers their work for your organization and the community makes a real difference. Whether your volunteers graduate from the CERT Basic course or qualify for a President's Volunteer Service Award, earning special recognition helps them feel connected to your mission, plus they will keep coming back to volunteer with your organization, year after year. Sometimes just having a cake with the CERT logo can help recognize your CERT volunteers. For example, [State of Ohio EMA CERT Awards webpage](#).

**HAM Radio – CERT program managers should consider partnering their CERT volunteers with**



**the local [Amateur Radio Emergency Service \(ARES\)](#) and [Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service \(RACES\)](#). These are groups of licensed and trained HAM radio operators volunteer to provide emergency communications support to local, state, and federal agencies during disaster situations. And they can provide training, equipment, licensing, and information about ham radio.**



**CERT programs often train with ARES and RACES volunteers. Consider recommending your CERT volunteers obtain a [ham radio license](#). This will enable them to [Keep Lines of Communication Open](#) even when the internet, cell phones, and critical infrastructure are down!**

**Non-Discrimination - [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) is a national law that protects persons from discrimination based on their race, color, or national origin in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. CERT programs in Tennessee shall comply with Title VI which states that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” **Reminder, for CERT Basic emergency preparedness training opportunities, we should conduct outreach to all community members including underserved populations. We shall provide interpreters to accommodate people who are deaf or hard of hearing. And the [ADA](#) requires state/local governments make reasonable accommodations and present equal opportunities to those with disabilities so everyone can benefit from CERT training and activities.****

**National CERT Association** - The [NCA](#) is a non-profit organization, conceived and established to support communication and resource sharing across the CERT community. The NCA board includes Regional Representatives, At-Large Members, and FEMA Regional and HQ CERT Coordinators ([NCA Leadership team](#)). The NCA has excellent resources and a ["CERT Program Manager Supplemental Training Webinar Series Archive."](#) Each webinar is about an hour in length and provides insight into CERT program management. For example, their [CERT PDR Program Manager Series - Strategic Planning 101 video](#) covers planning, formation, or revitalization of a CERT program. Also, they have Post Tests listed in the last column. However, those tests are only for members of NCA wishing to obtain training certificates. NCA also has a resource library for members with links to training materials, webinars, and other CERT related resources. Learn more at <https://nationalcert.org>

**Also, CERT Program Managers can apply for a FREE MEMBERSHIP in the NCA.** Membership will grant access to the NCA resource library and NCA email communication. CERT Program Managers must register/update their CERT program for the current calendar year to maintain their **free** Program Manager Membership. Free Program Manager Membership is only granted to the CERT Program Manager on file for the FEMA CERT Registration website and is non-transferable. For more information, email [membership@nationalcert.org](mailto:membership@nationalcert.org) or join at <https://nationalcert.org/join-nca/join-nca-now>.

### ❖ CERT Program - Funding

CERT basic emergency preparedness training is provided free to the public. However, all CERT program costs, such as training, exercise, and equipment expenses, are at the discretion of the local sponsoring organizations that directly support these teams. Many FEMA-EMI training courses related to CERT are free, except for meal tickets at EMI. **However, please note: The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) approval of FEMA training applications is only to enable the application to be processed by FEMA. It does not constitute approval by TEMA of any costs or reimbursements that may be associated with CERT training.** Currently, there are no means by which TEMA can support costs associated with local CERT training or expend funds via TEMA staff without an approved state-level program. **Before submitting a FEMA-EMI CERT training course application for a virtual or in-person class, please contact [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) for assistance prior**

**to completing your training application and to gain the necessary approvals.**

**Grants and HSGP** - Some federal dollars were recently made available through regional HSGP councils, see the [FY 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program \(HSGP\) Fact Sheet](#) and [FY 2022 - Homeland Security Grant Program \(HSGP\) Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience](#) projects, which includes local CERT programs. It is unknown how long HSGP funding opportunities for CERT will be available in the future. If so, any additional capacity regarding the CERT program may potentially be an eligible project under the HSGP that could be presented to local and state councils that provide available support for

existing and future CERT programs. Such proposals would follow the established process for project selection by the regional and state councils to determine eligible roles and the means to fund these expenditures. Applying for an award under the HSGP is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. The proposals require coordination and approval through those councils that follow the process established for project implementation under HSGP. See [FEMA Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

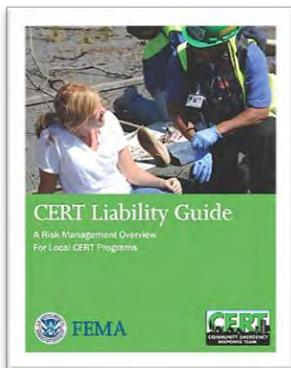


**HSGP** - Enhancing community preparedness and resilience is one of the National Priority Areas (NPA) for FY 2023 with a 3% minimum spend. CERT is one of the specific examples mentioned for this funding: **”Establish, train, and maintain Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Teen CERT, with a focus on historically underserved communities, including procurement of appropriate tools, equipment and training aides,** including local delivery of CERT train-the-trainer and CERT Program Manager to build local program training and maintenance capacity.” Also, [FEMA Preparedness Connect](#) has a recent [article about HSGP grants](#). These grants need to be coordinated with your local Homeland Security Regional Council. Those councils are comprised of representatives from state and local departments and agencies who are tasked with helping plan and direct the statewide homeland security activities.

**HSGP project-based grants** require work plans, tracking, and documentation identified and agreed upon by consensus to support priority objectives tasked to specific recipients and create a contractual relationship between the grantee and grantor to expend funds following these criteria. Notices of Grant Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) can be found at [GRANTS.GOV](#). Also, see FEMA Region 2 webinar [Grant Funding for CERT, Volunteer Florida - Sample CERT Program Sub-Grantee Contract](#). And click here to [Subscribe to the FEMA-ICPD Newsletter](#).

**Additional Funding Ideas** - Though a bit dated, the [Massachusetts \(CERT\) 2015 Best Practices Guide](#) has suggestions for developing, funding, marketing, and enhancing CERT programs. If your local funding is limited, creating an IRS approved [501\(C\)3 \(non-profit organization\)](#) may be another way to raise funds for a CERT program. To be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, an organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes. In some communities, CERT programs have filed for 501(C)3 status to allow them to do fund raising. Donations could be used to provide equipment, medical supplies, and training materials for the team. For some ballpark training and program numbers, here is a link to a [CERT Resource Library](#) with a “Quick Sheet” flyer about [Average CERT Program Costs](#).

## ❖ Volunteer Liability Concerns



The [FEMA CERT Liability Guide - A Risk Management Overview for Local CERT Programs](#) is available for general informational purposes only, and is intended to educate CERT program managers, instructors, volunteers, sponsoring agencies, and legal advisors about liability and risk management. We must make every effort to ensure safety during activities, training, and exercises. A volunteer should not attempt to perform actions for which the person is not trained and prepared to perform. Prior to accepting a volunteer assignment, each volunteer must ask themselves, "What types of incidents am I trained for and willing to respond?" Currently, no provisions exist for compensating volunteers for

time lost from work, mileage, meal costs, etc. A volunteer should neither drive unfamiliar vehicles (licenses and insurance should be confirmed), operate unfamiliar equipment, nor attempt to provide services without prior experience or training. In a disaster situation, the immediate and positive desire to help may impede the response and turn a volunteer from a helper into an additional victim.

Some people fear being sued because of incorrectly performing first aid in an emergency. However, in almost every case, this fear is unwarranted. All states have passed Good Samaritan laws to encourage assisting those in need. These laws protect anyone who:

- Voluntarily provided assistance, without expecting or receiving compensation
- Was reasonable and prudent in their actions
- Did not provide care beyond their training, and
- Was not grossly negligent in delivering emergency care.

Fortunately, the [Volunteer Protection Act of 1997](#) grants those who perform volunteer work for nonprofit organizations or a governmental entity immunity from civil liability for injuries they cause by their acts of negligence while volunteering, see: [42 U.S.C. 14503 - Limitation on liability for volunteers, Tennessee Good Samaritan Law - TN Code Annotated 63-6-218 and Governmental Immunity, and TN Code Ann. § 29-20-201.](#)

Also, please consider viewing:

- [Cal OES - Disaster Service Worker Guidelines](#)
- [California Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program website](#)
- [CERT Disaster Response Best Practices](#)
- [TENNESSEE STATE PARKS – Release of Liability pdf](#)
- [Sample – Dickson County Help Centers Volunteer Waiver of Liability form](#)
- [Sample North Dakota CERT Informed Consent, Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement](#)
- [Sample North Dakota Parent or Guardian’s Agreement of Informed Consent, Waiver and Release of Liability](#)

**Q: Can Teenagers under the age of 18 participate in CERT training and exercises?**

**A: Yes, but this is a local decision.** CERT programs should consider requiring teenagers (ages 13-17) who wish to participate in CERT training do so only with a parent’s or guardian’s prior written permission. [Sample Parental Consent and Risk Waiver Form for Teen CERT Volunteers](#)

**Self-deploying CERTs** - Occasionally, individual CERT trained volunteers in your community may choose to respond on their own (“self-deploy”) to local incidents, such as assisting at a traffic collision scene or through a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) as individuals. It is recommended you **notify all your CERT volunteers ahead of time when they assist at an emergency scene, they are simply acting as Good Samaritans and may NOT “self-deploy” wearing CERT logo clothing** (e.g., green CERT vests or CERT helmets). Usually, **CERTs should NOT self-deploy in a disaster unless they have been pre-authorized to do so by their sponsoring organization for that jurisdiction.** However, in the **aftermath of a disaster**, it is common practice for sponsoring organizations to allow CERT trained individuals to self-deploy in CERT gear **to assist their local neighbors and co-workers**. Then CERT volunteers should report to their designated staging area, and the first volunteer to arrive will become the initial Team Leader (TL) for the disaster response. **During CERT training each local CERT program should clearly communicate their specific self-deployment policy to all individuals taking their CERT training.**

**Only Sponsoring Organizations shall deploy CERTs beyond the immediate area.** In a disaster, CERT volunteers may be the first to arrive on scene in their own neighborhoods, such as when assisting neighbors and co-workers. In that scenario, CERTs can conduct basic disaster response operations until professional first responders arrive. CERT volunteers can and should act within the scope of their training as Good Samaritans when situations arise. However, individuals with CERT training are prohibited from self-deploying in CERT regalia (e.g., green CERT vest & helmet) **to emergencies and disasters beyond a need in their immediate area, unless approved to do so by their sponsoring organization**, such as their Fire Department or the local Emergency Management Agency. **CERT Teams should NOT self-deploy to distant disaster scenes unless approved by their sending sponsoring agency and the receiving agency with jurisdiction for the disaster.**

## ❖ Volunteer Insurance for TN EMA and Fire Volunteer CERT Programs

CERT organizations should not rely solely on a signed “Waiver of Liability” for CERT programs with “Retained” volunteers. Consider obtaining liability and injury coverage for your volunteers. And check if you have any existing policies that can be expanded to cover your volunteers. Consider viewing this lengthy but excellent [Better Impact](#) liability overview video by William Henry: [“What could possibly go wrong? Managing the risks of Volunteer Engagement \(52:45 min.\)”](#)



Volunteer liability insurance may be available through private insurers to protect volunteers, including excess accident medical, excess liability, and excess auto liability insurance. For example, **Brian Frost, of [Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services, Inc. \(VFIS\)](#), has recently indicated they could provide insurance coverage for both EMA volunteers and CERT volunteers.** He stated VFIS is the #1 insurer of Emergency Services in Tennessee. And [Volunteers Insurance Service Association, Inc. \(VIS®\)](#) provides insurance and risk management services for volunteer-based organizations since 1972. Contact [William.Henry@visvolunteers.com](mailto:William.Henry@visvolunteers.com) 703-778-7310. Also, [CIMA Volunteers Insurance](#) is another provider option. Always consider insuring your volunteers separately from your agency or organization general liability insurance coverage.

Tennessee Worker's Compensation or health care coverage may possibly apply to injured emergency management volunteers, especially if the CERT program is sponsored by a government agency. CERT volunteers could also potentially be covered under a Worker's Compensation policy for medical expenses. But those policies do not provide coverage for Line-of-Duty-Death or Disability. Typically, groups bridge the gap in the Worker's Compensation coverage with the VFIS Accident & Sickness policy which provides the volunteers with Death, Disability, and Medical benefits that covers whatever Worker's Compensation denies. **Please note: Any insurance coverage must be paid for by the CERT program's local sponsoring organization.**

According to VFIS, they insure over 60% of all Emergency Services in TN. Their main groups are Fire Departments, Rescue Squads, EMS, EMAs, and 911s. VFIS says they could provide insurance coverage to County EMA offices and all their volunteer programs, including CERT programs. VFIS provides insurance for liability, property, portable equipment, crime (bonds), auto, accident & sickness, and/or Workers Compensation. They indicated there may be multiple ways of classifying CERT volunteers for Worker's Compensation. But typically, VFIS uses either volunteer firefighter or clerical classifications. VFIS has two offices in Tennessee. VFIS/The Steve Frost Agency, covers Middle and West TN and is in Hendersonville, TN. The other office, VFIS/J. Mark Bowery Insurance, is in Kingsport, TN and they also cover East TN and southern Virginia. They can email you detailed brochures about what they offer, and their website is VFIS.com. Below is their contact information. Volunteer Tennessee is a State Agency and is not endorsing any specific insurance carrier. If you have any questions, please contact the insurance providers directly.

