



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

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 and 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; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

The Teller County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) addresses emergency support tasks such as manning Red Cross Shelters and direct support to our Office of Emergency Management. We have several local experts who are certified CERT trainers and we intend to sponsor various training in the near future. CERT skills and functions are embedded within most of the other volunteer emergency groups. Teller County CERT members are assembled by the Office of Emergency Management from other teams on an as needed, second tier, basis rather than being a standalone team. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact **Bill Stevenson** at bill2429@gmail.com. To find out more information about CERT go to <https://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>