

It starts with you.

CERT is an integral part of Citizen Corps, the grass-roots movement that actively involves everyone in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger, and better prepared. All over America, communities have organized Citizen Corps Councils to inspire people to take action and get involved.

**No matter where you live, no matter who you are, we all have a role in hometown preparedness.
What role will YOU play?**



To learn more about
Citizen Corps programs visit
www.citizencorps.gov

For more information on the
Gerrish Township CERT Team or
if you are interested in becoming
a member please contact...

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Visit us at
www.gerrishpolice.org
(Click on the CERT Tab)



GERRISH TOWNSHIP CERT



Who is CERT?

CERT is your local
Community **E**mergency
Response **T**eam.

Our volunteer team members became the Gerrish Township CERT team in 2004 and we currently have 34 trained members who are ready to be deployed when called upon. We hold various meetings, exercises and trainings and would like to encourage more volunteers to join.

About 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 may not be able to reach everyone right away. By getting trained in CERT, you will have the skills to help emergency responders save and sustain lives and protect property. CERT teams are known and trusted resources to emergency responders and their communities.

They also help their communities year-round by assisting with community emergency plans, neighborhood exercises, preparedness outreach, fire safety education, and workplace safety. CERT skills also apply to daily emergencies.

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Dept. in 1985 after the Whittier Narrows earthquake devastated the area. This confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs in a natural disaster. Since then, CERT's have been established in hundreds of communities worldwide.

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 evacuation. The role of a CERT volunteer is to help other until trained emergency personnel arrive.

Training is designed to cover:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Patient Triage & Assessment
- Patient Treatment & Hygiene
- Light Search & Rescue
- Team Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT

The benefits of CERT training:

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

Participants learn how to:

- Identify and anticipate hazards
- Reduce fire hazards
- Extinguish small fires
- Assist emergency responders
- Work as a team
- Conduct light search and rescue
- Set up medical 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 and Grandparents
- Communities of faith
- Scouting and youth organizations
- Students, teachers and administrators
- Members of clubs and civic organizations
- Business owners

If you are interested in becoming a local CERT member, contact your local CERT Coordinator.