

Preparing & Training to Help During a Disaster

What is CERT?

CERT is a program of the US Citizen Corps and stands for “Community Emergency Response Team.”

CERT is managed nationally by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Here in Benton County, CERT is coordinated by volunteers under the sponsorship of the Emergency Services Division of the Benton County Sheriff’s Office.

The program trains community volunteers in basic disaster response skills so they can help their neighbors until professional first responders are available.



For More Information...



You can learn more about the CERT program, sign up for the wait list, submit an on-line interest form, or register for CERT courses on the Sheriff’s Office website.

We also encourage you to sign up for the **Linn-Benton Emergency Alert** system. This lets us notify you quickly of emergency or safety events. To sign up, go to the Sheriff’s Office webpage and click on the “Emergency Alert” button. If you need help signing up, call us at 541-766-6864.

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ATTN: CERT Program Manager
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Corvallis OR 97330
phone: 541-766-6858
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website: www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff

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Learn to help yourself and your community during a disaster!



Benton County Sheriff’s Office
Emergency Services Division

Become a CERT Volunteer—You CAN Make a Difference!

What do you learn?

As a CERT participant you will learn about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact our area. Through classroom and hands-on exercises, you'll learn basic disaster response skills including fire safety, building search and rescue, team organization, basic disaster medical operations, and much more!

Basic CERT Training

The Basic CERT training course consists of 30 hours of training on nine separate units. These are:

- UNIT 1: Disaster Preparedness
- UNIT 2: Fire Safety
- UNIT 3: Disaster Medical Part 1
- UNIT 4: Disaster Medical Part 2
- UNIT 5: Light Search & Rescue
- UNIT 6: CERT Organization
- UNIT 7: Disaster Psychology
- UNIT 8: Terrorism and CERT
- UNIT 9: Course Review

Additionally, there are four on-line modules that must be completed outside of class. They are: ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700, and ICS-800. These are free, online courses available from FEMA.



Class sessions are taught by certified volunteer trainers. Classes are offered on weekday evenings and weekends, but schedules vary based on trainer availability. Check the website for details on upcoming courses.

How much does it cost?

Nothing! The CERT program is free-of-charge.

Who can apply?

The course is geared toward adults, but open to all persons age 16 and up. Individuals under 18-years-of-age must have a signed consent from a parent or legal guardian and a parent or legal guardian must accompany the minor during the class.

To register for the class, complete the on-line Registration and Waiver form. The application process includes a criminal history check.

What are you expected to do?

While we encourage anyone who completes the Basic CERT training course to become a CERT volunteer, there are no requirements to do so. You can attend the program to learn more about how to prepare yourself and your family for a disaster and then decide whether to join the CERT team.

Becoming a CERT Volunteer

To become CERT-certified, you are required to attend all of the training units in the Basic CERT training course. Each training unit builds on the previous session.

After completing the Basic CERT course, you would apply to be a CERT volunteer. CERT volunteers are expected to attend periodic trainings to keep their skills sharp.

During an emergency, you may be asked to respond as you are available and able. CERT volunteers do not replace professional responders. When a disaster strikes, you would assist others in your community until professional responders are available.

You CAN make a difference. Sign up for CERT today!