



Photo: State of California CERT

CERT BASIC TRAINING UNIT 1

Disaster Preparedness





CERT Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness

Participant Manual



CERT Basic Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness

In this unit, you will learn about:

- Roles and Responsibilities for Community Preparedness:** How everyone in a community has a role in disaster preparedness.
- Role of CERTs:** CERT organization, disaster and non-disaster roles, and laws that protect disaster workers from liability.
- Elements of Disasters and Their Impact on Infrastructure:** The potential effects of extreme emergencies and disasters on electrical service; emergency services; telephone communication; transportation; and availability of food, water, shelter, and fuel.
- Personal and Organizational Preparedness:** How you can prepare in advance to improve the quality of your survival and to reduce the damage from hazards.



Digital copies
available at
nationalCERT.org

CERT Basic Training

Participant Manual



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National CERT Association (NCA) Resource Library

The National CERT Association is working with FEMA, state, territory, and tribal CERT Coordinators to collect a variety of resources that have been developed throughout the US. The NCA Resource Library is a NCA membership benefit and members can access the Resource Library via the Members Area by logging into their account on the website. Some resources that are available to everyone can be found in the Public Resource Library. These resources were developed by FEMA and may also be available on FEMA’s website.

Resources that can be found in the **Public Resource Library** include (click on links below to access specific materials):

- CERT Basic Training Materials (Participant Manuals, Instructor Guides, PowerPoint Slides)
 - [English](#)
 - [Chinese](#) (Simplified and Traditional)
 - [Korean](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
 - [Vietnamese](#)
 - [Hazard Annexes](#) (English Only)

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Basic Training Participant Manual

Developed For:

**National CERT Program
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C.**

**Developed By:
PerformTech Inc.
Alexandria, Virginia**

January 2011



CERT Basic Training Participant Manual



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Ready.gov

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CERT Basic Training Participant Manual

Preparedness requires active **participation** ... **Participant Manual** that will help in: • Planning ...

All **CERT participants** are encouraged to take **basic** first aid and ...



Amazon.com

<https://www.amazon.com> › CERT-Basic-Training-Partic... ⋮

CERT Basic Training: Participant Manual (Emergency ...

Basic training **manual** for a Community Emergency Response Team or anyone interested in preparing for a disaster. A free PDF version is available from ...

★★★★★ Rating: 4.8 · 13 reviews · \$15.00 · 30-day returns · In stock



toucaned.shop

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CERT Basic Training Participant Manual - ToucanEd

The **CERT Basic** Training **Participant Manual** is the **guide** the trainees need to follow the instructor guided course. FEMA recognizes the importance of preparing ...

\$24.95 · In stock



Photo: State of California CERT

CERT BASIC TRAINING UNIT 1

Disaster Preparedness





Unit Objectives:

- 1. Describe functions of CERT, your role as CERT volunteers, and explain how CERT fits into your community's emergency preparedness structure;**
- 2. Describe types of hazards most likely to affect your communities and their potential impact on people, health, and infrastructure; and**
- 3. Prepare yourself and your family for potential disasters your community may face, including learning to create a family disaster plan and emergency preparedness kit.**

So...

What is **CERT**?



CERT's primary role is to fill the gap between when something happens and when Emergency Professionals/First Responders can take over.



History of CERT

- The CERT program was first developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985.
- Citizens are likely to be on their own during the early stages of disaster.
- Family members, co-workers, and neighbors will often come to the aid of each other.
- Lack of training can put volunteers at risk of injury or death.



Photo: Joe Loong, Fairfax County (Virginia) CERT.
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History of CERT

- Other communities have created similar programs using the LAFD model.
- CERT training materials were expanded by FEMA in 1994 to make them applicable to all kinds of hazards.
- CERT training is available in communities nationwide, and the CERT program is critical in making communities safer and more prepared.



Photo: State of California CERT

CERT Training

CERT training empowers you with the skills and knowledge to help yourself, your family, and your community.

Your local CERT program may provide additional opportunities to get involved!



Photo: State of California CERT

CERT Volunteers

- May assist first responders
- May assume some of the same functions as response personnel
- Prepare families/communities prior to emergencies
- Assist neighbors during emergencies



Roles and Responsibilities



THREATS

VULNERABILITIES

HAZARDS

Roles and Responsibilities

- Key priority in lessening the impact of disasters



Photo: Joe Loong, Fairfax County (Virginia) CERT.
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Roles and Responsibilities

- Key priority in lessening the impact of disasters
- Critical that all community members take steps to prepare
- Effective only when it engages the whole community

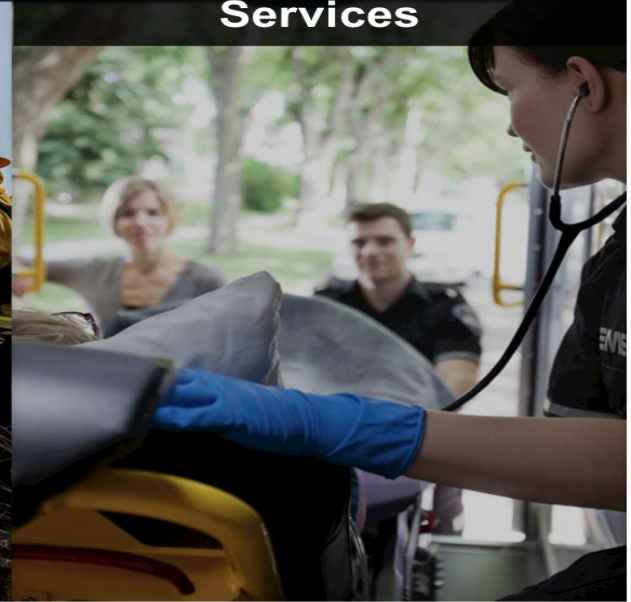
Law Enforcement



Fire and Rescue



Emergency Medical Services



Government Responsibilities

- Develop, test and refine emergency plans
- Ensure emergency responders have adequate skills and resources



Emergency Operations Plan

The **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** is what all government agencies with a disaster response role use to organize and coordinate their activities prior to the event of a disaster.