**\* NO endorsements should be implied for any commercial products or services in this CERT Resource Guide.**

**VFIS/The Steve Frost Agency\***  
Main Contact: Brian Frost  
PO Box 2499  
Hendersonville, TN 37077  
615-824-6541

**VFIS/J. Mark Bowery Insurance\***  
Main Contact: Mark Bowery  
1225 N. Eastman Rd. Suite 120  
Kingsport, TN 37664  
423-288-8347

## ❖ CERT - Sample SOGs, SOPs, MOUs, and Bylaws

- [CERT Program Manager Course UNIT 8: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES](#)
- [FEMA – Disaster Specific Memorandum of Understanding Guidelines](#)
- [Laramie County, WY EMA-CERT Standard Operating Guidelines \(SOGS\)](#)
- [Lebanon - Wilson County, TN – Sample CERT Application](#)
- [Massachusetts EMA - Best Practices Guide - City of Gloucester Sample CERT SOGs](#)
- [NCA - CERT PDR Program Manager Series: Policies and Procedures \(1:07:44\)](#)
- [Millersville.edu - CERT Policies & Procedures](#)
- [City of Novi, MI - CERT Standard Operating Guidelines - pdf](#)
- [City of Novi, MI - CERT Guidebook and Policies - pdf](#)
- [Sample - Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) between the Volunteer West Virginia \(State Service Commission\) and local CERT programs](#)
- [Sample MOU between Volunteer Florida and Florida CERT Association](#)
- [Sample MOU for Volunteer Participation in James Co. Virginia CERT program](#)
- [San Diego Fire & Rescue - CERT Procedures and Resources](#)
- [Santa Cruz Co., CA - Sample CERT Activation SOPs](#)
- [Sevier County, TN cert operating guidelines soqs.pdf](#)
- [Sevier County, TN cert application sevier county 2 .docx](#)
- [Tipton County, TN Constable's - CERT - Sample Code of Ethics and CERT Volunteer Application](#)
- [Union City, CA CERT - Sample Bylaws](#)
- [West Metro, Minnesota CERT - Sample Volunteer Application pdf](#)
- [Yamhill County, OR - Policies & Procedures Manual pdf](#)

## ❖ CERT Code of Conduct

A "CERT Code of Conduct" for a Community Emergency Response Team outlines the expected behavior and ethical standards for volunteers, emphasizing key points like prioritizing safety, following instructions from designated leaders, maintaining confidentiality, acting with professionalism, and putting the needs of the community first during emergency response situations. Key elements of a CERT Code of Conduct could include:

**Safety First:** Always prioritize personal safety and the safety of others during any response activity.

**Follow Instructions:** Adhere to directions given by designated team leaders and emergency management officials.

**Confidentiality:** Protect sensitive information obtained during response operations.

**Professionalism:** Maintain a respectful and courteous demeanor when interacting with the public and other responders.

**Teamwork:** Work collaboratively with other CERT members to achieve the best possible outcome.

**Reporting Issues:** Report any concerns or potential safety hazards immediately to the appropriate authorities.

**Community Focus:** Act with the best interests of the community in mind during a disaster response.

**No Discrimination:** Treat all individuals with respect and avoid any discriminatory behavior.

**Training and Preparedness:** Actively participate in regular training exercises to maintain skills and knowledge.

**Personal Responsibility:** Understand and comply with all local laws and regulations related to emergency response.

Sample CERT Codes of a Conduct and Releases: [Stansbury Park, UT CERT](#), [Puyallup, WA - CERT Code of Conduct](#), [San Diego County CERT Council Code of Conduct](#).

## ❖ CERT Resource Typing

Resource typing enables communities to have confidence that the resources they receive have requested capabilities. Currently, Tennessee does NOT have mutual aid agreements for CERT volunteers and Resource Typing is optional for local CERT programs. However, the [National Qualification System \(NQS\) Job Titles/Position Qualifications](#) and [Position Task Books \(PTBs\)](#) have position descriptions which may be useful for volunteers who help with local CERT program management, administrative tasks, deployment, and training. **Resource typing can guide EMAs when staffing unfilled volunteer positions in a disaster response or recovery**, or as a benchmark for volunteers wishing to pursue advanced CERT training. [Click here to download the Job Titles and Position Qualifications](#) (type CERT in the search box). [FEMA Resource Typing for CERT Overview and Q&A Part 1 - Part 2](#) and see the [FEMA Prep Tool Kit CERT PTBs](#) for the full list of CERT PTBs.

- [CERT “Volunteer” Resource Typing Definition - Draft Volunteer PTB](#) Qualifications for CERT Volunteers: Trained in CERT Basic in disaster response fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization, disaster medical operations. Type 2: 18-hour CERT Basic and IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800. Type 1: **Plus** IS-288 and IS-505 and completion of the NQS Position Task Book for the NIMS Type 1 CERT Volunteer.
- [CERT “Team Leader” Resource Typing Definition - Draft CERT Team Leader PTB](#) - A CERT Volunteer who directs CERT team activities. Qualifications: Same as “CERT Type 1 Volunteer” **Plus** - Type 2: IS-244, IS-317, IS-703. Type 1: **Plus** G427: CERT Program Manager course.
- [CERT “Section Chief” Resource Typing Definition - Draft of CERT Section Chief PTB](#) – An experienced CERT Volunteer Team Leader who is responsible for a specific functional area within the local CERT program. Qualifications: Same as “CERT Type 1 Team Leader” **Plus** the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: 1. Understanding of the functions of a Section Chief. 2. Understanding of the functions of the assigned functional area. Experience: Successful completion of the NQS Position Task Book (PTB) for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) CERT Section Chief.

## ❖ Promoting and Recruiting for your CERT Program

As we teach our neighbors and co-workers about preparedness, CERT programs will also need the support of the key stakeholders in the community. Get your message out! Have a CERT booth at a Preparedness Fair or National Night Out.



The following link is to a great video of a CERT information booth: [Paso Robles, CA Preparedness Fest - Facebook post](#). Your CERT program partners could include local administrators, elected officials, first responders, community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, HOAs, businesses, and all members of the community. [CERT Discussion Board \(Public Facebook Group\)](#). A discussion thread about setting up a CERT information booth at public events, handouts, table displays, etc.



Suggestions for organizing and promoting your CERT program are presented in the [CERT Program Manager course](#). And we must always remember to conduct outreach in other languages. English may not be the first language of many of our residents. For a terrific family oriented Spanish speaking community preparedness program see the [Listos \(Ready\) website](#).

- [CalOES - CERT Program Promo - 2014 \(9:00 min.\)](#)
- [Community Emergency Response Teams in Action \(6:27\)](#)

A good video to educate people about Community Emergency Response Teams. CERT members from California, Florida, and Texas explain how they come together to prepare their communities and assist their neighbors and co-workers during emergencies.

- ["CNN" - Humorous disaster preparedness campaign – YouTube \(2:40\)](#)
- [Download the LAFD CERT Flyer - English](#) [Download the LAFD CERT Flyer - Spanish](#)
- [FEMA - Free Publications](#) You can order **printed copies of CERT manuals** and materials related to individual and community preparedness with the FEMA warehouse [online ordering tool](#).
- [Find a CERT website](#) allows the public to search for a nearby CERT program by Zip code.
- [Get Involved: Join CERT Today](#)
- [Univ. of Utah - School of Medicine - Sample Hybrid CERT flyer](#) [Sample CERT Flyer](#)
- [FEMA - Outreach Initiatives and Training Activities for CERT pdf](#)
- [FEMA Podcast Episode 12: CERT \(CERT\) Jul 22, 2020 Download Audio](#) [Download Transcript](#)
- [FEMA-ICPD – Preparedness Community](#)
- [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Training "How it all began." \(7:56\)](#)
- [Alameda CERT In Action 2012 - Responding to a Windstorm \(19:13\)](#)
- [Campbell - CERT Basic practical training sessions \(2:24\)](#)
- [Campbell - CERT Training Disaster Simulation Exercise \(3:54\)](#)
- [Campus CERT - Pulaski College, IL \(3:03 min.\)](#)
- [CERT Pandemic Roles \(4:56\)](#)
- [CERTs Help with Vaccination Rollout - 2021 FEMA Article](#)
- [CERT in Action" 2013 version \(19:14 min.\)](#)
- [CERTs Take Action: Financial Readiness - FEMA Article](#)
- [CERT Teams in Action - 30 second promo video clip](#) A good clip for showing to people at a Preparedness Fairs, Information Booths, etc.
- [City of Cape Girardeau, MO - CERT Cartoon \(1:10\)](#)
- [Citizen's Corps. - CERT Recruitment video \(4:59\)](#)
- [Community Emergency Response Teams in Action 2018 \(6:28 min.\)](#)
- [Douglas County, KS - CERT webpage](#)
- [FEMA - CERT Fact Sheet useful for informing others about CERT](#)
- [FEMA - Preparedness Community Newsletters with Articles about CERT](#)
- ["The Office" Fire Drill - YouTube \(4:57\)](#)
- [Greenville Co., SC - CERT Training Course | What to Expect \(2:20\)](#)
- [History of the CERT Teams 2020 \(7:56 min.\)](#)
- [Lake Forest, CA - CERT Training Announcement Video \(2:16\)](#)
- [Michigan Preparedness Fair Plan and Layout](#)
- [Nashua, NH CERT Program Manager Discusses a CERT Final Exercise \(2:49\)](#)
- [New York City EM Prep Talk - Podcast Episode 19: 15 Years of CERT \(27:06\)](#)
- [Santa Barbara CERT Program Overview and Recruiting Video \(6:06\)](#)
- [Spanish Speaking CERT Teams - en Español \(10:53\)](#)
- ["The Big Bang Theory" - Emergency Preparedness Drill -YouTube \(1:52\)](#)
- ["The Simpsons" Safety Drill – YouTube \(2:10\)](#)

- [Ventura Co. CERT - "People like You" video \(3:02\)](#)
- [Williamson County, TN EMA Director Todd Horton "What is Emergency Management?" and the Potential Benefits of a CERT Team - YouTube Video \(42:02\)](#)
- [What is CERT? \(10:14\)](#)
- [When Disaster Strikes - Intro to the CERT Program \(3:59\)](#)

## ❖ CERT News - Social Media Sites, Groups, Articles, and Posts

Facebook "Private Groups" require you request to be a member before you can view their posts.

### Social Media Policies or Guidelines



Please note, once your CERT program has been established, consider stressing to volunteers that the taking or sharing of photos or videos on social media of any disaster scene, emergency response, or other locations where CERT volunteers are present may involve privacy issues and could result in erroneous messages to the public. **Early on, please consider establishing a social media policy for your CERT program well before hosting a drill or exercise.** To the left is a **Sample CERT Basic Course flyer**, courtesy of Sevier County EMA - CERT program.

- [CERT \(Community Emergency Response Team\) - Facebook Private Group](#)
- [CERT Community Emergency Response Team of Knoxville – Facebook Private Group](#)
- [CERT Discussion Board - Facebook Private Group](#)
- [CERT Instructors \(Facebook\)](#)
- [CERT Radio Operators \(Facebook\)](#)
- [East Tennessee CERT - Facebook Page](#)
- [Galaxy Digital Article - A Beginner's Guide to Starting a CERT Program \(A. Ferry\)](#)
- [Galaxy Digital Article - Everything You Need to Know About CERT Teams \(A. Ferry\)](#)
- [LAFD CERT Central Bureau \(Facebook\)](#)
- [Mid America- Official TEEN CERT](#)
- [Nashville Office of Emergency Management - CERT - Facebook page](#)
- [National CERT Council - Facebook Group](#)
- [National CERT Program Management - Facebook Group \(Sample CERT Posts and Flyers\)](#)
- [National Community Emergency Response Team Organizations – Facebook Private Group](#)
- [News Channel 3 - Memphis, TN News – Germantown, TN CERT Training Article](#)
- [Oakland, TN – CERT - Facebook page](#)
- [Official TEEN CERT \(Facebook\)](#)
- [Paso Robles, CA Preparedness Fest - Facebook post \(Fabulous video of a CERT booth\)](#)
- [Sevier County Emergency Management Agency's Facebook Post - "We Want You"](#)
- [Tennessee Disaster Response Team | Monterey TN](#)
- [WBBJ – 7 – Eyewitness News - Jackson-Madison Co. EM?A "Drill for Union Univ. nursing students"](#)
- [White County TN C.E.R.T. \(Community Emergency Response Team\)](#)

## ❖ CERT Webpages

Please let us know if we omitted a link to your EMA, Fire, or CERT Program website and social-media pages.



