



CERT Support Committee Guide to Basic Principles Continuing Education

Purpose and Scope:

Provides an overview and guidance for the training and continuing education of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs.

Definitions:

This section lists the standard definitions of some terms that will be used in this document.

Term	Definition
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CERT Program	The structure to provide CERT training and / or the sponsoring of teams operated by a public safety agency.
CERT Team	A group of people who perform tasks to work toward accomplishing a common mission or specific objective.

Reference Documents:

This section lists reference documents that may be used with this document.

File Title	Description
Starting and Maintaining CERT.pdf	Starting and Maintaining a CERT Program
Workplace CERT Starter Guide.pdf	Workplace CERT Starter Guide, March 2016
Campus CERT Starter Guide.pdf	Campus CERT Starter Guide, October 2015
Teen CERT Launch Maintaining.pdf	Teen CERT Guide Launching and Maintaining the Training, March 2012

Related Training:

This section lists available training that may be used with this document.

Training Title	Description
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Manager	This course prepares participants to be CERT program managers to effectively manage a CERT program. Various aspects of CERT management, including managing volunteers and developing a program plan are covered.

Background:

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the 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. However, the CERT Basic Training program is just an introduction and additional training is recommended.

Additionally, as with any skill, practice is required to stay proficient. CERT programs should have a continuing education program to practice and enhance the skills of the CERT team members.

Initial CERT Basic Training:

This section describes the initial training the members of all types of CERT programs or teams shall complete.

Before Attending CERT Basic Training:

The following FEMA on-line independent study course is to be completed by all students BEFORE attending the classroom CERT Basic Training program.

- IS-317 Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team (CERTs)*

Course Overview

This Independent Study (IS) course is an introduction to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program for those interested in learning about the CERT program for their own knowledge or as a pre-requisite for completing the CERT Basic classroom training that may be available in your community.

The course includes three lessons: Introduction to CERT; What CERTs Do; and, Becoming Involved.

CERT Basic Training:

The FEMA CERT Basic Training in person or state approved hybrid course is to be completed by all students to be considered CERT trained. The CERT Basic Training program shall be provided following the information contained in the document CERT-COM-PRO-007 Providing a CERT Basic Training Class. Upon completion of the CERT Basic Training course, the student will receive a certificate.

After CERT Basic Training:

Training in disaster response should not be a one-time event. Students need to reinforce their skills through follow-up training and repeated practice to maintain the skills presented in the CERT Basic Training program.

For the students to maintain their skill level and continually improve performance, they and the team should participate in continuing supplemental training. The team sponsoring agency needs to have a training plan in place. Students may also take continuing education offered through FEMA Independent Study, other area programs and courses offered through Iowa Homeland Security, refer to the on-line training calendar. Working through practice disaster scenarios with other teams will provide opportunities not only for extended practice, but also for valuable networking with teams in the local area.

Recommended Continuing Education by CERT Team Types:

This section describes recommended continuing educations for the various different CERT program / team types. When developing your program's continuing education / additional training plan, remember that the CERT Basic Training class is just an initial training for the students. Additional training and practice are required to be proficient in the various skills.

Individual Preparedness:

The following minimum additional training is recommended (maintain certifications as recommended by the training provider).

- American Heart Association or American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED plus Child and Infant CPR or equivalent
- American Heart Association Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) Online Course or equivalent
- National Weather Service Weather Spotter
- FEMA - Are You Ready on-line training available at <https://www.ready.gov>
- FEMA - You Are the Help Until Help Arrives on-line training available at <https://community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives>

Neighborhoods:

The following minimum additional training is recommended (maintain certifications as recommended by the training provider).

- American Heart Association or American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED plus Child and Infant CPR or equivalent
- American Heart Association Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) Online Course or equivalent
- American Heart Association First Aid or American Red Cross First Aid or Medic First International First Aid or equivalent
- National Weather Service Weather Spotter
- FEMA - Are You Ready on-line training available at <https://www.ready.gov>
- FEMA - You Are the Help Until Help Arrives on-line training available at <https://community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives>

Workplace (Including: Businesses / Industry, Schools, Places of Worship, Clubs / Organizations, etc.):

The following minimum additional training is recommended (maintain certifications as recommended by the training provider).