Emergency Operations Plan

- Assigns responsibility to organizations and individuals
- Sets forth lines of authority
- Describes how people and property will be protected
- Identifies personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies and other services are prepared



Faith Based



Government
Leaders



Business /
Workplace



Emergency
Responders



VOADS



Frail Elderly



Neighborhood Groups
Associations



Children / Schools



Language / Culture



People with Access
and Functional Needs



Community Preparedness

Community leaders participate in local planning councils to provide insight and perspectives regarding the composition of their community.



The Public

- Learn about community alerts, warnings and evacuation routes
- Take training
- Practice skills and personal plans
- Network and help others
- Give feedback to the community
- Volunteer
- Report suspicious activity



→ Sign up for
EMERGENCY ALERTS

MIL.WA.GOV/ALERTS

to receive alerts for:

- ! local hazards
- ! tsunami alerts
- ! Earthquake Early Warning
- ! volcano notifications

Free to all people in Washington



Engaging the Whole Community

- Ensure emergency plans more effectively reflect the community
- To make communities more prepared and resilient when disasters occur
- Bring government and community leaders together





Get Involved

- Talk with your friends and family about hazards in your area
- Ask about emergency planning
- Make sure those in charge have a plan
- Get training to keep your skills current
- Participate in drills and exercises
- Participate in volunteer programs

GET INVOLVED IN CERT.

[Community Emergency Response Team]

WHAT CERT CAN DO:



RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY CHECKS

Make sure family members and neighbors are safe and well following disasters.



TRAFFIC & CROWD MANAGEMENT

Control the flow of people during small power outages or large scale concert or sporting events.



EMERGENCY OPS CENTER STAFFING

Staff emergency operations centers to help organize and complete the response effort.



PUBLIC INFORMATION

Inform communities how to prepare and explain resources out there to help in case of emergency.

Over 2,300 teams nationwide.
FIND YOURS AT [FEMA.gov/CERT](https://www.fema.gov/cert)



FEMA



Get Involved with CERT

- Your local CERT program can provide many different ways to get involved.
- Talk to your friends and family about getting involved in CERT!

CERT Training to prepare for Emergencies

Stop the bleed

Act (Antidote, CPR, Tourniquet)

CPR/AED/First Aid Certification

EOP/ICS (Emergency Operations Plan/Incident Command System)

Light Search and Rescue

Fire Safety and Suppression

Medical Operations

Disaster Planning and Mitigation



Let's Build Our Community

Form a team of 4.

Share your name and where you're from.

Learn your teammates' names.

Get ready for your group challenge.

Take the Tower Challenge!

Each team will build a tower using the supplies provided that meets these requirements.

Materials:

- 8 sheets of paper
- 1 sheet of cardboard
- 10 pieces of tape (each 2")
- Scissors
- Tape Measure

Requirements:

- At least 5' tall
- Stands on its own 5 seconds
- Stands independently
- Constructed only using materials listed here



Unit Objectives:

1. Describe the functions of CERT, discuss your role as CERT volunteers, and explain how CERT fits into your community's emergency preparedness structure;
2. Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect your communities and their potential impact on people, health, and infrastructure;
3. Prepare yourself and your family for potential disasters your community may face, including learning to create a family disaster plan and emergency preparedness kit.



Types of Disasters

NATURAL

Earthquakes, Wildfires, Floods, Hurricanes...

TECHNOLOGICAL

HazMat Spills, Nuclear Power Plant Failures,
Airplane Accidents...

INTENTIONAL

Explosive, Chemical,
or Biological Attacks

PANDEMICS

Flu, Coronavirus, Ebola, and Other Viral Outbreaks

HOME FIRES

Home and Public Building Fires





Key Disaster Elements

- They are relatively unexpected
- Emergency personnel may be overwhelmed
- Lives, health and the environment are endangered



Local Hazards

Identify or Consider...

- The most common disaster that occurs
- Research recent or historical disasters
- Possible hazards with the most severe impact
- Susceptible locations in the community for specific hazards
- What to expect from disruption of services



Local Hazards

Identify or Consider...

- The most common disaster that occurs
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- What to expect from disruption of services



Impact on Infrastructure

Transportation

Structures

Communication

Utilities

Water Services

Fuel Supplies

Financial Services

Transportation - Possible Effects

- Inability to assess damage accurately
- Ambulances prevented from reaching victims
- Police prevented from reaching areas of civil unrest
- Fire departments prevented from getting to fires
- Flow of needed supplies (food, water, etc.) is interrupted
- Roads are closed and / or impassible



Impact on Infrastructure

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Structures - Possible Effects

- Damaged critical facilities (IE: hospitals, fire stations, police precincts, airports) unable to function normally
- Increased risk of damage from falling debris



Impact on Infrastructure

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Financial Services

Communication - Possible Effects

- Victims unable to call for help
- Coordination of services hampered
- Families and friends cannot communicate



Impact on Infrastructure

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Financial Services

Utilities - Possible Effects

- Increased risk of fire or explosion from fuel line rupture
- Risk of asphyxiation
- Fuel shortages



Impact on Infrastructure

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Water Services - Possible Effects

- Medical facilities hampered
- Inadequate water flow, which results in notice to boil water and hampered firefighting capabilities
- Increased risk to public health



Impact on Infrastructure

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Fuel Supplies - Possible Effects

- Loss of service
- Increased risk of fire or electrical shock
- Limited access to fuel (pumps may not work)
- Loss of contact between victims and service providers



Impact on Infrastructure

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Financial Services

Financial Services - Possible Effects

- ATM machines do not work
- Credit card system inoperable



Result of Damage to Infrastructure



**Police : Address incidents of
GRAVE public safety**



**Fire Department: Suppress
MAJOR fires**



**Emergency Medical: Handle
LIFE-THREATENING injuries**



**CERT: Lower priority needs are
met by people like you**

Result of Damage to Infrastructure



Hazards Related to Structure Type



Engineered Buildings

Single Family Home

Mobile Home

Multi-Use Buildings



Hazards Related to Structure Type



Engineered Buildings

Single Family Home

Mobile Home

Multi-Use Buildings

Engineered Buildings

Engineered buildings such as most high-rise structures, have performed well in earthquakes and other disasters. Older high-rise buildings with steel and concrete construction are more susceptible to damage than new buildings which use curtain construction and pre-fabricated panels.