### [State of Tennessee - Volunteer Tennessee - CERT Training - Local CERT Programs Listings](#)

Please let us know if your local Tennessee CERT program listing or upcoming training sessions were omitted from this list.

Thanks, [donsowers@tn.gov](mailto:donsowers@tn.gov)

- [2Serve](#) This Tennessee based 501c3 provides CERT training for academy and college age young people throughout the southeast by involving them in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, they teach CERT without proselytizing. **2Serve may also be available to teach older adults CERT for other non-affiliated organizations and schools.** They charge for their CERT classes on a per-person basis to recover their course costs.
- [Carter County, TN EMA - CERT](#)
- [City of Bartlett, TN Emergency Preparedness - Official Website](#)
- [City of Germantown, TN CERT Training](#)
- [Fayette County, TN - CERT](#)
- [Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of SDA CERT Training Article](#)
- [Knoxville-Knox Co. Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Lebanon, TN - CERT](#)
- [Montgomery County, TN - CERT](#)
- [Munford, TN - Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#)
- [Nashville - Davidson Co., TN OEM – CERT](#)
- [Sevier County, TN - CERT](#)
- [Stay Safe Shelby - Shelby County, TN - Office of Preparedness - CERT](#)
- [Tennessee State University – Campus Emergency Response Team](#)
- [Town of Oakland – Fayette County, TN EMA - CERT](#)
- [Douglas County, Kansas - CERT](#)
- [Irvine, CA - CERT](#)
- [LAFD, CA - CERT](#)
- [Nashua, NH - CERT](#)
- [Olathe, KS - Fire Department - CERT](#)
- [Ready Long Beach, CA](#)
- [Sacramento, CA - CERT](#) An excellent CERT website!
- [Santa Clara County, CA - Teen CERT](#)
- [Tipton County, TN Constable's CERT](#)
- [BeReady - State of Utah - CERT](#)
- [Washington County - Johnson City, TN EMA - CERT](#)
- [Williamson County, TN Office of Public Safety - CERT](#)

## ❖ Developing Trainers to Teach CERT Courses



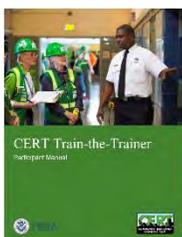
The CERT Train-the-Trainer course prepares CERT program leaders and new trainers to deliver the CERT Basic Training course in our communities and organizations. In addition to learning how to communicate the core values of CERT, students learn how to create a comfortable yet managed learning environment. **Please note, if you already took the CERT Train-the-Trainer course years ago you are not required to take the updated T-T-T course.** However, you may wish to take it again as the [CERT Basic training course](#) content was modified in 2019, see the [CERT Basic Training Participant Manual](#) and the [CERT Basic Training Instructor Guide](#).

Note, before someone takes the T-T-T class, they must first complete the prerequisite CERT Basic Course. However, first responders only need to complete the FEMA online [IS-317 course](#) as a prerequisite to taking the CERT Train-the-Trainer course. **On October 1st, 2024, there was a new FEMA Mandatory Prerequisite added, [FEMA - EMI Course IS-0013: EMI Conduct and Behavior](#). This EMI IS-0013 course is required before participating in any EMI training at the NETC Campus. However, this course only needs to be completed once.**

**Prior to taking the T-T-T course**, you may wish to review the documents and PPTs which FEMA provides for teaching a CERT Basic training course. The [FEMA Preparedness Community Additional Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Training Resources webpage](#) includes links to the CERT Basic Participant Manual, CERT Basic Instructor Guide, CERT Basic PowerPoint, CERT Hazard Annexes Instructor Guide, CERT Hazard Annexes Participant Manual, CERT Hazard Annexes PowerPoint, How to Start a CERT, and CERT Program Guide. Also, here is a link to the current [CERT Train-the-Trainer Participant Manual](#).

### **FEMA-EMI Offers both In-person and Virtual CERT Train-the-Trainer Courses in 2025**

The FEMA [National Disaster & Emergency Management University \(NDEMU\)](#) and [Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\)](#) announced they will host two **in-person CERT training sessions, in March and August 2025, in Emmitsburg, Maryland.** During each week-long training session, they will offer both the CERT Program Manager (E0427) and CERT Train-The-Trainer (E0428) courses back-to-back. All participants must take both in-person classes when attending the NDEMU. [CERT Train-the-Trainer Participant Manual](#).



**In-person E0427 and E0428 combined in-person CERT Train the Trainer and Program Manager courses will be offered over a one-week period from**

- **March 31 - April 4, 2025 - or -**
- **August 4 - 8, 2025.**

As I learn of other communities offering additional in-person courses I will send out that information as well.

**Virtual delivery of just the K0428 CERT Train the Trainer (T-T-T) 18.5-hour Courses:**

- **January 7-16, 2025 (T, W, R 1:00pm -5:00 pm)**
- **February 11-20, 2025 (T, W, R 1:00pm -5:00 pm)**
- **March 4-14, 2025 (T, W, R 1:00pm -5:00 pm)**
- **May 13-22, 2025 (T, W, R 1:00pm -5:00 pm)**
- **July 8-17, 2025 (T, W, R 1:00pm -5:00 pm)**

You can register to take one of these courses at <https://training.fema.gov/emicourses>.

Important, to enroll in one of these courses, you must have a referral from a CERT Sponsoring Organization and the State Training Officer. To facilitate the necessary approvals, well before submitting a FEMA-EMI training application for a CERT virtual or in-person Program Manager or T-T-T course, please contact [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) for assistance.

These courses are taught virtually or in-person at [the National Emergency Training Center \(NETC\) University \(video\)](#). While students only pay for their meals, lodging on campus is provided by FEMA-EMI at no charge during the courses. Students who fly to B.W.I. Airport in Baltimore will have the option to use a free shuttle to get to campus and return to BWI. Interested participants can register on the [NETC Admissions Application website](#).

Each FEMA-EMI CERT T-T-T course offering meets 3 days per week for 4 hours each day for 2 consecutive weeks. Students must attend all sessions of their delivery. All class times are Eastern Time (ET). Class size is limited to 20 students. Prospective students should apply at the Emergency Management Institute's [DHS-FEMA General Admissions Application](#)

For more information see: [CERT Train-the-Trainer Course - PowerPoint slide deck](#), [National CERT Association – NCA CERT Train-the-Trainer - Supplemental Training Webinars](#). The FEMA classes fill up quickly. But FEMA offers them several times per year. Those who teach only one or two of the units of the CERT Basic Training Course may do so without taking the CERT T-T-T course. However, the CERT T-T-T course would give them a needed overview as well as improve their teaching skills.

**First Responder Instructors (e.g., fire, police, EMS, RNs, etc.)** do not have to take the full CERT Basic training civilian course to become CERT instructors. Instead, a first responder can simply take the [IS-317 FEMA / EMI Independent Study introductory course about CERT and general disaster preparedness](#) as well as the [Train-The-Trainer course](#) to be full CERT instructors and teach all units in the CERT course for civilians. **However, CERT programs may use any first responders, or other subject matter experts, to help teach a portion or individual units in the CERT basic training course without them needing to need to take IS-317.** But IS-317 is strongly recommended for all first-responder CERT instructors in Tennessee. For a copy of your IS-317 completion certificate, see the [EMI Self-service portal](#) to download or print a copy of EMI certificates or transcripts.

**Civilian CERT Instructors** – CERT programs are responsible for ensuring that all instructors are adequately trained and have appropriate experience to deliver CERT training. Qualified trainers may come from many backgrounds and have different relevant skillsets. Civilians who are subject matter experts may help teach any of the individual units in the CERT Basic course without taking the CERT Train-the-Trainer course if they are paired with a qualified T-T-T trained instructor. And if they take the [CERT Basic Training course](#) and the [Train-the-Trainer course](#), then they may teach the full CERT course or manage the presentation of an in-person CERT course. **But please note**, the IS-317 course mentioned previously is only an overview of CERT training activities for first responders. It does not take the place of the CERT Basic course training required for civilians to be full course CERT instructors. [Sample CERT Basic Training Instructor Expectations and Responsibilities](#). Also, local jurisdictions, schools, and faith-based organizations may wish to subcontract with a Tennessee based 501(c)3 CERT program such as [2Serve](#) to perform CERT training for them.

## ❖ FEMA - EMI Training Applications



FEMA

Emergency  
Management  
Institute

**Please note:** To sign-up for FEMA's CERT Program Manager or Train-the-Trainer courses, you will first need to obtain a FEMA Independent Study Student Identification Number (SID). And you should first be part of or forming a recognized

CERT program in Tennessee. You must be pre-approved to attend by your local sponsoring organization. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) must also process your training application. **However, TEMA's approval of the application is only to enable the application to be processed by FEMA. It does not constitute approval of any costs or reimbursements that may be associated with the training.**

The [FEMA - EMI Application](#) online form will ask you for your "Head of Organization." However, the answer is NOT your local EMA director or organization head. Instead, it is the **Tennessee State Training Officer: Adam Stewart at TEMA who should be listed as your "Head of Organization."** You will see within the language on the [Application Instructions Page](#) it states: ...applicants for the above EMI courses must use the appropriate State Training Officer (STO) as "Head of Organization." When you apply, after completing the "Student Acknowledgement Statement" section on your [Online EMI Admissions Application](#) press "Continue." Then complete the pop-up window asking for the "Head of Organization Information" information. **THE FOLLOWING**

**CONTACT INFORMATION ONLY APPLIES TO TENNESSEE CERT PROGRAMS:**

* Head of Organization Name: Adam Stewart
* Head of Organization Title: State Training Officer
* Head of Organization Email: adam.stewart@tn.gov
* Confirm Head of Organization Email: adam.stewart@tn.gov

After completing your application, submit it to FEMA who forwards it to Adam Stewart at TEMA for approval. Volunteer Tennessee can help you with the application. **But PRIOR to applying for the Program Manager or Train-the-Trainer courses**, please contact [Don.Sowers@tn.gov](mailto:Don.Sowers@tn.gov), manager of Disaster Volunteer Services at Volunteer Tennessee, to facilitate the necessary application approvals.

## ❖ Presenting CERT Basic Courses

First, review the [FEMA Preparedness Community Additional Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Training Resources webpage](#). It includes links to the documents and PPTs you will need to teach the CERT Basic training course, including the CERT Basic Participant Manual, CERT Basic Instructor Guide, CERT Basic PowerPoint, CERT Hazard Annexes Instructor Guide, CERT Hazard Annexes Participant Manual, CERT Hazard Annexes PowerPoint, How to Start a CERT, and CERT Program Guide. Then before a CERT Basic course begins, students should be sent the most recent [CERT Basic Training Participant \(Student\) Manual \(available in multiple languages\) FEMA - Free Publications](#) You can order **printed copies of up to 50 CERT manuals** and materials related to individual and community preparedness with the FEMA warehouse [online ordering tool](#), and see [Ready.gov Citizen Responder - CERT Basic Manuals PDFs](#). If you plan to teach any of the optional CERT Hazard Annexes, send your participants the [CERT Hazard Annexes Participant \(Student\) Manual](#). You may also want to share the [About CERT](#) page. **CERT Basic, Campus CERT, and Teen CERT all use the CERT Basic Manuals and PowerPoints. The CERT Basic Training Course requires a Minimum of 18 hours of training, including 12-hours of classroom education (or the Hybrid CERT course) and a 6-hour in-person review of the online material and a Skills Session.**

## ❖ CERT Basic Course Modules - Overview

The Community Emergency Response Team training helps people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their homes, workplaces, and communities. The **in-person CERT course** is usually delivered locally with a 20-hour curriculum, with 12-14 hours in class and 6-8 hours of in-person drills and exercise. It was developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department, FEMA, and DHS and is designed to provide individuals with basic emergency response skills, particularly those that would be of value in the initial hours, or days, after a disaster when first responder resources may be overwhelmed and unavailable. CERT Basic Course Modules are typically taught in the following order, though you may vary the schedule.

