The Community Emergency Response Team or CERT is organized under the direction of the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Management Section, to support and direct county wide training and education in disaster planning and preparedness.

CERT Volunteers receive special training which enhances their ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from an all-Hazards disaster situation.

CERT Volunteers are trained by first responders and emergency management personnel in areas that will help them take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors before, during and after a disaster.

As an organized team, they will provide vital services in the absence of emergency responders, whose arrival may be delayed due to the severity of the situation.

When a major emergency overwhelms normally available resources, response delays of hours or even days may occur.

OUR MOTTO IS:
"Do the greatest good for the greatest number of people."

With training and practice, CERT volunteers work together as a team, while protecting themselves from becoming victims.

Typically, students attend nine (9) weekly classes held one night a week. The classes run approximately 3 hours each night.

Previous emergency experience is not required and there is no cost.

The training, materials and equipment are provided free of charge.

To register for the next class, go to the CERT website and print an application. After you fill out the application, return it to Bretlee Jordan, Emergency Management Coordinator at the Emergency Operations Center at 3549 Saunders Way, Lecanto, FL 34461.

CERT is the Community Emergency Response Team.
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), using the model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994. Since then, CERT has been established in hundreds of communities.

CERT training promotes collaboration between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area.

CERT members maintain and refine their skills by participation in exercises and activities. They can attend supplemental training opportunities offered by the sponsoring agency and others that further their skills base. Finally, CERT members can volunteer for projects that improve community emergency preparedness.

Citrus County CERT is divided into four separate geographical quadrants: NW, NE, SE, and SW. We are sanctioned by the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office, Emergency Management Section. CERT volunteers are assigned to the quadrant in which they reside.

CERT Training will cover the following:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations - Triage and Treating Life Threatening Injuries
- Disaster Medical Operations - Assessment, Treatment and Hygiene
- Light Search and Rescue
- Team Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT

CERT Training will teach participants to:

1. Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and communities.
2. Describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response.
3. Take steps to prepare themselves for a disaster.
4. Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and workplaces.
5. Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources and safety measures to extinguish a burning liquid.
6. Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding and treating shock.
7. Conduct triage under simulated conditions.
8. Perform head-to-toe assessments.
9. Select and set up a treatment area.
10. Employ treatment for various wounds.
11. Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations.
12. Describe the most common techniques for searching a structure.
13. Use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication.
14. Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- NEIGHBORHOODS
- BUSINESSES
- COMMUNITIES OF FAITH
- SCOUTING ORGANIZATIONS
- SCHOOL STAFF/STUDENTS
- CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS
- AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES

CITIZENS CORPS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Citizens 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 disaster of all kinds.