Primary hazards of high-rise buildings to include apartments

- Broken glass
- Falling panels
- Collapsed stairwells or walkways
- Crumbling cornices and other trim



Hazards Related to Structure Type



Engineered Buildings

Single Family Home

Mobile Home

Multi-Use Buildings

Single Family Home

Age, type of construction and type of disaster are major factors in potential damage to single family homes. Home built before 1940 generally were not bolted to the foundation, making them subject to be shaken, blown or floated off their foundations.

Older homes constructed of un-reinforced brick are less stable than newer construction. Porches without support beams may collapse. Damage to single homes from tornadoes and hurricanes can range from little damage to total destruction.



Hazards Related to Structure Type



Engineered Buildings

Single Family Home

Mobile Home

Multi-Use Buildings

Mobile Home

When mobile homes are displaced in a disaster, utility connections are easily damaged, and broken gas lines may cause fires.



Hazards Related to Structure Type



Engineered Buildings

Single Family Home

Mobile Home

Multi-Use Buildings

Multi-Use Buildings

Malls, sports arenas, airports, places of worship, and other places where people may gather, may pose hazards in some types of disasters.

For example, in an earthquake, overhead structures may collapse. Widespread panic in large crowds can result in casualties.



Gas Line Ruptures

Displaced water heater or ranges



Damage

From falling books, dishes, or other cabinet contents



Electrical Shock or Injury

From displaced appliances or office equipment



Fire

From faulty wiring, overloaded electrical outlets, or frayed electrical cords



Non-Structural Hazards

TAKE A BREAK. Walk around and identify non-structural hazards in your home and workplace.



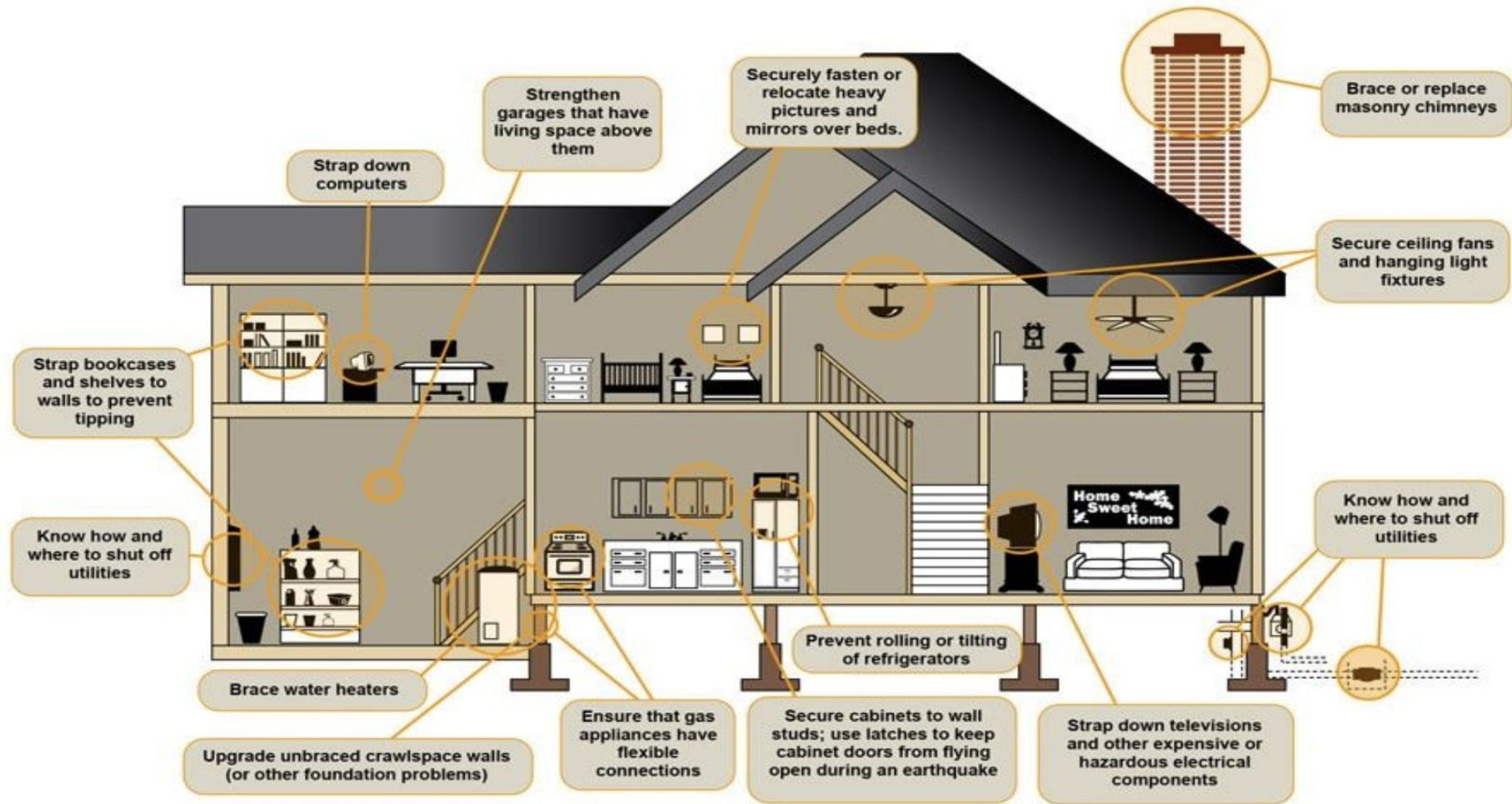
Mitigation

The reduction in loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters, including any activities that prevent or reduce the likelihood of emergencies, or reduce damage by unavoidable hazards.