- American Heart Association or American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED plus Child and Infant CPR or equivalent
- American Heart Association Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) Online Course or equivalent
- American Heart Association First Aid or American Red Cross First Aid or Medic First International First Aid or equivalent
- National Weather Service Weather Spotter
- FEMA IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System
- American College of Surgeons (ACS) Stop the Bleed

The following training is suggested for programs / teams who wish to expand their training (maintain certification as recommended by the training provider). Note: There may be

other training required for these teams based upon the workplace the team resides in such as training required by OSHA for industrial first aid teams.

- FEMA IS-5 An Introduction to Hazardous Materials
- FEMA IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- FEMA IS-235 Emergency Planning
- FEMA IS-366 Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters
- FEMA IS-394 Protecting Your Home or Small Business from Disaster
- FEMA IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction
- FEMA IS-906 Workplace Security Awareness
- FEMA IS-907 Active Shooter: What You Can Do

Formal Team – Basic:

The following minimum additional training is recommended (maintain certifications as recommended by the training provider).

- American Heart Association or American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED plus Child and Infant CPR or equivalent
- American Heart Association Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) Online Course or equivalent
- American Heart Association First Aid or American Red Cross First Aid or Medic First International First Aid or equivalent
- National Weather Service Weather Spotter
- FEMA IS-5 An Introduction to Hazardous Materials
- FEMA IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System*
- FEMA IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents*
- FEMA IS-315 CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS)*
- FEMA IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction*
- American College of Surgeons (ACS) Stop the Bleed
- American Red Cross Psychological First Aid or equivalent
- Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) training

The following training is suggested for programs / teams who wish to expand their training (maintain certifications as recommended by the training provider).

- FEMA IS 101 Preparing for Federal Disaster Operations
- FEMA IS-230 Fundamentals of Emergency Management
- FEMA IS-235 Emergency Planning
- FEMA IS-241 Decision Making and Problem Solving*

- FEMA IS-366 Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters
- FEMA IS-800 National Response Framework, An Introduction*

The following training is recommended for the programs / team's leadership.

- FEMA G-427 CERT Program Manager*
- FEMA IS-120 An Introduction to Exercises
- FEMA IS-235 Emergency Planning
- FEMA IS-240 Leadership and Influence*
- FEMA IS-242 Effective Communication*
- FEMA IS-244 Developing and Managing Volunteers*
- FEMA IS-288 Role of Volunteer Organizations in Emergency Management*

Formal Team – Advanced:

An advanced team additional training is the same as a basic team with the addition of the training required for the additional advanced functions the team provides. The specific training for these advanced skills is determined by the jurisdiction having authority over the team.

Listed below are some available training materials for advanced skills a team may select to acquire.

FEMA has developed the following CERT Supplemental Training

- Wildland Fire
- Radio
- Animal Response Module 1
- Animal Response Module 2
- Emergency Communications
- Firefighter Rehab
- Flood Response
- Tools for Leadership
- Traffic and Crowd Management

The following is FEMA has developed independent study and classroom training.

- FEMA IS-10 Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness
- FEMA IS-11 Animals in Disasters: Community Planning
- FEMA IS-15 Special Events Contingency Planning for Public Safety Agencies
- FEMA IS-29 Public Information Officer Awareness
- FEMA IS-111 Livestock in Disasters
- FEMA IS-120 Introduction to Exercise
- FEMA G-146 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program
- FEMA G-191 Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface
- FEMA G-202 Debris Management

- FEMA IS-265 Basic Instructional Skills
- FEMA IS-271 Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparedness
- FEMA G-290 Basic Public Information Officers
- FEMA G-361 Flood Fight Operations
- FEMA IS-368 Including People with Disabilities & Others with Access & Functional Needs in Disaster Operations
- FEMA IS-505 Religious and Cultural Literacy and Competency in Disaster*
- FEMA IS-559 Local Damage Assessment
- FEMA IS-633 Debris Management Plan Development
- FEMA IS-703 NIMS Resource Management*
- FEMA IS-775 EOC Management and Operations
- FEMA IS-1006 Documenting Disaster Damage and Developing Project Files
- FEMA IS-1160 Damage Assessment Operations Training
- FEMA IS-1300 Introduction to Continuity of Operations*
- FEMA IS-2200 Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions*
- FEMA IS-2901 Introduction to Community Lifelines
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- NASAR Fundamentals of Search and Rescue
- NASAR Introduction to Search and Rescue
- Shelter Operations/Management
- Volunteer Reception Center
- Use of maps, compass and GPS for navigation training
- Use of ropes and tying knots

Classes marked with * are part of FEMA Resource Typing CERT types required training