



CERT Vision:

All Ventura residents are prepared in the event of a disaster.

Overview:

The Ventura City Fire Department, in coordination with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), assists residents with disaster preparedness education and training through a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for services typically rendered. The local population will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate lifesaving, and life sustaining needs. The Community Emergency Response Team is a program that focuses on that preparedness.

CERT Training:

CERT is offered “free” to neighborhood communities, faith-based organizations, high schools, senior centers and government agencies with a minimum of 25 students or more. Students must be over the age of 18 or have a signed release by a parent/guardian if aged 16-17. There is a cost-based fee for businesses. Please call for a quote.

The CERT training for community groups is usually delivered in 2-1/2 hour sessions, once a week over a 6-week period. The training is conducted by the Ventura City Fire Department and consists of the following:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations I and II
- Light Search and Rescue
- CERT Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism.

Upon completion of the training, members participate in a disaster simulation; receive a CERT kit and graduation certificate.

How CERT Teams Operate:

The CERT program provides an effective first-response capability. Acting as individuals first, then later as a member of a team, trained CERT volunteers can respond in their neighborhood or within their particular location. They are trained to extinguish small fires, turn off natural gas inlets to damaged homes, perform light search and rescue, and render basic first aid. Trained volunteers also offer an important potential workforce in non-hazardous functions such as shelter support, crowd control, and evacuation.

“Be Prepared Enough to Help Your Neighbor”