Mitigation

- Making structural and non-structural changes to your home
- Purchasing appropriate insurance
- Assembling disaster supplies
- Making a family plan





Non-Structural Hazard Mitigation

- Anchor heavy furniture to the walls or floor of your home



Non-Structural Hazard Mitigation

- Anchor heavy furniture to the walls or floor of your home
- Secure appliances and office equipment
- Install hurricane shutters





Non-Structural Hazard Mitigation

- Anchor heavy furniture to the walls or floor of your home
- Secure appliances and office equipment
- Install hurricane shutters
- Childproof cabinet doors
- Locate and label gas, electrical, and water shutoffs



Non-Structural Hazard Mitigation

- Anchor heavy furniture to the walls or floor of your home
- Secure appliances and office equipment
- Install hurricane shutters
- Childproof cabinet doors
- Locate and label gas, electrical, and water shutoffs
- Secure the water heater
- Install flexible gas lines





Other Mitigation Measures

- Bolt houses to foundations
- Strap mobile homes to their slabs
- Install trusses or hurricane straps to reinforce roof
- Build a safe room
- Strap down propane tanks
- Raise utilities above flood level



Preparing the Exterior of Your Home

Different non-structural hazards to fortify against:

- Wildfires
- Home Fires
- Landslides or mudslides

Mitigation Ideas



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Important Elements of Disaster Preparedness

- Have the skills to evaluate the situation quickly and take effective action
- Have a family disaster plan and practice this plan with drills



Photo: State of California CERT

Important Elements of Disaster Preparedness

- Have the skills to evaluate the situation quickly and take effective action
- Have a family disaster plan and practice this plan with drills
- Assemble supplies in multiple locations
- Reduce the impact of hazards through mitigation practices
- Get involved by participating in training and volunteer programs

Stop & Talk

Does your family already have a plan?

Is it current?

How often do you practice your plan?



MAKE A PLAN

Include your specific health and safety needs when creating your emergency plan.



- Know local hazards, alerts, warning systems, evacuation routes and sheltering plans.
- Consider important elements of disaster preparedness
- Address specific needs for yourself and people you know