- **Disaster Preparedness:** This module describes the types of hazards most likely to affect our community and region, introduces the functions of CERT, defines CERT roles in immediate disaster response, and encourages steps to prepare for disasters. Topics include Community Preparedness - Roles and Responsibilities - Hazards and their Potential Impact - Home and Workplace Preparedness - Reducing the Impact of Hazards through Mitigation.
- **CERT Team Organization:** Learn ways to protect rescuers; and to create and execute a safe and effective response plan. Topics include CERT Organization - CERT Mobilization – Documentation.
- **Disaster Medical Operations I -Treatment:** Participants learn how to select and set up a victim treatment area; apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock. Topics include Treating Life-Threatening Conditions - Basic First Aid Care.
- **Disaster Medical Operations II - Triage:** Conduct rapid triage under simulated conditions. Topics include Mass Casualty Incidents - Functions of Disaster Medical Operations - Establishing Medical Treatment Areas - Head-to-Toe Assessments - Public Health Considerations.
- **Disaster Psychology:** We learn to recognize and prepare for the psychological effects of trauma in an emergency. Topics include Disaster Reactions - Self-Care - Team Well-Being - Working with Survivors' Emotional Responses.
- **Fire Safety and Small Fire Suppression:** This module outlines how to identify and reduce potential fire hazards in homes and workplaces; work as a two-person team to apply basic fire suppression strategies and use an extinguisher on a small fire. Topics include Fire Size-up Considerations - Firefighting Resources - Fire Suppression Safety - Fire and Utility Hazards - Hazardous Materials.
- **Light Search and Rescue:** Students identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations; learn when it is safe to enter a structure, describe the most common techniques for searching a structure; use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication. Topics include Safety During Search and Rescue Operations - Conducting Interior and Exterior Search Operations - Conducting Rescue Operations.
- **Terrorism:** Teaches awareness of potential dangers and describes the types of terrorist groups and threats we face.
- **Optional Hazard Annexes:** The following are optional topics for the CERT Basic Course or later training sessions: Avalanches, Earthquakes, Extreme Heat, Hurricanes, Fires, Floods, Nuclear Emergencies, Thunderstorms, Tornados, Volcanos, and Winter Storms.
- **Course Review and Skills Session:** At the end of the course, conduct comprehensive drills or a simulated disaster exercise that ties together all CERT training modules with a practical application. Emphasize effective response, team organization, and the Incident Command System (ICS). Students will find instructions for the disaster simulation in the CERT Basic Course Participant Manual. Segments include Course Review - Final Exam - Disaster Simulation Exercise - Critique and Summary - Graduation and presentation of CERT Basic Course certificates. The disaster exercise skills include Scene Size-Up, Extinguishing Fires, Treating Survivors, and Leveraging & Cribbing, etc.

## ❖ CERT Basic Course - Materials & Links

- [FEMA - Free Publications](#) You can order up to 50 printed copies of CERT manuals and materials related to individual and community preparedness with the FEMA warehouse [online ordering tool](#), and see [Ready.gov Citizen Responder - CERT Basic Manuals PDFs](#)
- [FEMA - CERT Basic Training Overview & Materials \(In multiple languages\)](#)
- [FEMA - Videos about the CERT Basic 9 core basic training units.](#)
- [FEMA - CERT Basic Training - Instructor Guide](#)
- [CERT Basic - PowerPoint Slides English](#) / [Spanish](#) You may want to customize the CERT PPT slides by adding your organization's logo, relevant local information, and photos.
- [LAFD - CERT Manuals and Training Materials](#)
- [Lamorinda, CA - Sample CERT Basic Training PPTs and Training Materials](#)
- [FEMA - Additional CERT Resources - Links to CERT Guides, Manuals, and PowerPoints](#)
- CERT Basic Course – Optional Instruction - Hazard Annexes
  - [FEMA - CERT Hazard Annexes - Instructor Guide](#) The annexes for your specific region of the country are optional for the CERT Basic training course, but they are highly recommended.
  - [FEMA - CERT Hazard Annexes - PowerPoint Slides English](#) / [Spanish](#)
- CAMPUS CERT Course Info (Higher Ed. Institutions)
  - [FEMA - Community Emergency Response Teams \(CERTs\) on Campus](#)
  - [FEMA - CERT Train-The-Trainer Annex for Campus CERT Instructor Guide pdf](#)
  - [Campus CERT Starter Guide](#) Campus CERT programs are for college or university campuses.
  - [NCA - CERT T-T-T Campus and Workplace Programs webinar](#)
  - [University of California San Francisco Emergency Response Mgmt. Plan Annex CERT](#)
  - [California University Emergency Response Teams in Training](#)
- TEEN CERT Course Info (High Schools, Faith-Based Orgs., Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, Young Marines)
  - [Teen CERT Guide Launching and Maintaining the Training pdf](#)
  - [CERT Train-The-Trainer Annex for Teen CERT - Instructor Guide](#) Teenagers (13-17 yrs./old).
  - [Teen CERT Resources Campus and Teen CERT also use the CERT Basic Manuals and PPTs.](#)
  - [FEMA Article - Partnership with Scouts Promotes Preparedness - April 4, 2023](#) This Scout Council is also using FEMA's [Student Tools for Emergency Planning \(STEP\)](#) curriculum and Teen CERT to teach preparedness to younger Scouts and to students in schools.
  - [NCA - CERT TTT - Bringing Teen CERT to Your Community - Webinar](#) (01:28:22)
  - [New Jersey - Teen CERT - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - [New Jersey - Sample Teen CERT Brochure pdf](#) - [New Jersey - Sample Teen CERT Poster pdf](#)
  - [Ready.Gov – Teen CERT](#)
  - [Scout Preparedness Program Using Teen CERT](#)
  - [Teen CERT- Pasadena, TX \(3:40 min.\)](#)
  - [Teen CERT Sandy City Hall - 2013 \(11:15 min.\)](#)
  - [U.S. Dept. of Education - Readiness and Emer. Mgmt. for Schools - Teen & Campus CERT](#)
  - [REMS - Teen CERT: Enhancing School Emergency Management - Webinar](#) (1 hour)
  - [Youth.gov – Disaster Preparedness and Response](#) “By involving youth in disaster preparedness and recovery efforts, (schools, agencies and organizations) can help to not only increase youths’ awareness of particular hazards but can also enhance the chance that they openly discuss how to adequately protect their families and loved ones and understand how to seek help should their community be affected.”
- WORKPLACE CERT - [Workplace CERT](#) , [Video: Workplace CERT - Disaster Drill at the Port of Los Angeles \(2:27 min.\)](#), and [Video: Workplace CERT - Resilient Business ... \(4:04 min.\)](#)

## ❖ Optional Hybrid Virtual CERT Basic Training & In-Person Skills Sessions



### [Hybrid CERT Basic - Courtesy University of Utah - School of Medicine](#)

This online CERT Basic course educates our neighbors and co-workers, about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Questions? For more info please see: [www.OnlineCERT.org](http://www.OnlineCERT.org)

There is now an alternative available to presenting the traditional in-person CERT Basic training classes for Tennessee CERT programs. Tennessee is now on the list of [Hybrid CERT Approved States](#). This new hybrid CERT course makes the usual 12-hour classroom portion of the CERT course available as an alternate online course delivery method so community members can complete the classroom portion online at their own pace. **And it is suggested you give participants a date certain to have the modules completed and sent to you prior to the Skills Session.** For more info please see the following links to [Hybrid CERT Training Webinar - How to implement the Hybrid CERT Training and General Overview, Program Manager Sign-up Instructions and Samples pdf](#), and the [CERT Program Manager and Instructor Toolkit](#) which tracks student progress and forwards course invites within the Hybrid CERT learning management system, and a [Hybrid CERT Task book Checklist](#).

**The new online hybrid CERT course should be a tremendous cost and time saver for CERT programs.** To sign up for Hybrid CERT access make sure you have first added your approved CERT program to the [FEMA CERT Registry](#). Then go to [New Organization Request to Become a Hybrid CERT Provider](#). After being approved, here is [login](#) information. Then after students complete the online portion of the course, the CERT program must also hold an in-person [CERT Skills Sessions](#) for students to graduate and receive a completion certificate from your program. **(Note: Volunteer Tennessee has a sample CERT course graduation certificate available for local CERT programs).**

Here are a [Checklist for the Practical Skills Portion](#), [CERT Hands on/skills demo video \(1:44\)](#), [Hybrid CERT Basic - Skills Training session videos](#), and their Hybrid CERT Management page for CERT program managers tracks student progress, forwards course invites within the Hybrid CERT learning management system. See [Hybrid CERT Toolkit](#). [Instructor Guidance - CERT Skills Checklist](#) [Participant CERT Skills Checklist](#)

**Program Managers and Instructors - Videos & Checklist on administering the CERT Skills Session:**

- [Hybrid CERT Training Webinar 1 - How to implement the Hybrid CERT Training and General Overview - Suu-Va Tai \(1:57:23\)](#)
- [Hybrid CERT Training Webinar 2 - In-person skills training and disaster simulation guidance.](#)
- [Suu-Va Tai \(1:57:16\)](#)
- [Hybrid CERT Training Webinar 3 - Suu-Va Tai \(1:46:57\)](#)
- [Printable Skills Checklist pdf](#)

**For a backup link to the CERT Basic Training Participant Manual, visit**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KMZkAQtgKwoPO8fejZjXrsE4qenZA7K/view?usp=sharing>

You can take this Hybrid CERT course on desktop PC/Mac, mobile, and tablet devices at your own pace and convenience. This online course satisfies the lecture portion of CERT Basic Training. To receive a certificate of full course completion, students must also complete the hands-on, practical skills portion of the training. Please contact [onlinecert@utah.edu](mailto:onlinecert@utah.edu) with additional questions or if you are experiencing technical issues with the course.

During CERT courses, always conduct the Skills Sessions in safe setting. Have sufficient safety officers present. Verify all students wear their protective equipment and PPE as required by the skill. And use the buddy system as appropriate. Make accommodations only if the activity can still be done safely. Occasionally, there will be CERT students who wish to take in-person CERT training from another agency or organization. This usually happens when a student may have missed a particular CERT course module, or the CERT Basic course is not currently offered where they live, or work and they wish to train at another location. It also occurs when another CERT program is offering a training topic or exercise not offered at their home CERT program location. Upon approval of both CERT program managers, CERT programs may allow participants from other programs to participate in these activities. Also, we encourage all EMAs, CERT programs, ARES, VOADS, and others who may work together in a future disaster to regularly train and exercise together.

## ❖ Hybrid CERT Basic Training - Sample Skills Sessions Videos



Below are several links to videos that demonstrate suggested activities for conducting the in-person Skills training and a list of several CERT Skills Session YouTube Videos

- [CERT Basic Training Disaster Simulation Suggestions \(Facebook Posts\)](#)
- [Sample Agenda for Practical Skills Portion of a CERT Course – Google docx](#)
- [Hybrid CERT Training Webinar 1 - Implementing Hybrid CERT Training Overview \(1:57:23\)](#)
- [A brief video by ReadyOC of a CERT Skills Session.](#)
- [Montana HOSA - Five CERT Skills Videos on YouTube](#)
- [How to Approach a patient \(2:31\)](#)
- [Evaluate Circulation \(3:24\)](#)
- [Maintain an Airway \(3:21\)](#)
- [Open an Airway Jaw Thrust \(5:06\)](#)
- [Apply direct pressure to control excessive bleeding \(4:31\)](#)
- [Apply a tourniquet to control excessive bleeding \(5:47\)](#)
- [Perform a mental status evaluation \(2:19\)](#)
- [Apply a sling and swath for the arm \(3:30\)](#)
- [Perform splinting \(12:47\)](#)
- [Dress and Bandage a Wound \(10:28\)](#)
- [How to Assist When Administering an Epi Pen \(0:56\)](#)
- [Evaluate breathing \(2:05\)](#)
- [Head-to-toe assessment \(6:55\)](#)
- [Inline stabilization demonstration \(4:37\)](#)

- [Proper body position for lifting and the one-person arm carry \(1:37\)](#)
- [Pack strap carry \(2:45\)](#)
- [Two-person carry \(3:13\)](#)
- [Chair carry \(2:44\)](#)
- [Log roll and blanket carry and blanket drag \(6:07\)](#)
- [ABCD quadrant method \(5:07\)](#)
- [Debris removal \(2:47\)](#)

## ❖ CERT Exercises



**Reminder, CERT programs must hold an exercise at least once a year for retained volunteers to maintain your FEMA CERT program registration.** CERT Annual Exercises are the best way to prepare CERT teams to respond effectively to an emergency. Exercises and drills should be designed to engage team members and have them work together in response to a hypothetical incident. [Exercises](#) enhance knowledge of plans, assess skills, allow CERTs to improve their own performance, and address local training priorities.

Consider using the videos and training links found below and throughout this guide for ongoing CERT volunteer Training Sessions.

