

# Oxnard CERT

The City of Oxnard provides **CERT** training to its citizens through the Fire Department. For over 20 years community members of all ages and abilities have taken the training. In 2016 the first Teen CERT class was held with students from Channel Islands High School.

Most classes are held one night a week from 6 pm to 9 pm for six weeks. Students receive both classroom and hands-on training. The six training sessions are followed by a disaster drill and graduation ceremony, which is usually held on a Saturday morning.

To find out about upcoming classes, call the City's Office of Emergency Services at 385-7717. You may also inquire about having a private class for your neighborhood, club or other community organization.



# What is CERT?

**CERT** stands for Community Emergency Response Team. **CERT** training is about readiness, people helping people, and rescuer safety.

**CERT** is a positive and realistic approach to emergency situations where citizens initially will be on their own and their action can make a difference. Citizens can be trained to manage utilities and put out small fires; treating the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

**CERT** training was started by the Los Angeles Fire Department after its study of the Mexico City earthquake. Since 1993, when the training was made available nationally by FEMA, **CERT** teams have been trained throughout 28 states and Puerto Rico. During Super Storm Sandy in 2012, nearly 200 **CERT** volunteers were deployed to assist in the response.



## Help in an Emergency

A major disaster is coming—sometime. It might be an earthquake, flood, tsunami, or other serious occurrence.

When a widespread disaster strikes, emergency agencies are likely to be overwhelmed. People will have to rely on each other for hours or even days. Under these conditions, experience shows that family members, neighbors, and co-workers will try to help.

Following the 1985 Mexico City Earthquake, untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, in the chaos, at least 100 rescuers lost their lives. This is too high a price to pay. Training can prevent such tragedy.

Even in a less serious emergency, can trained volunteers come to the aid of their neighbors?

**CERT-ainly!**

## What Does CERT Do?

Community Emergency Response Teams (**CERT**) are trained to provide emergency preparedness information in their neighborhoods. **CERT** members are also trained in life-saving skills, with emphasis on decision making ability, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

People who have taken the **CERT** training are better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Trained individuals and teams are ready to:

- Provide immediate assistance to victims in their neighborhood;
- Organize spontaneous, untrained volunteers to provide needed services; and,
- Collect disaster intelligence to assist professional responders who are trying to allocate limited resources.

# Training

Training is conducted by fire fighters and trained **CERT** instructors. Sessions are usually scheduled on successive weekends or weekday evenings. Training will address:

### Disaster Preparedness

- Actions to take before, during and after a disaster
- How to operate in a safe and appropriate manner
- **CERT** concepts and organization

### Fire Suppression

- Safe use of fire extinguishers
- Sizing up the situation
- Controlling utilities
- Extinguishing a small fire

### Disaster Medical Aid

- Diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding and shock, using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques
- Head-to-toe assessment for patient evaluation
- Establishing a medical treatment area and performing basic first aid in a safe and sanitary manner

### Search and Rescue

- Planning, size-up, search techniques, and rescue techniques
- Rescuer safety

### Disaster Psychology and Team Organization

- Signs and symptoms that might be experienced by disaster victims and workers
- **CERT** organization, management principles, and the need for documentation

### Terrorism Response

- Terrorism threats and strategies for response

### Disaster Simulation

- Hands-on practice to test the skills learned during training sessions



**CERT** training is FREE! **CERT** graduates receive training materials, a **CERT** kit that contains items such as a hard hat, vest, gloves, mask, whistle, and a **CERT** Field Operations Guide.