**THINK AHEAD,
HAVE A PLAN,
BE PREPARED
FOR ANY
EMERGENCY.**



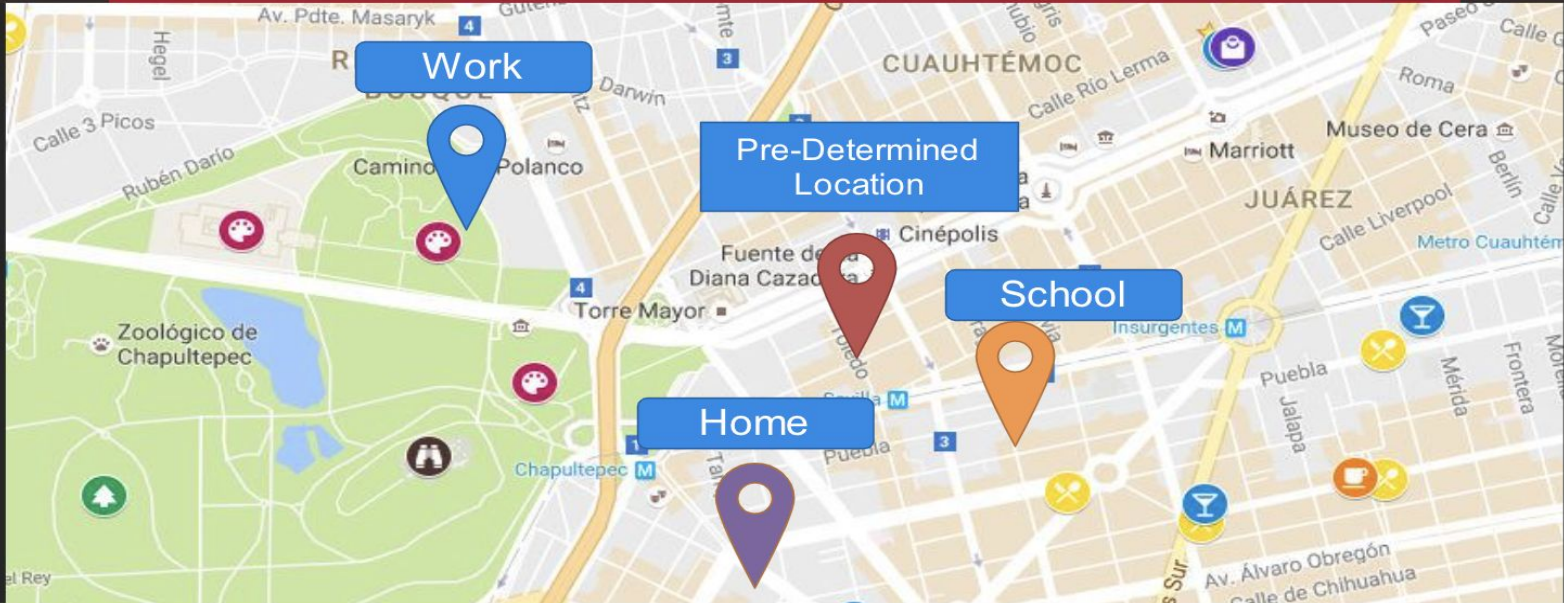
Preparing for Disaster

Ready

Are You Ready

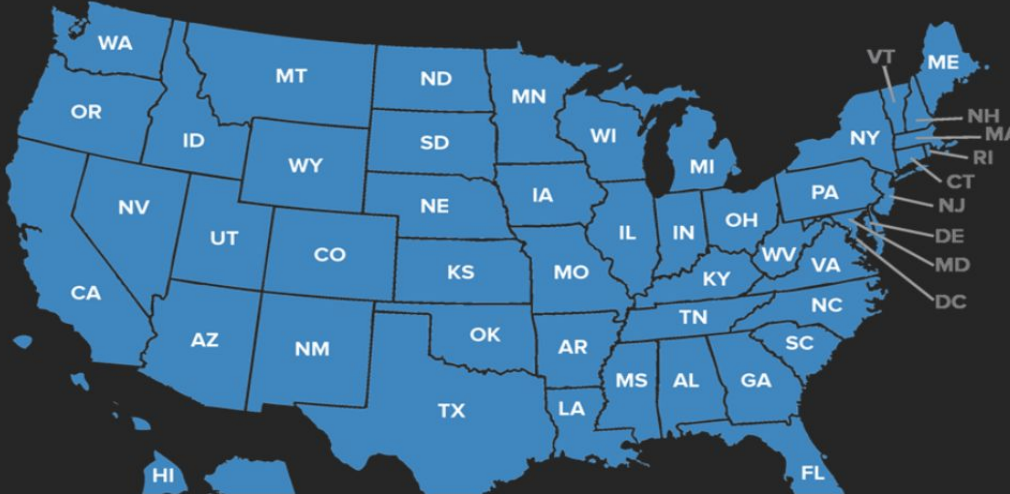
Red Cross

Pandemic Flu



Develop a Disaster Plan

- Do you have a predetermined meeting location for you and your family?



Who is your out of state contact?

Develop a Disaster Plan

- Do you have a predetermined meeting location for you and your family?
- Do you have an out-of-state contact?



Develop a Disaster Plan

- Do you have a predetermined meeting location for you and your family?
- Do you have an out-of-state contact?
- Do you know what your sheltering options are?



How will you escape your home, workplace, school or place of worship?



What route (several and alternates) will you use to evacuate your neighborhood?

Develop a Disaster Plan

- Do you have a predetermined meeting location for you and your family?
- Do you have an out-of-state contact?
- Do you know what your sheltering options are?



Develop a Disaster Plan

- Do you have a predetermined meeting location for you and your family?
- Do you have an out-of-state contact?
- Do you know what your sheltering options are?
- Do you know your evacuation routes? Do you have alternatives?
- Practice your disaster plan on a regular basis



Communication Plan

Commuter Plan

Pet Plan

Develop a Disaster Plan

- Do you have a predetermined meeting location for you and your family?
- Do you have an out-of-state contact?
- Do you know what your sheltering options are?
- Do you know your evacuation routes? Do you have alternatives?
- Practice your disaster plan on a regular basis

Family Evacuation Plan

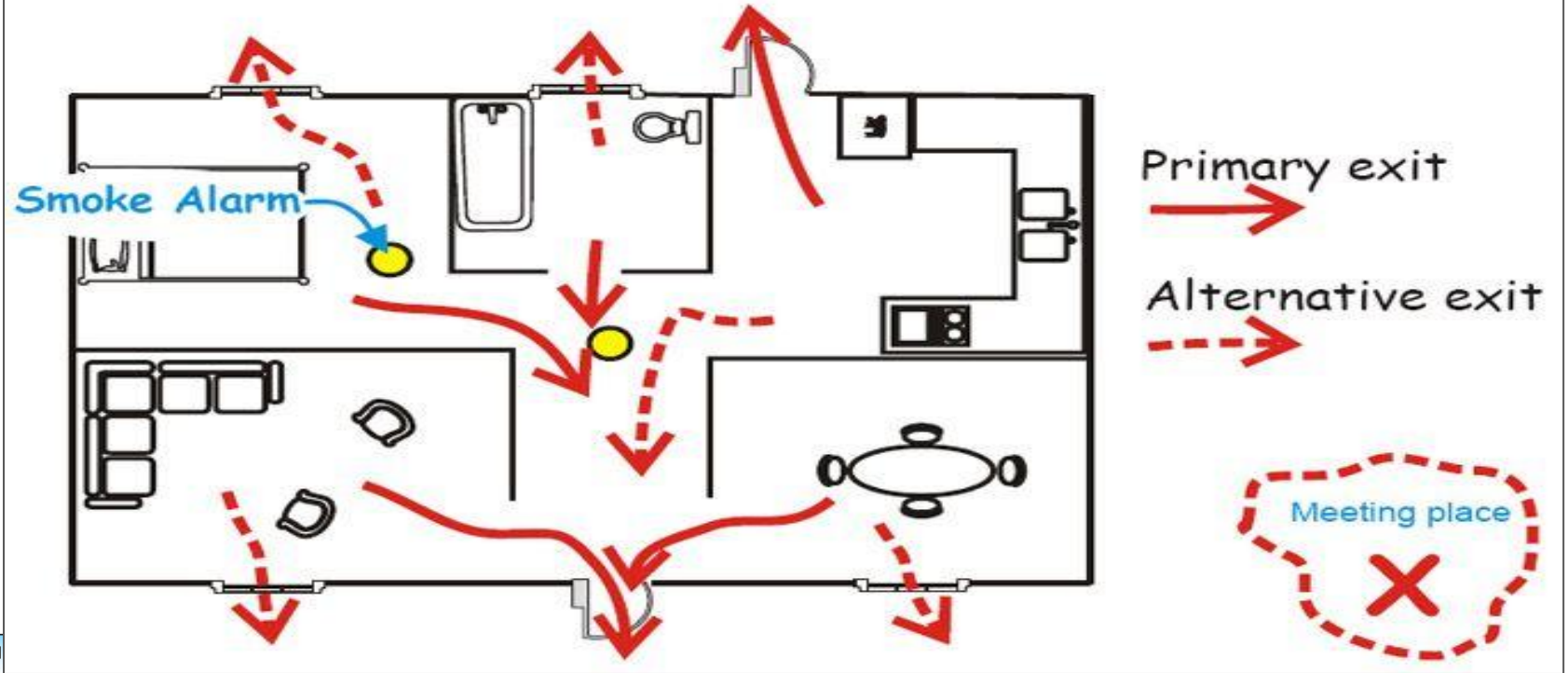
SCENARIO:

