

The benefits of joining a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) include:

Disaster Preparedness: CERT members receive training in disaster preparedness and basic emergency response skills, equipping them to assist during emergencies.

Community Support: CERT volunteers provide crucial assistance before, during, and after disasters, helping to bridge the gap between emergency responders and the community.

Personal Satisfaction: Many CERT members find personal satisfaction in contributing to their communities and knowing they have learned valuable skills.

Networking Opportunities: CERT members can connect with other volunteers and professionals in the field, enhancing their skills and knowledge.

National Recognition: Joining CERT allows individuals to become part of a nationwide network dedicated to community resilience and preparedness.

These benefits underscore the importance of CERT in enhancing community safety and emergency readiness.

History of CERT

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs.

CERT became a national program in 1993. There are now CERT programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories. Each is unique to its community, and all are essential to building a Culture of Preparedness in the United States. There are more than 3,200 local CERT programs nationwide, and more than 600,000 people have trained since CERT became a national program.