

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Have you ever wondered how you would handle an emergency, natural or man made, if it were to happen to you? Do you know emergency first aid? How to properly use a fire extinguisher? The Lafayette County Emergency Management Office wishes to form a **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is a national program that prepares people for emergency situations in their communities and neighborhoods. It was developed to bring citizens together and train them to recognize, respond and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation.

Suwannee River Regional CERT training provides area residents basic disaster-response skills necessary to address the urgent needs of their community when professional first responders and emergency personnel are not immediately available.

Once trained, Lafayette County CERT members are able to provide the following services to their neighborhoods:

- increase their neighborhood's disaster preparedness
- assess damage after a disaster
- extinguish small fires and teach fire safety
- perform light search and rescue operations
- perform triage and provide minor medical service to the injured
- organize as a team



A CERT team is your neighbors and business colleagues who, following training, initiate neighborhood or business teams whose actions will make a difference.

The basic training series is held at the Lafayette County Emergency Operations Center at 164 Northwest Crawford Street in downtown Mayo. The series consists of eight classroom courses, followed by a field exercise and graduation ceremony. Twenty-five total training hours are required.

Who is CERT training for?

- Individuals who are interested in disaster preparedness activities within their neighborhood organizations
- Veterans and military personnel
- Safety personnel or human resources staff
- Members of the Civil Air Patrol
- Faith-based disaster volunteers
- Area school personnel

Basic training includes:

- Program Orientation/Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations Part 1
- Disaster Medical Operations Part 2
- Light Search and Rescue Operations
- Terrorism/Communications
- Disaster Psychology/Team Organization
- Disaster Exercise



If you would like to learn how to handle these and other emergencies that could affect you or your community contact Alton Scott, Lafayette County Emergency Management Coordinator, at (386)-294-1950.