A fire has started in the kitchen in the middle of the night and is too big for you to extinguish it safely. Everyone must evacuate immediately and meet a safe distance away.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. Create a Family Evacuation Plan
 - Draw floor plan showing:
 - Rooms
 - Windows
 - Doors
 - Smoke detectors
 - Stairs
 - Show the routes that each occupant would take to evacuate
 - Show a meeting spot outside of the home
2. Summarize Evacuation Plan
 - How did second floor occupants get out?
 - How did pets get out?
 - Did anyone need help getting out? Who helped them?
 - What did you take with you?
 - Where did you meet up? Why did you choose that spot?
 - Who would call 911? Who would speak to the fire dept when they arrive?
 - Where would you go if you couldn't return to the home?

Sample Evac Drawing



Example

First floor:



Key:

S = Sink

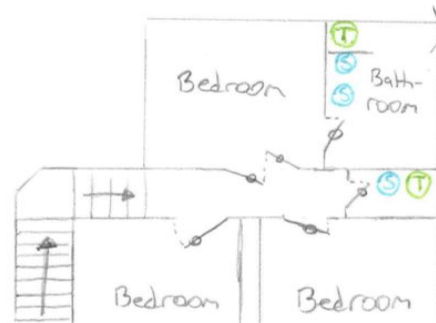
T = Toilet

[Blue hatched square] = Main Water shut-off

[Red hatched square] = Gas line shut off

* All sink shut offs are underneath
* All toilet water shut offs are behind

Second floor:



- We are on public water
- We have a septic tank
- We use natural gas



Challenge!

Under-the-Bed Supplies



Store a few supplies like old sturdy shoes, a flashlight, and heavy-duty gloves under your bed.





Assembling Disaster Supplies

- It is very important to assemble your disaster kits before disaster strikes
- Many of these items may already be in your house



Assembling Disaster Supplies

- It is very important to assemble your disaster kits before disaster strikes
- Many of these items may already be in your house



Prepare Your Kits:



Water



Kitchen Items



First Aid Kit



Tools and Supplies



Special Items



Clothing and Bedding



Pet Supplies



Household Documents
and Contact Numbers

Assembling Disaster Supplies

- It is very important to assemble your disaster kits before disaster strikes
- Many of these items may already be in your house

WHAT'S IN YOUR GO BAG?

Water and food



Resolve
to be
Ready.

WHAT'S IN YOUR GO BAG?

First aid kit,
toothbrushes,
and medicine



Resolve
to be
Ready.

Assembling Disaster Supplies

- Store a three-day supply of non-perishable food that does not require refrigeration, preparation, or cooking with little to no water.
- Select foods that are compact and lightweight.
- Check expiration dates biannually.
- Store a first aid kit in your home and in each vehicle.
- Include items for those with special needs.

Disaster Kit Assembly



Water Storage Considerations

- Store water in plastic containers with a “1” on the bottom
- Avoid using milk jugs or glass bottles
- Replace your emergency water supply every six months

Water - 1 gal/person/day

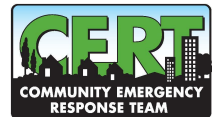
- **Store at least 1 gallon of water per person**, per day (3 quarts for drinking, 1 quart for food preparation and sanitation.)
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water for each person in the household.



FEMA

Water Purification

- If the quality of the water is questionable, purify it before drinking.
- Heat water to a rolling boil for 1 minute or use commercial purification tablets to purify the water.
- Regular household liquid chlorine bleach (Do not use perfumed bleach!) After adding bleach, shake or stir the water container and let it stand for 30 minutes before drinking.



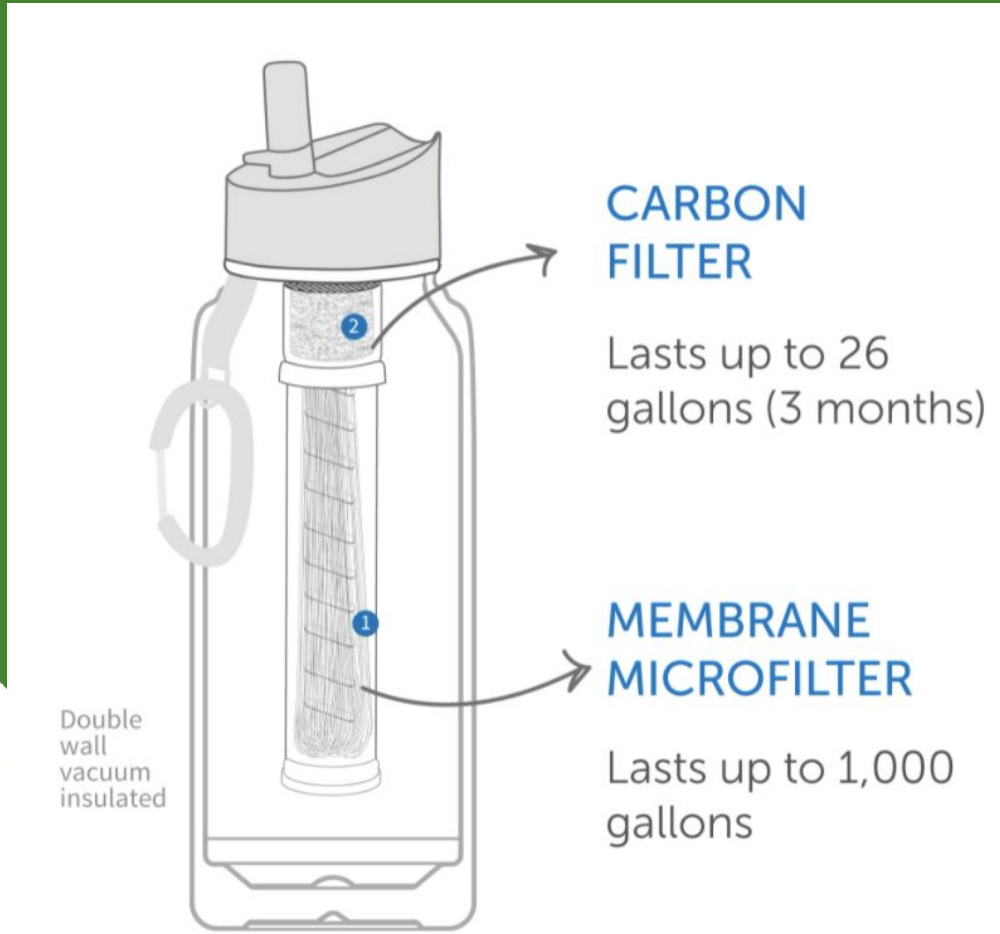
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Water Quantity	Bleach Added
1 Quart	4 Drops
1 Gallon	8 Drops
4 Gallons	1/3 Teaspoon

