



## **San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) San Diego**

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***CERT San Diego: Firefighters and Citizens Working Together to Build Safer Communities.***

The City of San Diego Fire-Rescue department has learned two valuable lessons from responding to disasters such as wildfires, earthquakes, floods, mudslides and terrorism events: *1) there are never enough public safety resources to get to every neighborhood quickly and 2) citizens want to help.* An innovative new program helps meet this need: ***Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).***

The goal is to help families, neighbors, businesses and communities get through the first few hours or days following a disaster before help arrives. In the first 72 hours after a large-scale disaster, first responders may be overwhelmed, due to the magnitude of the event. The availability of CERT teams, made up of community members trained in basic disaster response, fire safety, light search and rescue, incident command organization and disaster medical operations will help neighborhoods survive.

### **Tuition-free CERT classes**

***CERT San Diego*** is taught by San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel. There is no tuition for these hands-on six- week CERT academies for City of San Diego residents. Students learn how to make their homes and neighborhoods safer, build a disaster kit, learn to combat “the three killers”, how to use fire extinguishers and how to form a team working with the Fire Department in disaster situations. Students attend classes on evenings and weekends. ***CERT San Diego*** trains hundreds of student volunteers each year and is building CERT teams in communities throughout San Diego. CERT volunteers stay active through annual refresher courses and drills, community activities and team building. CERT graduates wear distinctive green vests and hats and carry ID cards identifying them as Disaster Service Workers. CERT volunteers are men and women of all backgrounds that are active in the community – or want to be. CERT teams are easiest to build as part of existing community, business and faith groups, non profit organizations, neighborhood watch or Homeowners Associations.

### ***CERT San Diego 2007 events:***

**CERT Academy 15 Jan 24-March 3, 2006 6 weeks – Attend one class per week either Wed. night or Saturday morning**

## CERT SAN DIEGO (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM)

15<sup>th</sup> Academy: 6 weeks Jan 24 – March 3, 2007

**Students attend either *Wed. night or Saturday morning* for five weeks. The final is only offered on Saturday and includes a disaster drill and graduation ceremony.**



DAY/DATE	TIME	MODULE <i>(attend one class each week)</i>	SUBJECT
1) Wed. evening Jan 24 (B) Or	6-10pm	Module I	CERT overview, Intro to CERT program
1) Sat. morning Jan 27 (C)	830am-1230	Module I	CERT overview, Intro to CERT program
2) Wed. evening Jan 31 (B) Or	6-10pm	Module II, VIII, Haz Mat	Fire Safety, Terrorism/Hazmat
2) Saturday morning Feb 3 (A)	830am-1230	Module II, VIII, Haz Mat	Fire Safety, Terrorism/Hazmat
3) Wed. evening Feb 7 (C) or	6-10pm	Module III, IV	Medical triage and treatment
3) Saturday morning Feb 10 (A)	830am-1230	Module III, IV	Medical triage and treatment
4) Wednesday evening Feb 21 (B) Or	6-10pm	Module V	Search and Rescue
4) Saturday morning Feb 24 (B)	830am-1230	Module V	Search and Rescue
5) Wed. evening Feb 28 or	6-10pm	Module V, VI, VII	ICS, disaster psychology, review
5) Saturday morning Mar 3	830am-1230	Module V, VI, VII	ICS, disaster psychology, review
6) Sat. morning Mar 10 (A)	830am-1230	FINAL	Review, final exam, disaster drill, graduation