

National Preparedness Month

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“Get Involved”

Learn about opportunities to get involved and help build capacity for first responders. With proper training and education, civilian volunteers expand the resources available to states and local communities. Many partner organizations offer public education, outreach and training for free.

- Get **CERT** trained in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.
- Find volunteer opportunities through the **Army Community Service Volunteer** program and the **Army Volunteer Corps** program.
- Get trained in CPR and basic first aid and volunteer to help mass care and sheltering operations at your local **American Red Cross - Fort Riley Chapter**.
- Get trained and volunteer with **Medical Reserve Corps** to provide support during a public health emergency.
- Support community safety and security by getting trained and involved in **Volunteers in Police Service**.
- Volunteer to support local Fire Departments and EMS through **Volunteers in Fire Corps**.
- **Civil Air Patrol** recruits volunteers through local squadrons that support aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services. This air auxiliary has been supporting missions since the 1940's.
- Attend a **Bleeding Control Basic Course** (Stop the Bleed or Until Help Arrives)



Fort Riley Emergency Management Office
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Citizen Corps



☐ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

- The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills.



☐ Fire Corps

- The Fire Corps promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career.



☐ National Neighborhood Watch Program

- The National Neighborhood Watch Program (formerly USAonWatch), housed within the National Sheriffs' Association, has worked to unite law enforcement agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens in a nation-wide effort to reduce crime and improve local communities.



☐ Medical Reserve Corps

- The Medical Reserve Corps Program strengthens communities by helping medical, public health and other volunteers offer their expertise throughout the year as well as during local emergencies and other times of community need.



☐ Volunteers in Police Service

- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. VIPS serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs.



☐ Corporation for National and Community Service

- Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that operates nationwide service programs such as AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America.

Community Emergency Response Team



The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Program educates people about disaster preparedness for 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. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their county and community.

The CERT Basic Course is delivered in the community by a team of first responders, and other qualified volunteers. The organization and timing of training and meeting varies from program to program. It is often broken up into two to four hour blocks over a series of evenings or weekends.

- Disaster Preparedness:** Addresses hazards specific to the community. Materials cover actions that participants and their families take before, during and after a disaster as well as an overview of CERT and local laws governing volunteers.
- Fire Suppression:** Covers fire chemistry, hazardous materials, fire hazards and fire suppression strategies. However, the thrust of this session is the safe use of fire extinguishers, controlling utilities and extinguishing a small fire.
- Medical Operations Part I:** Participants practice diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding and shock by using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques.
- Medical Operations Part II:** Covers evaluating patients by doing a head to toe assessment, establishing a medical treatment area and performing basic first aid.
- Light Search and Rescue Operations:** Participants learn about search and rescue planning, size-up, search techniques, rescue techniques and rescuer safety.
- Psychology and Team Organization:** Covers signs and symptoms that might be experienced by the disaster victim and workers, and addresses CERT organization and management.
- Course Review and Disaster Simulation:** Participants review and practice the skills that they have learned during the previous six sessions in a disaster activity.