Purifying Water

- Heat water to a rolling boil for 1 minute or use purification tablets/bleach
- Do not use perfumed bleach!

**Can also use
filters...
like the life straw!**



**CARBON
FILTER**

Lasts up to 26
gallons (3 months)

**MEMBRANE
MICROFILTER**

Lasts up to 1,000
gallons

Double
wall
vacuum
insulated

Recommended Items To Include In A Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.

Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food

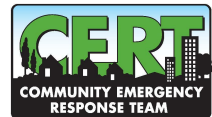
- Foods that require no refrigeration, cooking or little water
- Battery-powered or hand-crank can opener
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Protein or fruit bars
- Dry cereal or granola
- Peanut butter
- Dried fruit, nuts
- Crackers
- Canned juices
- Non-perishable pasteurized milk



The hydration multiplier **maximizes your water uptake by using the sodium and glucose co-transport across the stomach while pulling water along.** With such optimal sodium to glucose ratio, water gets transported into your body faster than if you drank water alone.



FEMA



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Emergency Kits

Kapacinskas Family

Grab-n-Go! Bag

If we have less than 5 min...

Our family of 5 each has a “grab-n-go” bag. These bags are always ready to go and stored just inside each bedroom door.



Contents:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| (8) protein bars | (1) flashlight | (1) multi-tool kit | (1) mylar blanket |
| (8) bottled waters | (1) whistle | (1) hand sanitizer | (1) lifestraw |
| (1) roll of duct tape | (1) mask | (1) working gloves | (1) toiletries |
| (1) first aid kit | (1) wet wipes | (2) non-latex gloves | (1) sharpie |
| (1) mylar blanket | medications | | |

Grab-n-Go! Kit

If we have less than 10 min...

This kit is in the garage and would be easy to grab. It has wheels and handles. The sleeping bags are hung directly above it.



Contents:

(1) trauma kit

(10) bottled water

(1) pack Liquid-IV

(2) roll of duct tape

(1) pet supplies

(5) sleeping bags

(1) tool kit

(1) documents

(1) 24-pack

emergency bars

(1) tent/tarp

(1) multi-tool kit

(1) hand sanitizer

(1) working gloves

(2) non-latex gloves

(5) rolls toilet paper

Shelter Kits

If we are staying at home.

This kits are in the garage, in multiple bins, and are heavy. We would use these in addition to the “go” bags previously mentioned.



Contents:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) hand-crank radio | (1) propane cooking kit | (5) lanterns |
| (15) gallons water | (1) set cast iron pans | (5) hand sanitizer |
| (2) entertainment kits | (1) firestarter kit | (5) working gloves |
| (15) dinner kits | (5) hygiene kits | (50) non-latex gloves |
| | (1) kitchen kit | (15) rolls toilet paper |



Protective Actions

You need to have the knowledge and skills to take immediate protective actions in the first critical moments after a disaster has occurred—before you receive instruction from authorities.



Protective Actions

1. Assess the situation
2. Decide to stay or evacuate
3. Seek clean air and protect breathing passages
4. Protect from debris and signal if trapped
5. Remove contaminants
6. Practice good hygiene



