

Where Do I Start?

Here's how ...

- **Contact your county emergency management agency. It will have a list of CERT trainers.**
- Speak with your neighbors about forming a CERT.
- Visit the CERT website at www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT/. There is information available about organizing a community emergency response team, pictures, videos, and contact information.

What Else Should I Know?

For more information on CERT, you may contact the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency at (717) 651-2141 or email us at pweeks@state.pa.us.



Neighbors helping neighbors!



Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

2605 Interstate Drive
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

www.pema.state.pa.us



Edward G. Rendell, Governor
Robert P. French, Director



*Pennsylvanians ...
Become Involved Now!*





What Is CERT?

A Community Emergency Response Team is a group of neighbors trained in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation techniques. The Team responds to help their neighbors during disaster situations.

Anyone can become a CERT member. Local regulations may require a team member to be eighteen years of age or older.

Team Members:

Train to recognize hazards in the home and workplace and the measures necessary to reduce or eliminate those hazards.

- Learn safety procedures; how to use a fire extinguisher and when to use it; and hazardous materials recognition.
- Learn disaster medical treatment procedures.
- Learn light search and rescue techniques.
- Learn disaster psychology techniques.
- Learn how to handle situations involving animals and disaster.
- Learn terrorism awareness.

What Disasters May Strike Pennsylvanians?

Pennsylvanians may become the victims of tornadoes, blizzards, micro-bursts, flooding, severe thunderstorms, lightning strikes, landslides, sinkholes, and earthquakes.

There are technological hazards in the form of chemical plants, manufacture and transportation of hazardous materials, and terrorist activity.

When Disasters Strike!

Many people depend upon professional emergency responders – the firefighters, police officers and emergency medical services personnel – to help them during an emergency.

During a disaster, these responders become overwhelmed with hundreds of calls for their help. They may not be able to get to your emergency immediately because of other calls or the inability to reach you due to damage caused by the disaster. Telephone and electric service outages may prevent you from being able to summon help. *You* may have to handle the situation as best you can until the professional responders arrive.



CERT Training Benefits Everyone!

Joining a CERT team not only helps your community, it helps your own family! The knowledge that your family is safe helps you to proceed confidently into your community to help others who are victims of the disaster. The training you receive teaches you the safety procedures that will protect your life.

Have a family plan! It answers the questions “When there is a disaster, what should I do?” “Where can I go?” “What if help can not get to me?” A family plan provides confidence and security.

- Practice your plan! Take training necessary for the proper response to emergencies and disasters.
- Choose an out-of-state family member as a contact person.
- Choose a local and out-of-the-area meeting point in the event that you are separated from your family during the disaster.
- Keep pictures of valuables, copies of important documents in a fire-proof safe or in a safe deposit box.

Good Record Keeping Saves Future Headaches!