- [CERT Tabletop Exercise - Earthquake - pdf](#)
- [CERT Jeopardy Game](#)
- [Dallas CERT Training Drill \(6:18\)](#)
- [Disasterville for CERT](#)
- [Disasterville PowerPoint Slides](#) [Disasterville Toolkit](#)
- [Developing and Facilitating CERT Tabletop Exercises](#)
- [East Lake, FL - CERT - Lost child exercise \(9:58\)](#)
- [FEMA-EMI IS-120.C: An Introduction to Exercises](#)
- [FEMA - Exercise Best Practice Guides](#)
- [FEMA - Tabletop Exercise Design and Design and Delivery](#)
- [How Do You Keep CERT Volunteers Engaged?](#)
- [HRCC - Thoughts on the CERT Training](#)
- [Kansas City, MO - CERT Rodeo - How to do MOULAGE](#)
- [Long Beach, CA - CERT Drill video \(8:39\)](#)
- [Moulage - Several photos of Volunteer "Survivors" in make-up](#)
- [Ready.gov - Exercises](#)
- [REMS - Triage Tabletop Activity \(Word doc\)](#)
- [San Bernardino Co. CA Fire OES - Exercise Overview \(2:50\)](#)
- [Training and Exercise Development - pdf](#)

## ❖ Sample FOGs, Forms, and CERT Position Checklists

### FOGs:

- [California Volunteers - CERT Field Operations Guide - FOG \(2010\)](#) This downloadable PDF is designed to provide quick access to critical information. This FOG will assist CERT volunteers helping communities respond to emergency situations.
- [QUICK SERIES - New CERT Companion Guide for Advanced Operations](#) This durable laminated spiral pocket guide provides a general overview of disaster response, including what happens behind the scenes, what CERT volunteers should expect, and how to have a successful disaster deployment. [For ordering info contact Quick Series Publishing.](#)
- [QUICK SERIES - CERT Field Operations Guide - FOG](#) This 3 in. x 5 in. pocket guide provides CERT members with easy-to-follow and accessible instructions to help local disaster recovery efforts (Color coded tabs, Durable, and Weatherproof).
- [Rite in the Rain - CERT Field Operating Guide - FOG](#)  
This All-Weather CERT Guide is a comprehensive companion filled with practical reference material to help refresh core skills CERT Yellow cover with White All-Weather paper.

### FORMS:

- Many thanks to Glenn C. Devitt, Community Resilience Coordinator at Portland, Oregon Bureau of Emergency Management, for graciously sharing three comprehensive Wiki platform pages of CERT forms and policies <https://volunteerpdx.net/>, the [Basic Training Syllabus](#), and [Volunteer Support Function](#).
- [CERT IDs – Merit Issues the National CERT Association - NCA Digital Credentials](#)
- [CERT IDs - Salamander Live – CERT Credentials](#)
- [CivicPlus - Initial CERT Program Set-up Checklist](#)
- [FEMA's Free CERT Printed Materials Online Ordering Tool](#)
- [LAFD - CERT Sample Forms and the Role of the Scribe - Video \(45:40\)](#)
- [Santa Cruz Co, CERT - Household-Neighborhood Emergency Checklist \(pdf\)](#)
- [Santa Cruz Co, CERT - Winter Preparedness Checklist \(pdf\)](#)

### ICS and CERT Position Checklists ([Courtesy of Olathe, KS - CERT Program](#))

- [Assignment Status](#)
- [Communications Checklist](#)
- [Damage Assessment Survey](#)
- [FEMA-EMI ICS Forms](#)
- [Fillable CERT Forms](#) - Includes the standard forms plus several custom PDFs.
- [Fire Group Leader Checklist](#)
- [Incident Commander Checklist](#)
- [Logistics Section Chief Checklist](#)
- [Logistics Supplies and Equipment](#)
- [Medical Area Treatment List](#)
- [Medical Director Checklist](#)
- [Medical Treatment Form](#)
- [Medical Triage Form](#)
- [Message Form](#)
- [Operations Section Chief Checklist](#)
- [Organizational Chart](#)
- [Safety Officer Checklist](#)
- [Search and Rescue Director Checklist](#)
- [Search and Rescue Map Grid](#)
- [Staging Manager Checklist](#)
- [Staging Volunteer Information Sign-In Sheet](#)
- [Supply Manager Checklist](#)
- [Trailer Packet Content List](#)

## ❖ CERT Training/Response Cargo Trailer & Equipment Options

\* No endorsement should be implied for any commercial products or services listed in this CERT Resource Guide by the State of Tennessee or Volunteer Tennessee.

### Potential CERT Cargo Trailer Specs:

Typical CERT enclosed cargo trailers have a white exterior color with a flat nose, width 6' or 7', length of 12' or 14', interior height 7', with no more than a 10,000 lb. GVWR load capacity, 2 5/16" adjustable coupler, tandem axel, hand crank jack, scissor or bottle stabilizer jacks for trailer corners, 15" radial tires, spare tire, 4-wheel brakes, 8' folding beaver tail rear ramp instead of swing doors is preferable for loading, tandem wheels, heavy duty drop leg jack (with large foot pad), safety chains, breakaway kit with battery and in-line charger, 36", 42", or 48" x 78" side door with a flush, latch. or dead bolt lock, adjacent grab bar handle, spare tire, lug wrench, wheel chocks, 2-levels of E-track mounting system to secure loads recessed on all three walls (at 12"-16" and 44"-48" above the floor), 4-D-rings 6,000# rated recessed swivels in 4-corners of floor, minimum of 3/4" exterior/water resistant plywood flooring and ramp, rubber vinyl anti-skid coin or treat Plate floor surface covering for ramp and floor, (optional trailer floor undercoating), side wall and two RV style roof vents (14" x 14"), a section of opaque skylight in roof (like the UPS delivery trucks), melamine on the interior of the doors (can be used as dry-erase boards), a dedicated fire extinguisher (stays with trailer), and large commercial first-aid kit (both mounted just inside the side door), trailer graphics - large [CERT graphics - logos](#) and CERT program sponsor's name on the sides, and smaller CERT logos on the front and rear of the trailer.

### CERT Trailer Electrical Package (12-volt system):

LED road lights on all corners, two RV type ceiling vents may require 12-volt wiring with optional fans, L.E.D. exterior marker, tail lights, and dome lights, solar panels, inverter, 12-volt batteries, 12-volt exterior scene lights (flush mounted L.E.D.s with 2 on each side and one on the front wall, 30 amp electrical package, and on my personal wish-list: roof mounted solar panel with a battery charging charge system.

### Potential Enclosed Cargo Trailer Suppliers \*

- [ProPac](#)
- [Deployed Logix](#)
- [Homesteader](#)
- [Tenn Trailers](#)
- [USA](#)
- [Wells Cargo](#)



### Trailer Towing - Important!



Before allowing anyone to tow a trailer, please consider is the person planning to tow a CERT trailer authorized, properly trained & qualified to tow a trailer, have a valid driver license, and insurance specifically naming the sponsoring organization as an additional insured. And be sure to check with your organization's Risk Management/Legal department and insurance carrier to determine if volunteers would be covered if they tow your trailer. See the Liability and Volunteer Insurance sections elsewhere in this CERT Guide.

**Always consider taking pictures and marking all equipment owned by your organization well before CERT exercises, drills, and activations.** And maintain a current CERT trailer equipment and supplies inventory. You may want to mount a copy on an interior wall of the trailer. Ask other CERT programs or teams who may plan to use the trailer to please replace any depleted or broken equipment.

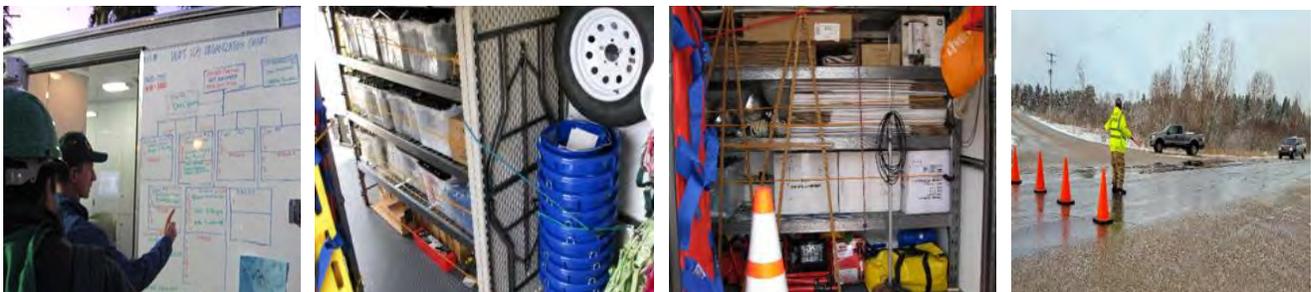


### **Miscellaneous CERT Trailer Equipment & Supplies:**

Three portable wire shelving units 4-foot wide with casters, tough plastic bins with lids for shelves, hand trucks/dolly carts, ratcheting tie-down straps with hooks, assorted bungee cords, small power generator, Empty gas can, funnel (**NEVER store gasoline in the trailer**), extension cords, free standing work lights, light-tower, push broom, dust pan, trash bins, construction garbage bags, shovels, rakes, brooms, dust pan, pry bars, tool kit: (wrench, pliers, hammer, screw drivers, nails/screws, pliers, bolt cutter, hacksaw, hatchet, leather gloves, tape, rope, paracord, folding knife, heavy duty staple gun, extra staples, and plenty of duct tape), flashlights, batteries, inflatable light towers, orange traffic cones, yellow caution tape, clipboards, paper/notebooks, pens, white boards, easels, dry erase markers, lumber crayons, canopies, tables (six-foot folding), folding chairs, tarps, plastic sheeting, CERT feather flag kits with base, banners, green CERT table cover, plastic sheeting, porta-potty, pop-up tent, folding ladder, empty 5-gallon water jugs, ice chest, buckets, paper towels, cups, plates, utensils, manual can opener, napkins. DO NOT store perishable food items in the trailer and remember to **always have a first aid kit available** for all drills and exercises.

### **Optional CERT Response Equipment:**

In a disaster, a CERT training cargo trailer could be used by trained volunteers in a response role. Consider whether to stock a cache, located in an area separate area from the training supplies, of additional PPE and response gear such as: CERT backpacks, CERT helmets, CERT caps, Kelly green reflective CERT vests, leather & nitrile gloves, safety goggles, N-95 masks, ponchos, emergency blankets, chemical A-B-C fire extinguishers, traffic cones, tools, rolling white dry-erase boards, and/or white melamine panels on the interior of the trailer doors (photo below). [Sample CERT Trailer List](#), [Sample CERT Trailer Forms Checklist](#) .



## ❖ CERT Basic Course Training Equipment

**Disaster Medical Operations** - Moulage to simulate injuries, 4x4 gauze pads, bandages, abdominal pads, triangular bandages, tourniquets, slings, SAM splints or cardboard splinting material, nitrile gloves, shaving cream, medical tape, scissors/EMT shears, PPE, triage tags, triage tape, backboards, mannequin, backboards or folding cloth stretchers, neck collars, emergency cloth or mylar blankets, and triage tarps, etc.



**Fire Safety and Utility Controls** - Use a fire pan (preferably a propane system with trained fire safety officers present), several fire extinguishers (usually 2-3 trainees per 5# extinguisher), remote ignition or road flares and a long pole, and duct tape. See [Lion Community Fire Safety Training](#) \*



**Light Search and Rescue Operations** - Gas Meter, Electrical Panel, and Cribbing materials, have a mannequin/dummy, two pry bars (or some long 2"x4"s), numerous pre-cut pieces of wood for box cribbing e.g., twenty 2"x4"x24," and twenty 4"x4"x24," as well as cribbing wedges (you could cut several 4"x4"x24" pieces of wood in half on a diagonal). And consider purchasing milk crates to store the wood blocking and shims, and a large flat object to leverage (e.g., heavy table, dumpster, etc.). Also, consider using an electrical circuit breaker training panel, gas meter mock-up, wrench, 4-in-one tools, and a megaphone/bullhorn.



### Skills Sessions & Drills - Personal Protective Equipment:



For the practical Skills Session or Drill in a CERT class, PPE SHOULD BE REQUIRED FOR EACH PARTICIPANT, including a helmet, work gloves, safety goggles, and a mask. Additional equipment and supplies such as CERT reflective safety vests, fire extinguishers, etc., will be needed for teaching the other units in the CERT Basic training course.

## ❖ CERT Course Certificates - Individual Gear & Equipment - Logos/Patches \*

\* *No endorsements should be implied for any commercial products or services listed in this CERT Resource Guide.*

### CERT Training Completion Certificates

After completion of the CERT Basic training course, sponsoring CERT programs must provide a training certificate to their graduates. Volunteer Tennessee can provide you with a sample CERT certificate template in Word format (see image). Feel free to edit the template to add different logos or seals, insert your signature blocks, and change the student names. For convenience, each time you change a student name on the master Word document, consider saving it as a separate PDF to make it easy to retain for your records or email a copy. Also, a PDF has better quality when printing certificates. There are no rules for CERT certificate formatting. So, you can use any certificate format you wish to make up for your program. However, just be sure to include the wording "CERT Basic Course" and the CERT logo on it so other CERT programs could recognize it was presented after completion of the CERT Basic course.



