Community Emergency Response Team

Why should you be interested in CERT?

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. Under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

If we can predict that emergency services will not be able to meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can:

- Manage utilities
- Put out small fires
- Treat the "three killers" by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock
- Provide basic medical aid
- Search for and rescue victims safely
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

The Oceanside Fire Department supports a local CERT program in our city. You can receive training through the "CERT Academy." The CERT Academy will benefit any citizen who takes it. The individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster.

Interested in taking a CERT Academy class?

The next CERT Academy is a 4-day course and attendance is required for all 4 dates.

- Thursday, October 08, 2015   6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
- Saturday, October 10, 2015   8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Thursday, October 15, 2015   6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
- Saturday, October 17, 2015   8:00 am - 5:00 pm

To register: www.oceansidecert.org