

What is 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 (Police, Fire Dept., EMT) are not immediately available to help.

How Does CERT Benefit the Community?

People who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes or workplace. If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capability, CERT members can apply the training learned to give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associ-

ates in their immediate area until help arrives. When help does arrive, CERT members provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed at the disaster site.

How Do I Take CERT Training?

To become a CERT member, you will have to take the CERT training from a sponsoring agency like an emergency management agency, fire department or police department in the area where you live or work. For more information regarding CERT training please contact the Cheektowaga Police Department Crime Resistance Unit at 897-7293.

Who Can Take CERT Training?

Natural for the training are Neighborhood Watch, community organizations, school staff, workplace employees, scouting organizations and other groups that come together regularly for a common purpose. CERT skills are useful in disaster and everyday life events.

Why Take CERT Training?

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, there can be an emergency or disaster that can overwhelm the community's immediate response capability. While adjacent jurisdictions, State and Federal resources can activate to help, there may be a delay for them getting to those who need them. The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help. While people will respond to others in need without the training, the goal of the CERT Program is to help people do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

What If I Have Concerns About My Age or Physical Ability?

There are many jobs within the CERT Program for someone who wants to be involved and help. Following a disaster, CERT members are needed for documentation, comforting others, logistics, etc. Non-disaster related team activities may

Include keeping databases, developing a website, writing a newsletter, planning activities, helping with special events and organizing exercises and activities.

During CERT classroom training, if you have a concern about doing a skill like lifting, just let the instructor know. You can learn from watching. We would like everyone who wants to go through the training to have an opportunity to participate and learn the skills. CERT educates participants about local hazards and trains them in skills that are useful during a disaster and life's everyday emergencies.

Who Will Contact Me If CERT Is Needed?

DO NOT respond to any disaster or emergency unless you have been instructed to do so by The Cheektowaga Police Department or The Town of Cheektowaga Emergency Services Coordinator.

You will be contacted if and when CERT members are needed.

Town of Cheektowaga Emergency Services

The Town of Cheektowaga Emergency Services Coordinator, Earl Loder, works closely with all our local Fire Departments and The Cheektowaga Police Department. In addition, Earl was one of the initial driving forces behind the creation of the Cheektowaga CERT Program. Earl provides direction to this organization and serves as a liaison between CERT and the various emergency services organizations



For further information regarding the CERT Program, please contact The Cheektowaga Police Department Crime Resistance Unit at 897-7293.



*Serving The
Cheektowaga
Community*



Cheektowaga Police Department

Crime Resistance Unit

275 Alexander Avenue

Cheektowaga, NY 14211-2742

(716) 897-7293 Fax: (716) 897-7298

www.cpdny.org