



CITY OF EMERYVILLE CERT (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM) PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the City of Emeryville’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is to assist the City of Emeryville in providing aid, as needed, for emergency disaster response and to educate and promote disaster preparedness and awareness in the Community.

CERT Activities During a Disaster May Include the Following:

- Basic first aid and multiple victim triage
- Assisting with radio communications
- Staffing of disaster shelters, pet shelters and evacuation areas
- Convergent volunteer management
- Small fire suppression
- Assist with urban search and rescue
- Assist with Initial Damage Assessment

CERT Activities During Non-Disaster Times May Include the Following:

- Staffing public education booths at large community events
- Staffing first aid booths at large community events
- Assisting with radio communications at large community events
- Assisting with short term care and shelter after a significant structure fire with multiple displaced individuals
- Assisting with EOC exercises and drills
- Assisting with general safety training for City staff
- Assisting with safety training for the Community

BACKGROUND

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994 from the model created by the

Los Angeles City Fire Department. Since then, CERT programs have been established in hundreds of communities nationwide. The purpose of CERT is to train people living in Emeryville to take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster.

After several large-scale disasters such as 9/11, the Oakland Hills Fire and the Loma Prieta earthquake, there was a realization that not all emergency services personnel will be able to reach everyone right away. CERT training graduates can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event in which professional responders are not immediately available. Members of the CERT team will have the skills to help save lives and protect property.

MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

The Emeryville CERT Team is a critical component in the City's emergency response plan. To become a CERT Team Member, individuals must do the following:

1. Graduate from a Community Emergency Response Team training program;
2. Register with the City as a Disaster Service Worker;
3. Be willing to attend ongoing periodic trainings to keep skills from perishing;
4. Be willing and able to work in the potentially physically demanding and/or stressful environment that may be present in disaster situations.

TRAINING

Training is vital to the safe and efficient operation of the team. No member should attempt any action for which he or she is not trained. The safety of the individual, the other team members, and the victim(s) are all dependent upon each member knowing exactly what he or she is doing and capable of doing. It is each member's responsibility to ensure that he or she is up-to-date with applicable training.

Regular City sanctioned training opportunities will be provided and only preauthorized City sanctioned trainings provide Disaster Service Worker protection. Training will be provided by the Alameda County Fire Department and/or the City or may be authorized in conjunction with other jurisdictions' CERT Teams.

CERT TEAM ACTIVATION AND DEACTIVATION

Only the City Manager or his or her designee can activate and deactivate the CERT Team. Without this, members are acting as an individual member of the public, with no authority, and with no backup support from the City. Additionally, there will be no provision of Disaster Service Worker status.

DISASTER SERVICE WORKER REGISTRATION

All individuals who elect to be a CERT Team Member will be registered with the City as Disaster Service Workers (DSW) and managed in accordance with the State of California's Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program Regulations. A DSW is a person who is registered with an accredited

Disaster Council for the purpose of engaging in disaster service without pay or other compensation. The City of Emeryville has been an accredited Disaster Council since June 16, 1949 (amended).

DSWs are eligible for State Workers' Compensation benefits while performing activities under the direction of the City's emergency management organization during the following situations:

- A proclaimed emergency;
- A search and rescue mission;
- Approved, documented and supervised activities to mitigate an imminent threat to life, property and resources; and
- While participating in City sanctioned training necessary to engage in such activities.

Additionally, DSWs are entitled to limited immunity from liability when acting in the course of their disaster service duties.

CERT CODE OF CONDUCT

All CERT Team members shall abide by the CERT Code of Conduct (Addendum "A"). Any verified deviation from the Code of Conduct may result in dismissal from the team.

LIABILITY

California's Good Samaritan Law provides, "no person who in good faith, and not for compensation, renders emergency medical or nonmedical care or assistance at the scene of an emergency shall be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission other than an act or omission constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct."