



***Natural or man-made disasters can happen at anytime.***

***The only defense we have is PREPARATION!***



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## **Oxford County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

*Oxford County EMA*



*Prepare\*Respond\*Recover\*Mitigate*

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## **CERT Course Modules**

***Disaster Preparedness:*** Addresses hazards to which people are vulnerable in their community. Materials cover actions that participants and their families take before, during, and after a disaster. As the session progresses, the instructor begins to explore an expanded response role for civilians in that they should begin to consider themselves disaster workers. Since they will want to help their family members and neighbors, this training can help them operate in a safe and appropriate manner. The CERT concept and organization are discussed, as well as applicable laws governing volunteers in that jurisdiction.

***Disaster Fire Suppression:*** Briefly covers fire chemistry, hazardous materials, fire hazards, and fire suppression strategies. However, the thrust of this session is the safe use of fire extinguishers, sizing up the situation, controlling utilities, and extinguishing a small fire.

### ***Disaster Medical Operations***

***Part I:*** Participants practice diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding, and shock by using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques.

### ***Disaster Medical Operations***

***Part II:*** Covers evaluating patients by doing a head-to-toe assessment, establishing a medical treatment area, performing basic first aid, and practicing in a safe and sanitary manner.

***Light Search & Rescue Operations:*** Covers how to organize and deploy volunteer resources according to CERT organizational principles. How to protect your own safety and your buddy's during search and rescue. Strategies for documenting situation and resource status.

***CERT Organization:*** Covers how to organize and deploy volunteer resources according to CERT organizational principles. Strategies for documenting situation and resource status.

***Disaster Psychology:*** Covers signs and symptoms that might be experienced by the disaster victim and worker.

***Terrorism & CERT:*** Covers the definition of terrorism and terrorist goals. The weapons that terrorists are known or are suspected to have and the risk posed by various terrorist weapons. Cues that help to identify when a terrorist attack has occurred or may be imminent. CERT protocols for terrorist incidents and protective action following an event.

***Course Review & Disaster Simulation:*** Participants review the contents of each previous session. Finally, they practice the skills that they have learned during the previous eight sessions in disaster activity.



# OXCERT

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, CERT members can assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills that they learned during training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives. CERT skills also apply to daily emergencies.



CERT members maintain and refine their skills by participating in exercises and activities. They can attend supplemental training opportunities offered by Oxford County EMA and other collaborating agencies that further their skills base. Finally, CERT members can volunteer for projects that improve community emergency preparedness.



## Join our Team!

In Oxford County there are CERT trained individuals in nearly every community. In addition to the basic CERT training, our volunteers have taken additional courses in Search & Rescue, Animal Response and Sheltering, First Aid/CPR and Traffic Control.

## Preparing for Emergency Response

Using the basic CERT curriculum, CERT personnel train to prepare for a disaster or overwhelming event by:

- Identifying and mitigating potential hazards in the home and workplace.
- Initiating plans to prepare themselves and their loved ones for the hazards that they face.
- Learning skills to help themselves, loved ones, and neighbors or fellow employees until professional response resources arrive.
- Working cooperatively as a team within their neighborhoods or workplaces.
- Maintaining a relationship with the agency that sponsors the CERT program.
- Participating in continuing education and training.
- Volunteering for projects to enhance the public safety of their communities.
- Understanding their capabilities and limitations when deployed.

## During training, CERTs learn to:

- Prepare for the hazards that threaten their communities.
- Apply size-up and safety principles.
- Locate and turn off utilities.
- Extinguish small fires.

- Identify hazardous materials situations.

- Triage and treat victims.

- Set up a medical treatment area.

- Conduct searches and rescues in lightly and moderately damaged structures.

- Understand the psychological impact of a disaster on themselves and others.



- Organize CERT members and spontaneous volunteers for an effective and safe response.

- Apply response skills in a disaster simulation.

Following the initial training, our agency offers many opportunities for our CERT members to maintain and improve their skills through a variety of training programs, exercises, and special projects, all tailored to meet the rural needs and independent spirit of Oxford County.

## All We Need is You!

For more information about upcoming CERT trainings or our annual CERT Jamboree please contact our office at 743-6336 , via email at [oxctyema@megalink.net](mailto:oxctyema@megalink.net) or check our website at [www.megalink.net/~oxctyema/](http://www.megalink.net/~oxctyema/).



## Who Should Become CERT Members?

- ★ *Neighborhoods*
- ★ *Communities of Faith*
- ★ *Businesses*
- ★ *Clubs and Organizations*
- ★ *Scouting Organizations*
- ★ *School Staff*
- ★ *Amateur Radio Emergency Services*
- ★ *You!*