**Additional Individual CERT Gear:** CERT programs have the option to provide some CERT equipment, such as a CERT vest and CERT helmet, to their CERT Basic course graduates. Though, most CERT programs only provide a CERT vest and helmet to just their "train & retain" volunteers. Alternatively, volunteers can choose to purchase any additional personal CERT clothing and gear on their own.



**Remember, personal safety is paramount. Always conduct a Size-up before any action. CERTs should never attempt any actions unless they were previously trained to perform those activities or if it puts them at risk.** At a minimum, CERTs should always work with a buddy and wear the necessary equipment and PPE (e.g., N-95 mask, leather work gloves and/or medical gloves, protective eyewear, hard hat, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes/boots, CERT reflective vest, bag or backpack, tools, forms, first aid supplies, and water/snacks).

**Logos/Patches/Pins:** FEMA manages the CERT program, and the Department of Homeland Security holds a trademark on CERT marks, any group that wants to identify or respond as a "CERT" team must follow the requirements set by FEMA under the [Department of Homeland Security Trademark Use Agreement for CERT Marks/Logos](#). FEMA [registered CERT programs](#) do NOT need to request permission to customize the CERT logo to meet local needs. The use of the logo will strengthen the CERT brand and increase public awareness. You may also add local landmarks or a CERT program sponsor name to the skyline area of the official CERT logo design to customize your patches, stationary, etc. [CERT Logo Usage Guidelines](#).



[CERT Programs Registered with FEMA](#) do not need to request permission under the Department of Homeland Security Trademark Use Agreement for CERT Marks. However, companies who wish to market products using the CERT logo should review <https://www.ready.gov/faq/cert-logo>.

The CERT logo shall not be used in any manner which implies the endorsement of any person, product, program, service, or on any commercial products. If you have a link to a CERT supplier not already listed below, please let us know. [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) Thanks.

## ❖ CERT Vendors & Suppliers\*

*\* No endorsements should be implied for any commercial products or services listed in this CERT Resource Guide.*

- [CDC - Sequence for Putting on Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\).](#)
- [CERT Vehicle License Plate Frame | ProPac USA](#)
- [CERT and Custom License Plate Toppers email: Chris Greenwood at \*chris@fireplatesnmore.com\*](#)
- [CERT Store](#) (All Profits Benefit the Los Angeles CERT Program)
- [City of Los Angeles - CERT Red Rock Rattlers - Equipment Lists and Suppliers](#)
- [Community Disaster Preparedness Foundation Radio Recommendations \(2022\) Includes Equipment Lists, Communications Plans, FRS/GMRS/HAM Radio, and Zello Information](#)
- [Combat Swag – Custom CERT Patches](#)
- [Conterra Four Color TRIAGE Tape - Black, Yellow, Green, RED - \(Amazon link\)](#)
- [EmergencyKits.com – CERT Equipment & Supplies](#)
- [Fire Supply Depot](#)
- [First Aid Market - CERT logo patch and caps](#)
- [First Aid Product - C.E.R.T. Products & Gear](#)
- [First Class Responder - CERT Logo Shirts and Decals](#)
- [Earthquake Management Products – CERT Equipment](#)
- [EmergencyKits.com - CERT Supplies](#)
- [Fire Supply Depot - CERT Supplies](#)
- [First Class Responder - CERT Equipment & Supplies](#)
- [Google – Samples Customized CERT Logo Graphics.](#)
- [LAFD - What Should Be in Your Emergency "Go Bag"](#)
- [Midland FRS & GMRS, and NOAA Weather Radios and Base Stations at Discount](#) Contact Bruce Jones, Meteorologist/National Spokesperson [bjones@midlandusa.com](mailto:bjones@midlandusa.com) 816-462-0497 regarding 40% off retail price for EMA's, CERT programs, VOADS, schools, & churches.
- [Prepare Smart](#)
- [ProPac - CERT and MRC Supplies](#)
- [Quantum Packs.com](#)
- [Sample CERT Bag - YouTube](#) and [Bay CERT deployment bag contents](#) - CERT backpacks videos.
- [Santa Cruz Co, CERT - Backpack Checklist \(pdf\)](#)
- [Santa Cruz Co, CERT - Car Emergency Checklist \(pdf\)](#)
- [SOS Survival Products – CERT Equipment and Supplies](#)
- [Sunset Survival & First Aid - CERT Team Gear](#)
- [TEMA - Emergency Kit Recommendations](#)

## ❖ Upcoming CERT Training Opportunities and Events

Please share these training opportunities widely with your CERT members.

### 2025 FEMA offerings of the Virtual and In-Person CERT Program Manager and CERT Train-the-Trainer (T-T-T) Courses:



#### FEMA - Virtual CERT Program Manager Course (0427)

- April 1-4, 2025
- May 6-9, 2025
- August 12-15, 2025

Apply to take this course on the [FEMA - EMI Application webpage](#). The course code for the CERT Program Manager training is **0427**.

#### FEMA - Virtual CERT Train-the-Trainer (T-T-T) Course (0428)

- January 7-16, 2025 (T, W, F - 1:00pm -5:00 pm)
- February 11-20, 2025 (T, W, F - 1:00pm -5:00 pm)
- March 4-14, 2025 (T, W, F - 1:00pm -5:00 pm)
- May 13-22, 2025 (T, W, F - 1:00pm -5:00 pm)
- July 8-17, 2025 (T, W, F - 1:00pm -5:00 pm)

Apply to take this course on the [FEMA - EMI Application webpage](#). The course code for the CERT Program Manager training is **0428**.

The FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) also announced they will host two **FREE in-person CERT training sessions at the National Disaster & Emergency Management University (NDEMU) in 2025**. During each week-long training session, EMI will offer both the CERT Program Manager (E0427) and CERT Train-The-Trainer (E0428) courses back-to-back. All participants must take both in-person classes when attending the NETC in Maryland.

#### [FEMA-EMI In-person CERT Program Manager and Train-the-Trainer Courses \(0429\)](#)

- March 31 - April 4, 2025.
- Aug. 4 - 8, 2025.

Apply to take this course on the [FEMA - EMI Application webpage](#). The course code for the CERT Program Manager training is **0429**.

**Rosters fill quickly, so please encourage anyone who is interested in these courses to enroll right away.**

Reminder, before someone takes the CERT Train-the-Trainer classes, if they are not a first responder, they must first complete the prerequisite [CERT Basic training course](#). First responders only need to complete the online [IS-317 course](#) as a prerequisite. When I learn of communities offering these courses in-person, I will send out that information. Please click on the hyperlinks below for registration details.

The purpose of this T-T-T course is to produce competent instructors for the CERT Basic Training Course. A competent CERT instructor:

- Delivers the CERT Basic Training Course accurately, conveying the messages and intent of the CERT Program (e.g., safety, teamwork, place in overall community emergency operations plan).
- Assures that participants achieve the objectives of the CERT Basic Training Course.
- Delivers training effectively and at an appropriate level, this enabling participants to learn and correctly apply skills sets.
- Creates a comfortable yet managed learning environment.

Course includes classroom and hands-on activities. They welcome people of all abilities.

### Emergency Management Institute Goes Social

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has social media accounts for training opportunities and course offerings. [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

### LIVE Presentations of CERT Related Training / Events:



**LAFD CERT trainings are always open to everyone, regardless of whether you have taken CERT training or even if you do not live in Los Angeles. You can find videos of previous LAFD-CERT trainings on their YouTube channel at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LAFDCERTCoordinators>



**[LAFD CERT Continuing Education - How Asking Questions Could Save Your Life!](#)**

Recorded on Wednesday, October 16, 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jhKcLFthtw>



**[LAFD CERT Continuing Education - Beyond the Basic Training: What's Next in CERT](#)**

Recorded on Wednesday, November 20, 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pG3pPWogz9U&t=16s>



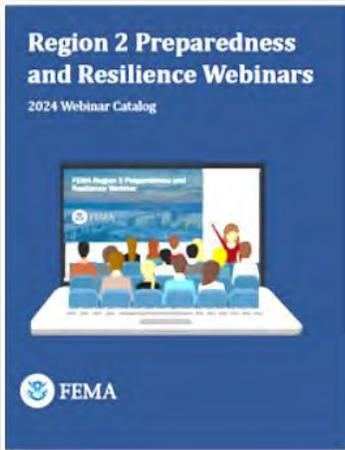
**TEMA** - There will be **TEMA 101** classes offered on **February 28, 2025, and again on August 5, 2025 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm CST. Location: TEMA HQ: Suiter Room 3041 Sidco Drive Nashville, TN 37204 Contact: [TEMA.Training@tn.gov](mailto:TEMA.Training@tn.gov)**

This one-day course is designed to introduce participants to TEMA and emergency management in Tennessee. It covers various topics, including the history of emergency management, hazards in Tennessee, the legal framework surrounding emergency management, TEMA's administrative structure, and its role during disasters. Please submit your completed Student Application to [TEMA.Training@tn.gov](mailto:TEMA.Training@tn.gov) to register for this course.

More information for the course and registration for many more courses can be found on the TEMA Training Calendar. <https://www.tn.gov/tema/emergency-community/training/training-calendar.html>



# Preparedness and Resilience WEBINAR Series



## FEMA Region 2 releases previous Webinar Recordings

Tennessee is in FEMA Region 4. However, FEMA Region 2 conducts excellent CERT related webinars. This catalog contains a brief description and respective recording links to each of the 36 webinars hosted by FEMA Region 2 in 2024. Feel free to revisit these webinars or share them with family, friends, co-workers, and CERT volunteers.

[FEMA Region 2 - 2024 Webinar Catalog](#)



Did you miss the excellent December 2024 FEMA Webinar on Drones for Emergency Management? See the webinar recording here: [Drones for Emergency Management](#)

## Upcoming FEMA Webinars



## CERT Field Command and EOC Activations

Wednesday January 8, 2025 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

Please join FEMA Region 2 in partnership with the National CERT Association (NCA) and California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for a webinar about Field Command, EOC Activation, and the Management of Multiple Volunteer Groups Simultaneously.

The first day of a major incident can be complicated, with fingers crossed, and the hope that it all unfolds in an organized way according to plan. Sometimes it does; but chaos, with nobody at fault, is the norm. After all, they're called disasters for a reason. In this presentation, we'll talk about Incident Command and/or Unified Command in the field, somehow triggering a local government response, and how CERT volunteers, along with many other organized volunteers, fit in. We'll ask a lot of questions and even answer a few.

**Who should attend?** Local, State, Federal government, Community and Faith-based Organizations, Emergency Managers, CERT Leads, Program Managers and volunteers.

**Registration:** <https://fema.cosocloud.com/fieldcommand/event/registration.html>

**Make sure to [test your Adobe Connect](#) before the meeting.**

This event will include live captioning. If you need additional accommodations, please email

[kathleen.madigan@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kathleen.madigan@fema.dhs.gov)

## 2025 Upcoming In-Person Training at the Mid Cumberland Regional Health Office



Thankfully, Glenda Williams, [Regional Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\) Coordinator](#) - Tennessee Department of Health - Mid Cumberland

Regional Health Office, has graciously shared the following training opportunities to be held at the **Mid Cumberland Regional Health Office at 710 Hart Lane, Nashville, TN 37216**; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. If you register for any TEEX or NDPTC class, you must have separate student accounts at <https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/?MO=mRegister> and/or at NDPTC <https://ndptc.hawaii.edu>. Your FEMA SID# will also be required to enroll. If you need to register for an SID# – please follow this link <https://cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID/register> Classes are free, and seats are limited. If you have questions, please contact Glenda Williams at [Glenda.d.Williams@gmail.com](mailto:Glenda.d.Williams@gmail.com).

