

St Mary's County CERT

Disasters, whether manmade, natural or technological, can happen anytime-anywhere. CERT volunteers commit 20 hours of their time to learn skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. They also learn about emergency preparedness, terrorism and disaster psychology.



For more information

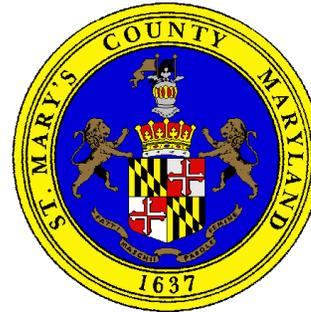
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<http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>



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St. Mary's County Community Emergency Response Team



**CERT is FEMA-
approved training for
citizen response**

The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

What is CERT?

CERT is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency services personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. By getting trained in CERT, you will have the skills to help emergency responders save lives and protect property.

As a CERT member you can respond to disasters, participate in drills and exercises, and take additional training. CERT teams are known and trusted resources that support emergency responders and their communities



What do CERT teams do in an emergency?

Under the direction of local emergency responders, CERT Teams help provide critical support by giving immediate assistance to victims, providing damage assessment information, and organizing other volunteers at a disaster site. Volunteers trained in CERT also offer a potential workforce for performing duties such as shelter support, crowd control, and evacuations. The role of a CERT volunteer is to help themselves and to help others until trained emergency personnel arrive.



How does CERT help the community?

In addition to supporting emergency responders during a disaster, the CERT program builds strong working relationships between emergency responders and the people they serve. CERT teams also help the community year-round by helping with community emergency plans, neighborhood exercise, preparedness outreach, fire safety education, and workplace safety.

The benefits of CERT training:

CERT training is free to citizens and takes about 20 hours to complete. It provides critical skills in emergency preparedness and response.

Participants learn how to:

- Identify and anticipate hazards
- Reduce fire hazards in the home and workplace
- Extinguish small fires
- Assist emergency responders
- Conduct light search and rescue
- Set up treatment areas
- Apply basic medical techniques
- Help reduce survivor stress

Who should take CERT training?

- People interested in taking an active role in hometown preparedness
- Neighborhood watch groups
- Community leaders
- Parents
- Communities of faith
- Scouting and youth organizations