

# NORCO COLLEGE



CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) 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. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy recognize the importance of CERT programs to assist professional responders following a disaster.

**Are you ready to take action and MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**



Contact:  
Justin Czerniak  
Norco College (951) 738-7798  
[justin.czerniak@norcollege.edu](mailto:justin.czerniak@norcollege.edu)



## What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and train them in basic disaster response skills.

CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following a disaster when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.



# NORCO COLLEGE





## Why CERT?

In the event of a major disaster, first responders (fire, police, EMS) will be overwhelmed and will not be able to meet community service demands. Communication failures, road blockages, and the high demand for public safety agencies will prevent people

from obtaining aid during the first 96 hours of the event. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs. CERT training presents citizens with the facts about what to expect following a major disaster. CERT training addresses personal responsibility for emergency preparedness and trains volunteers to deliver lifesaving skills with an emphasis on decision-making, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

## What are the requirements for certification?

- Complete FEMA approved 24-hour training curriculum.
- Be available to attend a disaster simulation final class
- Be an employee or student of the Norco College

## What will I learn?

- Identify hazards that are most likely to affect homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods during an emergency.
- Learn about the impact of disasters on infrastructures and the role of CERT in a disaster response.
- Practice basic fire suppression using a fire extinguisher, identifying and reducing fire hazards with an introduction to hazardous materials.
- Learn treatment skills for life-threatening injuries and principles of triage.
- Light Search and Rescue techniques, scene size-up and rescuer safety, safe lifting, cribbing and victim removal.
- Understand the CERT members role in the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Types of terrorist weapons and risk and threat analysis.
- Actively participate in a disaster simulation drill for the course final.
- Course Review, Final Exam, and Disaster Simulation



## How do CERT members maintain their skills?

One way to develop a cohesive working relationship between CERT members and public safety officials is by encouraging joint exercises simulating a disaster. In addition, CERT members can conduct mini-training exercises that can address different areas such as triage, treatment, transport, structural cribbing, and communications with public safety participation as their schedule permits. Many CERT members will re-take Basic Training as a refresher and take additional specialized training such as First-Aid training, CPR-AED, and EMT.