January 7, 2025 **NDPTC AWR 311 Winter Weather Hazards** – 8 hours/One Day ONLY  
<https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3802/>

January 14, 2025 **TEEX AWR 136 Essentials of Community Cybersecurity** – 8 hours/One Day Only  
[AWR136 - Nashville, TN - 1/14/2025](https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3803/)

February 5 & 6, 2025 **TEEX MGT 319 Medical Countermeasures POD Planning and Response**  
<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=FP&C=MGT319&S=578>

February 18 & 19, 2025 **TEEX MGT 341 Disaster Preparedness for Healthcare Orgs within the Community Infrastructure**  
<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=EU&C=MGT341&S=612>

March 6, 2025 **NDPTC AWR 326 Tornado Awareness** – 8 hours/One Day Only  
<https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3803/>

March 18 & 19, 2025 **TEEX MGT 345 Disaster Management for Electric Power Systems**  
<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/?MO=mClassRegistration&D=EU&C=MGT345&S=345>

May 20 & 21, 2025 **TEEX MGT 343 Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities**  
<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/?MO=mClassRegistration&D=EU&C=MGT343&S=739>

June 4 & 5, 2025 **TEEX MGT 384 Preparing for Cyber Attacks & Incidents**  
[MGT384 - Nashville, TN - 6/4-5/2025](https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3844/)

June 17, 2025 **NDPTC AWR 308 Disaster Preparedness for Caregivers** – each class is 4 hours with 2 classes that day. 8:00am–12noon, and 1:00pm–5pm. Seats are limited to 15 students per time slot/class.  
<https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3843/> 8:00 a.m. class  
<https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/3844/> 1:00 p.m. class

July 15 & 16, 2025 **TEEX MGT 348 Medical Preparedness & Response for Bombing Incidents**  
<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=FP&C=MGT348&S=783>

August 12 & 13, 2025 **TEEX MGT 439 Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness**  
<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=FP&C=MGT439&S=548>

October 21-23, 2025 **FEMA ICS 300** This class is now 21 hours vs. 16 hours. Class will start at 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day. If interested in attending, please contact Glenda Williams at [Glenda.D.Williams@tn.gov](mailto:Glenda.D.Williams@tn.gov)

November 4 & 5, 2025 **TEEX PER 211 Medical Management of CBRNE Events**  
<https://teex.org/class/per211/>

## 2025 Connecticut CERT Connect Webinar Series



**Connecticut CERT Connect announces their 2025 schedule.** This bi-monthly webinar series information, graciously provided by Michael Davis – State CERT Coordinator - Connecticut Emergency Management and Homeland Security, is designed to enhance the skills, capabilities, and knowledge of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Each 2-hour program will focus on diverse topics to help strengthen community emergency preparedness. ***CERT Connect 2025 flyer.pdf***

### 2025 Connecticut CERT Webinar Schedule:

- **January 8, 2025 – *Alzheimer’s, Dementia & Communicating Effectively***  
Learn best practices for assisting individuals with Alzheimer’s or dementia during emergencies.
- **March 11, 2025 – *Food Safety***  
Discover food safety best practices, including handling and storage in both every day and emergency situations.
- **May 7, 2025 – *Amateur (Ham) Radio***  
An introduction to ham radio and its essential role in emergency management and CERT operations.
- **July 22, 2025 – *Hurricane Forecast & Preparedness***  
Explore personal, family, and community preparedness, along with the hurricane season forecast.
- **September 17, 2025 – *Cybersecurity***  
Understand digital security, cyberthreats, trends, and strategies for mitigation in the emergency response context.
- **November 18, 2025 – *Search & Rescue***  
Learn strategies, tips, and best practices for effective search and rescue operations.

### Webinar Details:

- All webinars will take place from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM EST.
- Topics are subject to change. More information is available on the [CT Train page](#).

### How to Register:



1. Create a free account on [CT.Train.org](https://CT.Train.org) or log in if you already have an account.
2. Join the CT DEMHS group by entering “CTDEMHS” in your profile under “Manage Groups” > “Join By Group Code.”
3. Register by visiting [CT.Train.org](https://CT.Train.org), search for ID **1120854**.  
**Or use the QR code.**
4. Select the sessions you’d like to attend and click “Register.”

Point of contact: Michael Davis, Trainer CT DEMHS  
[CT.gov/DEMHS](https://CT.gov/DEMHS)

[Michael.W.Davis@CT.gov](mailto:Michael.W.Davis@CT.gov) (860)278-6855

## ❖ Previously Recorded CERT Training Sessions



[LAFD CERT Continuing Education](#) has over one-hundred CERT related videos posted online. They recently posted a lengthy (1:23:05) but informative training video entitled: [CERT Continuing Education: Sun vs the Earth - The Day Your Electronics Die.](#)



Tennessee is in FEMA Region 4. However, FEMA Region 2 conducted the following excellent webinars:

- ✓ [FEMA R2 Individual and Community Preparedness 2024 Mid-year Webinar Catalog PDF](#)  
Thanks to Debbie Costa and FEMA Region 2, for hosting many CERT related webinars with FEMA subject matter experts, state and local partners, other federal agencies, first responders, and CERT volunteers on a wide variety of topics. 2024 webinar links highlighted in YELLOW: [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDHSFEMA/2024/07/10/file\\_attachments/2932641/2024\\_midyear\\_webinar\\_catalog\\_REV\\_2.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDHSFEMA/2024/07/10/file_attachments/2932641/2024_midyear_webinar_catalog_REV_2.pdf) For previous webinars see [FEMA Region 2 Preparedness, Resilience, and CERT Webinars](#)
- ✓ [CERT Callout and Deployment Procedures](#) - Many CERT programs have deployed their CERT Volunteers for various emergency and disaster response activities. This presentation discusses the CERT Call out and Deployment procedures utilized by the Los Angeles City Fire Department and San Francisco City Fire Department. <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pm1pihky5zyo/>
- ✓ [CERT Volunteers and the EOC](#) - Santa Barbara City and County (California) has utilized CERT volunteers to support EOC operations. This presentation will discuss the roles that CERT volunteers can play, and the types of training CERT volunteers should receive to help them succeed in the EOC environment. <https://fema.cosocloud.com/ptp6hljne3x3/>
- ✓ [CERT Code of Conduct and what if you need to dismiss a Volunteer?](#) - CERT Volunteers can be a blessing or a burden. This presentation will discuss the importance of a Code of Conduct for CERT Volunteers and how to properly manage, discipline, and dismiss a CERT volunteer if necessary. <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/ppegbmppu4bk/>
- ✓ [How to plan and execute a CERT Exercise Competition/Rodeo](#) The planning and execution of one of these events is not easy but can be tremendously rewarding for all CERT programs and their CERT Volunteers. Presenters discuss how to effectively plan and execute these events, including lessons learned and best practices. <https://fema.cosocloud.com/p8451i7btaoh/>
- ✓ [How to Keep CERT Training Fun & Engaging](#) - How to utilize various types of instructors to enhance the learning environment within a CERT program. Participants discuss how to create and deliver training presentations. <https://fema.cosocloud.com/pvryt1u6cyfp/>
- ✓ [Animal Sheltering During Disasters](#) - During a disaster, many survivors are separated from their animals. Animal shelters can be a major operation during a disaster response. In this presentation, participants will learn about Animal Shelter Operations and how to care for animals belonging to disaster evacuees. <https://fema.cosocloud.com/pfo58a7sjfm8/>

- ✓ [Planning for Your Pets, Assistance, and Service Animals in an Emergency](https://www.fema.gov/node/planning-your-pets-assistance-and-service-animals-emergency) - FEMA Region 2 hosted a webinar about including your pets, assistance, and service animals in your preparedness plans and considering their needs when developing your emergency plan, building an emergency kit, and carrying out other preparedness actions.  
<https://www.fema.gov/node/planning-your-pets-assistance-and-service-animals-emergency>
- ✓ [Resolve to be Ready: Ten Steps to Preparedness. Forming a local CERT program:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0DFy4uj-Wk)  
**Help your community be prepared for any disaster. This webinar discusses how to engage with your local community by starting a CERT program and help respond to nearby disasters and emergency needs.** Topics include History of CERT - Campus CERT - Local CERT - Communications - Organization - Grant Sponsors - Hybrid CERT - Program Managers - Hazard Annexes - HR Perspective - Liability - and Funding. The FEMA CERT Lead discusses CERT across the U.S. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0DFy4uj-Wk>
- ✓ [Maintaining and Revitalizing your CERT Program](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pp9xyw4paz8s/)  
Teresa Greenhalgh, San Diego County OES, delivered a presentation to share best practices for maintaining and revitalizing your CERT program.  
<https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pp9xyw4paz8s/>
- ✓ [Restart and Rejuvenate Your CERT Program After COVID-19](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/p934tthlhsmb/)  
This webinar provides some tips and best practices on returning to typical CERT activities and to help CERT programs re-engage their community and members. CERT program leaders from around the country participate in the conversation.  
<https://fema.connectsolutions.com/p934tthlhsmb/>
- ✓ [Team Building for CERTs](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pn29d10pwyor/)  
To maintain a productive and cohesive team, it is essential to identify strengths, challenges, and contributions of each team member. We will look at characteristics of high functioning teams and discuss team building exercises you can conduct in your own CERT environment.  
<https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pn29d10pwyor/>
- ✓ [Amateur "HAM" Radio for Emergency Managers](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/plqiby693o3d/?proto=true)  
This webinar provided guidance to Emergency Managers on establishing a viable, AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communications) program as part of your Emergency Operation Plan ESF-2.  
<https://fema.connectsolutions.com/plqiby693o3d/?proto=true>
- ✓ [Bringing CERT Into The 21st Century](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pjq1izvcl6ez)  
It is more important than ever to be able to REPORT, RECORD and DOCUMENT information and share that information in a concise and effective way.  
<https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pjq1izvcl6ez>
- ✓ [Communicating With People with Disabilities as First Responders or CERT Team Members](https://bit.ly/DAFNComm)  
This presentation will help CERT members understand how to communicate with a cross-section of disabilities, recruiting people with disabilities to your teams, and creating inclusive plans to help people with disabilities stay safely in their homes. <https://bit.ly/DAFNComm>

## ❖ Additional CERT Related Training Videos and Webinars

After CERT Basic classes, consider holding additional training sessions for your CERT volunteers. CERTs can also be trained on disaster mitigation, response, and recovery techniques.

- [\*\*Adventist Learning Community - ACS Disaster Response Training\*\*](#)
- [\*\*FEMA - Additional CERT Resources - Links to CERT Guides, Manuals, and PowerPoints\*\*](#)
- [\*\*FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\)\*\*](#) - CERTs in leadership positions are encouraged to take the CERT Train-the-Trainer and Program Manager courses through EMI.
- [\*\*YouTube – List of 107 CERT Related Videos\*\*](#)
- [\*\*LAFD - CERT-LA - List of Training Videos\*\*](#)
- [\*\*LAFD - CERT Continuing Education\*\*](#)
- [\*\*LAFD - CERT Coordinators YouTube Channel\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*CERT Forms and the Role of the Scribe\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*CERT Staging Areas and Initial Response to a Disaster\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Disaster Medical Triage\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Disaster Gas Shutoff\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Leading Medical Response Teams\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Neighborhood Resilience and Security AFTER the Disaster\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Neighborhood Team Program - Los Angeles\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Organizing and Leading Successful Teams\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Organizing Your Neighborhood and Advanced Personal Preparedness\*\*](#)
- [\*\*LAFD - CERT Bandaging and Splinting \(6:31\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CERT Hands-on Search and Rescue - Part 1 \(9:06\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CERT Hands-on Search and Rescue - Part 2 \(5:44\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CERT Tools for Leadership Success pdf\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CERT Tools for Leadership Success - Martinez CERT PPTX slides\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Cribbing Rescue Training for CERT/Search & Rescue Team \(5:58\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Demonstration of CERT T-T-T Cribbing Training \(4:27\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Disasterville - 2021 NCA CERT Conference\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Fire Drill - The Office TV Show - Comedy \(4:56\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Fire Extinguisher Training Video - SCCFD \(2:48\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Fire Safety: The CERT Team Member's Role - Alameda CERT \(18:25\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Glove Removal & Disposal \(0:41\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Hazmat Training Courses – Free Online TRANSCAER training\*\*](#)

- [Head-to-toe Assessments CERT T-T-T Course \(5:45\)](#)
- [Head-to-toe Assessments LAFD - CERT \(14:26\)](#)
- [Head-to-toe Assessments Montana HOSA - CERT \(7:44\)](#)
- [How To Turn Off Electricity at the Circuit Box \(0:48\)](#)
- [Map Your Neighborhood: The Plan in Action \(10:24\)](#)
- [OSHA - Chainsaw Training](#)
- [OSHA - Forklift Training](#)
- [Previous FEMA Webinars](#)
- [Psychological First Aid \(11:07\)](#)
- [Red Cross – First Aid, CPR, and AED Training](#)
- [San Diego Co. CA - OES First Responder Access & Functional Needs Training Videos](#)
  - [Alzheimer’s Disease & Memory Loss](#)
  - [Autism](#)
  - [Blind & Low Vision](#)
  - [Chronic Illness](#)
  - [Cognitive Disabilities](#)
  - [Deaf & Hard of Hearing](#)
  - [Mental Illness](#)
  - [Physical Disabilities](#)
- [Safe and Ready - CERT Refresher Training - 7 videos](#)
- [Safety in the After Disaster Environment \(31:47\)](#)
- [Search and Damage Assessment Training \(52:29\)](#)
- [Search & Rescue Training CERT Mutual Aid - City of Irving, TX - CERT \(4:28\)](#)
- [Tennessee Emergency Management Plan \(TEMP\) - 2018](#)
- [TDOT Launches Yellow DOT Program \(2:06\)](#)
- [Traffic Control - Anaheim, CA CERT \(8:27\)](#)
- [Triage - Handling Mass Casualty Situations \(22:22\)](#)
- [Triage - CERT Triage & Mass Casualty Incidents pdf](#)
- [Triage - START - RPM - Part 1 \(6:30\)](#)
- [Triage - START - RPM - Part 2 \(9:26\)](#)
- [Vimeo - Several Online CERT Training Videos](#)
- [Ways to Stay Calm in an Emergency \(6:26\)](#)

## ❖ FEMA Preparedness and CERT Related Webinar Recordings

FEMA hosts many excellent preparedness and CERT webinars throughout the year. Please share these links with members of your CERT programs. Consider showing one of these webinars or videos at a regular training meeting for your CERT members. And see [FEMA Region 2 Preparedness, Resilience, and CERT Webinars](#) previous webinar recordings.

- [10 Ready-Made Tips You Can Use to Prepare for Disasters](#)
- [Amateur "HAM" Radio for Emergency Managers](#)
- [American Sign Language 101 for CERT](#)
- [CERT Disaster Response Best Practices](#)
- [CERT Virtual Disaster Workshop 1](#)
- [CERT Virtual Disaster Workshop 2](#)
- [CERT Virtual Disaster Workshop 3](#)
- [CERT Virtual Disaster Workshop 4](#)
- [Community Asset Mapping: Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?](#)
- [Developing and Organizing your CERT Team to the Max - 2021 NCA CERT Conference](#)
- [Disaster Response and Disability - Approaches for Emergency Managers & CERT programs](#)
- [DHS - Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar](#)
- [Effective Interpersonal Communications for CERT](#)
- [Effective Use of Amateur Radio Volunteers in County Emergency Operations](#)
- [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#)
- [Exploring - Qualified Sign Language Interpreters in Emergency Management](#)
- [FEMA Nebraska Flooding - Drones as a Tool for Damage Assessment & Flood Mitigation](#)
- [FEMA and the National CERT Association: Search and Rescue, Lost Person Behavior](#)
- [FEMA Resource Typing for CERT Overview and Q&A Part 1](#)
- [FEMA Resource Typing for CERT Overview and Q&A Part 1](#)
- [FEMA's Role in Response](#)
- [First Responder Access and Functional Needs Training Series](#)
- [Guides for Alerts and Warnings Webinar](#)
- [Helping Helpers – How to Support First Responders](#)
- [How to Avoid Disaster Fraud After an Emergency](#)
- [Human Trafficking: Recognize, Report, Respond pt1](#)
- [Human Trafficking: Recognize, Report, Respond pt2](#)
- [Lifelines to Communities: Food Distribution Best Practices](#)
- [Maintaining and Revitalizing your CERT Program](#)
- [Organizations Preparing for Emergency Needs \(OPEN\) - Part one](#)
- [Organizations Preparing for Emergency Needs \(OPEN\) - Part two](#)
- [Psychological First Aid for Children](#)
- [Psychological First Aid](#)
- [Psychological Resilience](#)
- [Ready Youth Toolkit in a Box](#)
- [Residential Fire Life Saving Strategies](#)
- [Resilience in Philadelphia: A Case Study](#)
- [Restart and Rejuvenate your CERT Program After COVID-19](#)
- [Selfcare for Disaster Responders and Healthcare Workers](#)
- [Team Building for CERTs](#)
- [The Past, Present and Future of CERT](#)
- [Trauma Informed Care](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Management of People in Crisis for CERT Teams](#)
- [You are the Help, Until Help Arrives](#)

## ❖ FEMA-EMI - Online Independent Study Training Opportunities



Looking for more CERT related training opportunities? CERT Instructors and CERT Volunteers can take free FEMA-EMI Independent Study Courses (IS) and they may apply to take an in-person EMI course through FEMA. **To take an Independent Study course, you will need to create a FEMA Student Identification Account (SID).** Click this link to register: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>. The [FEMA Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\)](#) offers many online and in-person training courses. **But before submitting a training course application for a FEMA Instructor led class (e.g., K-0427 or K-0428), please contact [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) to learn about the necessary approvals.** However, these approvals are not required for simply taking the FEMA-EMI Independent Study (IS) online courses below.

***Though not currently required in Tennessee, you may wish to recommend to your CERT volunteers the following free EMI online courses. Those highlighted in Red are part of the recent optional CERT Resource Typing requirements:***

- [IS-10.A: Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness](#) this course describes how typical hazards affect animals. It increases awareness and preparedness for animal owners, care providers, and responders.
- ***[FEMA-EMI IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100](#)*** introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System.
- [IS-120.C: An Introduction to Exercises](#) This course introduces the basics of emergency management exercises.
- ***[FEMA-EMI IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response](#)*** reviews the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the context for ICS within initial response and supports higher level ICS training. This course provides training and resources for CERT personnel who may assume a supervisory position within ICS.
- [FEMA-EMI IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System](#) course provides an overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which defines the comprehensive approach guiding the whole community - all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and the private sector - to work together seamlessly to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of incidents.
- [IS-240.C: Leadership and Influence](#) The goal of this course is to improve your leadership and influence skills. It addresses: Leadership from within, how to facilitate change, how to build and rebuild trust, using personal influence and political savvy, and fostering an environment for leadership development.

- **[IS-241.C: Decision Making and Problem Solving](#)** The goal of this course is to enable participants to improve their decision-making skills.
- **[IS-242.C: Effective Communication](#)** This course is designed to improve your communication skills. It addresses: Basic communication skills; How to communicate in an emergency; How to identify community-specific communication issues, using technology as a communication tool, Effective oral communication, and how to prepare an oral presentation.
- **[FEMA-EMI IS-244.B: Developing and Managing Volunteers](#)** The goal of this course is to strengthen abilities to prepare for and manage volunteers before, during, and after a severe emergency or major disaster. To provide strategies for identifying, recruiting, assigning, training, supervising, and motivating volunteers. Include discussion of spontaneous volunteers, community based, faith-based, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- **[FEMA-EMI IS-288.A: The Role of Voluntary Organizations in Emergency Management](#)** This independent study course provides a basic understanding of the history, roles, and services of disaster relief voluntary agencies in providing disaster assistance. It is appropriate for both the public and those involved in emergency management operations.
- **[FEMA-EMI IS-315.A: CERT and the Incident Command System \(ICS\) course](#)** educates CERT program managers, trainers, emergency responders, and CERT volunteers about CERT's relationship to ICS and potential roles CERTs play while assisting agencies in a disaster or emergency situations.
- **[FEMA-IS-317.A: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams \(CERT\)](#)** This Independent Study (IS) course is an introduction to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program for those interested in learning about the CERT program for their own knowledge or as a pre-requisite for first responders to later teach the CERT Basic classroom training that may be available in your community.
- **[IS-368: Including People with Disabilities & Others with Access & Functional Needs in Disaster Operations](#)** This course provides an overview of disabilities and access and functional needs and explains how disaster staff can apply inclusive practices in their disaster assignments.
- **[IS-405: Overview of Mass Care/Emergency Assistance](#)** This course introduces Mass Care and Emergency Assistance support, focusing on Whole Community, by outlining the importance of collaboration and coordination between government, non-profit, public, and private sectors.
- **[FEMA-EMI IS-505: Concepts of Religious Literacy for Emergency Management](#)** Religious and cultural communities are key partners in building a culture of preparedness. Faith-based and community organizations also offer a wide variety of human and material resources that can prove invaluable during and after an incident. Collaborating with these vital community members will allow emergency managers to access a multitude of local resources and ensure members of the whole community can contribute to disaster resilience efforts.
- **[IS-632.A: Introduction to Debris Operations](#)** The goal for this course is to familiarize the student with general debris removal operations and identify critical debris operations issues.
-

- [\*\*IS-660: Introduction to Public-Private Partnerships\*\*](#) The goal of this training is to establish a common vocabulary for public sector agencies and private sector organizations to improve response, recovery, and resilience.
- [\*\*IS-700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System\*\*](#) This course provides an overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which defines the comprehensive approach guiding the whole community - all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and the private sector - to work together seamlessly to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of incidents. The course provides learners with a basic understanding of NIMS concepts, principles, and components.
- [\*\*IS-703.B: National Incident Management System Resource Management\*\*](#) The is to introduce NIMS Resource Management. This includes private industry and volunteer agency personnel responsible for coordination activities during a disaster.
- [\*\*IS-800.D: National Response Framework, An Introduction\*\*](#) The goal of this course is to provide guidance for the whole community and focuses especially on those who are involved in delivering and applying the response core capabilities.
- [\*\*IS-909: Community Preparedness-Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone\*\*](#) The purpose of this course is to present a model program for community preparedness with resource materials to help organizations conduct simple preparedness activities.
- [\*\*IS-1151: Blue Campaign Disaster Responder Training\*\*](#) In this 6-minute video for disaster response personnel, we will learn how to recognize, and report suspected human trafficking. As someone trained in disaster response, we are in a unique position to spot potential instances of human trafficking. Human traffickers have their guard down during these times and suspicious activity may become more apparent.
- [\*\*IS-1152: Blue Campaign First Responder Training\*\*](#) This one-hour course will help you understand human trafficking, who can become a victim, and how you can play a role in identifying suspected victims. As a first responder, you are often first on the scene in an emergency. This gives you the unique opportunity to notice signs of human trafficking.
- [\*\*IS-1300: Introduction to Continuity of Operations\*\*](#) This course is intended to lay the foundation of knowledge for students who wish to increase their understanding of continuity and building a comprehensive continuity program in their organization or jurisdiction.
- [\*\*IS-2200: Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions\*\*](#) The Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions course is designed to introduce the role, design, and function of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the supportive relationship as a NIMS Command and Coordination component of the Multiagency Coordination System.

## ❖ About the Author



Over the past forty-years, Don Sowers has been a professional first responder, emergency manager, volunteer leader, lecturer and instructor for several government agencies and volunteer organizations. Currently, he is the manager of Disaster Volunteer Services for Volunteer Tennessee (the TN Governor's commission for volunteerism and community service). He is also an ESF-14 Emergency Services Liaison to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). And he provides administrative support for local Tennessee Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs acting as the Tennessee State CERT Coordinator to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Don brings considerable experience in the fields of law, emergency management, and public safety. He is a retired attorney with a Juris Doctor degree. And he is currently an Adjunct Instructor at Tennessee TECH University, where he teaches emergency management graduate courses.

Before moving to Tennessee, Don practiced law in California for thirty-years and was an instructor at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy for twenty-eight years. Previously, he was a City of Santa Monica police detective, Los Angeles County deputy district attorney, managing partner of a California law firm, County CERT program manager, and County deputy director of emergency management.

While a City of Santa Monica police detective, he proudly served on President Ronald Reagan's protection detail. And while the SMPD 911-Communications Center Manager he worked the 1984 Olympics as a communications liaison. His volunteering included being the former: chairman of the board for Make-A-Wish of Los Angeles, member of the National Board of Directors of Make-A-Wish of America, vice-chairman of Make-A-Wish Foundation International, member of the Board of Trustees and president of Alumni Association at Southwestern University School of Law, chairman of the Los Angeles County Bar Association - Criminal Justice Section, and chairman of the City of San Juan Capistrano Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Orange County, California.

In 2000, Don was recognized as Southwestern University's Alumnus of the Year. And in 2010, he received the President's Volunteer Service Award from the United States Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Don is currently a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), Emergency Management Association of Tennessee (EMAT), Tennessee Volunteers Active in Disaster (TNVOAD), Putnam County TN Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), and Volunteer Tennessee - TN.gov. Recently, he was one of the Volunteer Reception Center managers for both the Putnam County, TN - Emergency Management Agency (EMA) 2020 Cookeville, TN tornado response and the 2021 Waverly, TN flooding and TN VOAD and he helps coordinate annual severe weather volunteer responses in Tennessee.

## ❖ Updates to this CERT Resource Guide - We would like to hear from you!

**Please share our Tennessee CERT Resource Guide widely** with your CERT Program Managers, Instructors, Volunteers, and other organizations. And most information in this CERT Guide applies to CERT programs across the U.S. Consider encouraging your CERT volunteers to click on the links in this regularly updated CERT guide to take advantage of these additional training opportunities.

**We would appreciate your feedback.** Please let us know if you have any upcoming training opportunities, suggestions for additional topics, find any 404-broken links, or identify some additional websites through Google, YouTube, etc. for us to include in our next revision of this CERT Guide. And if you are considering a local CERT program for your community, workplace, or organization and would like additional information about CERT emergency preparedness training, contact [don.sowers@tn.gov](mailto:don.sowers@tn.gov) at Volunteer Tennessee, so we can offer our assistance. Thanks.