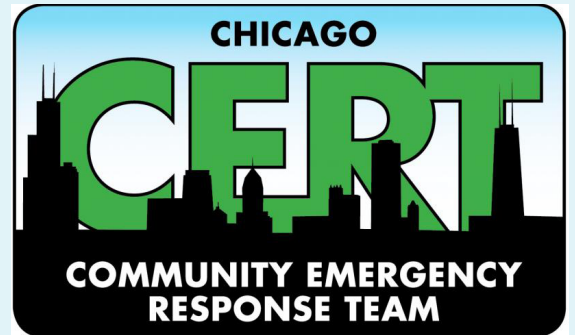


# JOIN THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program augments local response capabilities. The 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. CERT teams may also be called upon by the City to augment staffing at selected special events that use volunteers to support operations, including disaster preparedness drills or emergency exercises.



The training is free to participants and funded by a Federal grant program issued through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

## GOAL >>>

The primary goals of Chicago CERT are to: develop a cadre of trained volunteers to serve as resources to support first responders during an emergency; educate residents to be better prepared to take care of themselves, family, friends and neighbors in the event of a incident until first responders arrive; and engage in projects that improve the City's preparedness.

Past participants have played a role in emergency exercises and assisted the City of Chicago during various large-encines suchas the response to COVID-19, Emergency Operations Center activations, and following other natural disasters. Other special events that CERT volunteers assist in are the Chicago Air and Water Show, St. Patrick's River Dyeing, Chicago Marathon, Summertime beach safety patrols, and more.





## REQUIREMENTS >>>

Complete a free 27-hour CERT training  
At least 18 years of age  
Fingerprint-background check  
Additional documentation

Please note that enrolling in a CERT course does not obligate you to become a CERT volunteer. Once you become a volunteer, you must be willing to attend at least two OEMC-sponsored events a year to remain on the active volunteer list. Monthly training sessions include CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation), Stop The Bleed (STB), and other vital safety courses.

Upon graduation, you are able to first respond to events affecting your family or neighborhood, but could also be activated and deployed to other affected areas within the City, State, or United States to provide operations support.

CERT team members could assist in:

- Canteen/Shelter Services
- Management
- Administrative Support
- Exercises/Drills
- Public Education Outreach
- Food Distribution
- Special Events

**Classes are typically offered at least 4 times a year.**  
**To register go to: [chicagocitizencorps@cityofchicago.org](mailto:chicagocitizencorps@cityofchicago.org)**

The Chicago CERT team is managed by the City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) with assistance from the Chicago Fire Department and Chicago Police Department.

For more information:

<https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>