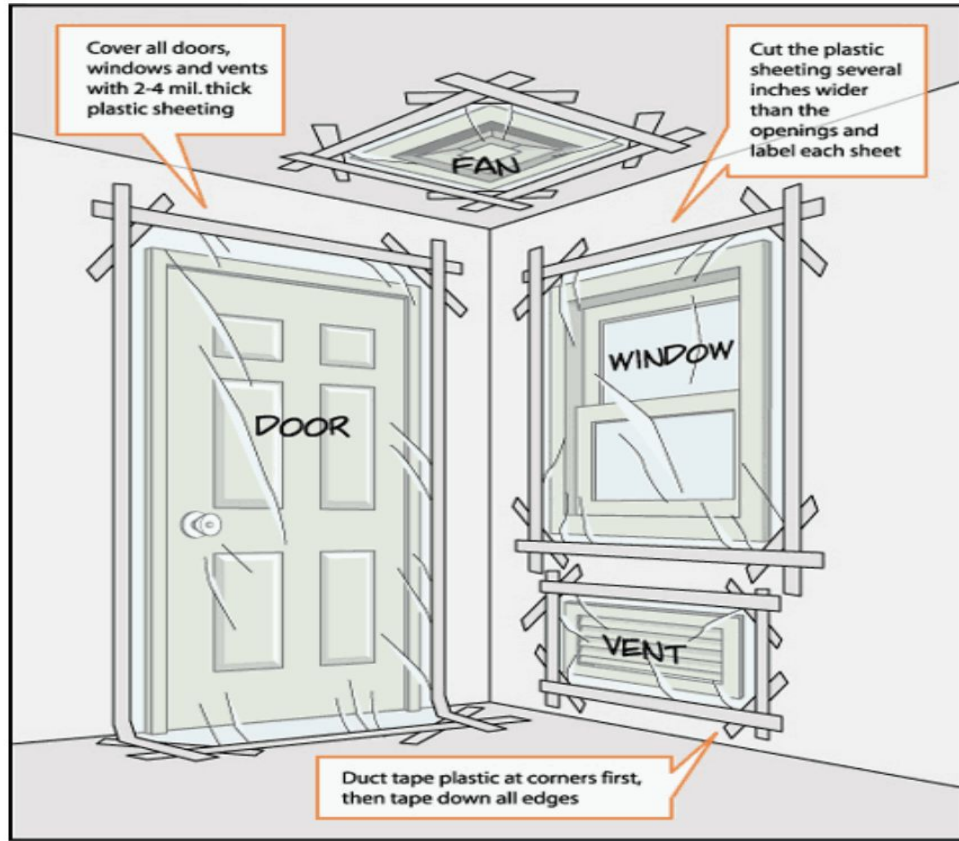
Sheltering

Taking appropriate shelter is critical in times of disaster.

Shelter in Place

Extended Stay

Mass Care Facility



Shelter in Place

In the event of an outside hazardous material release you may need to “seal the room” to protect yourself from the potentially contaminated air outside until it dissipates.

Identify an internal room in your home, at work, or other locations where you spend a great deal of time. If you are required to shelter-in-place, you will be in this room for only a few hours, but it is important that you seal the room quickly. Storing specific items in the room is helpful. You should have snacks and water, a battery-operated radio, a flashlight, and pre-cut plastic sheeting and duct tape to seal off vents and door and window openings.

Use common sense and available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, then you may want to take this kind of action.

Shelter in Place

Extended Stay

Mass Care Facility



Extended Stay

During extended periods of sheltering, you will need to manage water and food supplies to ensure you and your family have the necessary supplies and quantities.

Water

- Allow people to drink according to their needs
- Never ration water unless ordered to do so by authorities
- Drink water that you know is uncontaminated first
- If necessary, treat water by boiling, chlorination, or distillation

Food

- Keep food in covered containers
- Use clean cooking and eating utensils
- Discard any food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture
- Discard any food that has come in contact with flood waters

Shelter in Place

Extended Stay

Mass Care Facility



Mass Care or Community Shelter

These are mass-care facilities that house many people in one location. Even though mass-care shelters often provide water, food, medicine, and basic sanitary facilities, you should plan to take your disaster supplies kit with you so you will have the supplies you require.

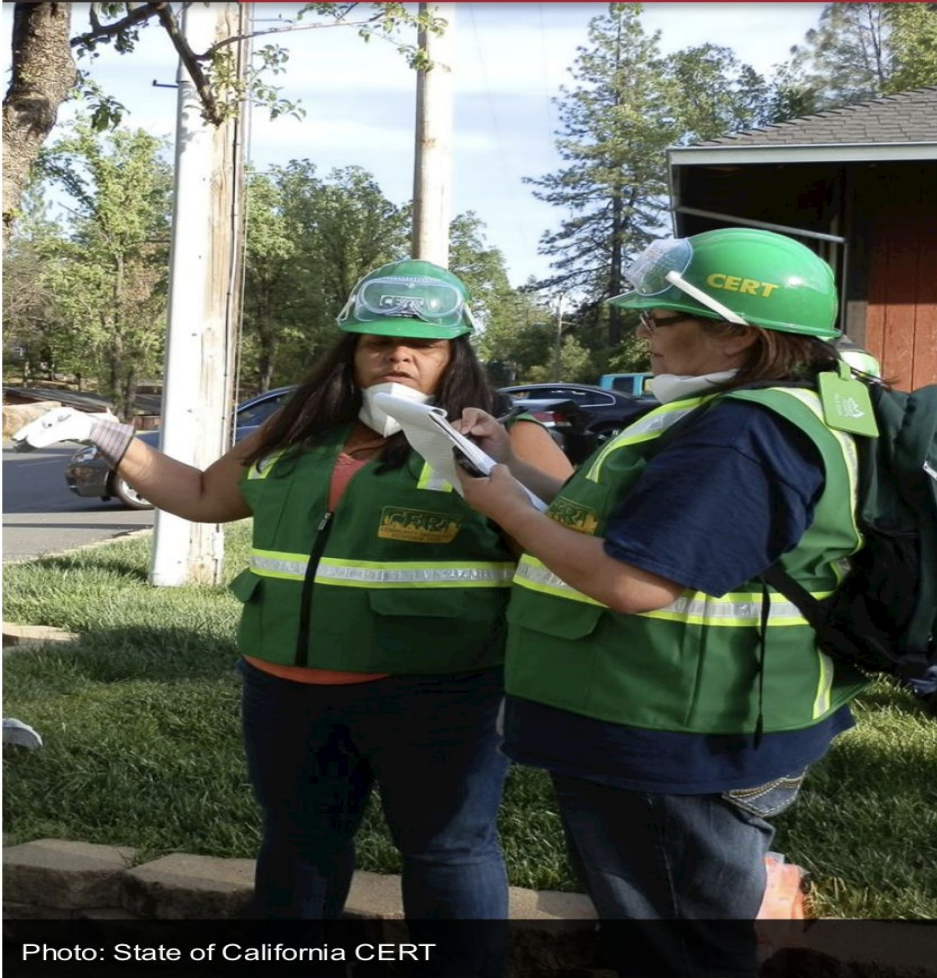
Mass-care sheltering can involve living with many people in a confined space, which can be difficult and unpleasant. To avoid conflicts in the stressful situation, it is important to cooperate with shelter managers and others helping them.

Keep in mind that alcoholic beverages and weapons are forbidden in emergency shelters, and smoking is restricted.

Shelter in Place

Extended Stay

Mass Care Facility



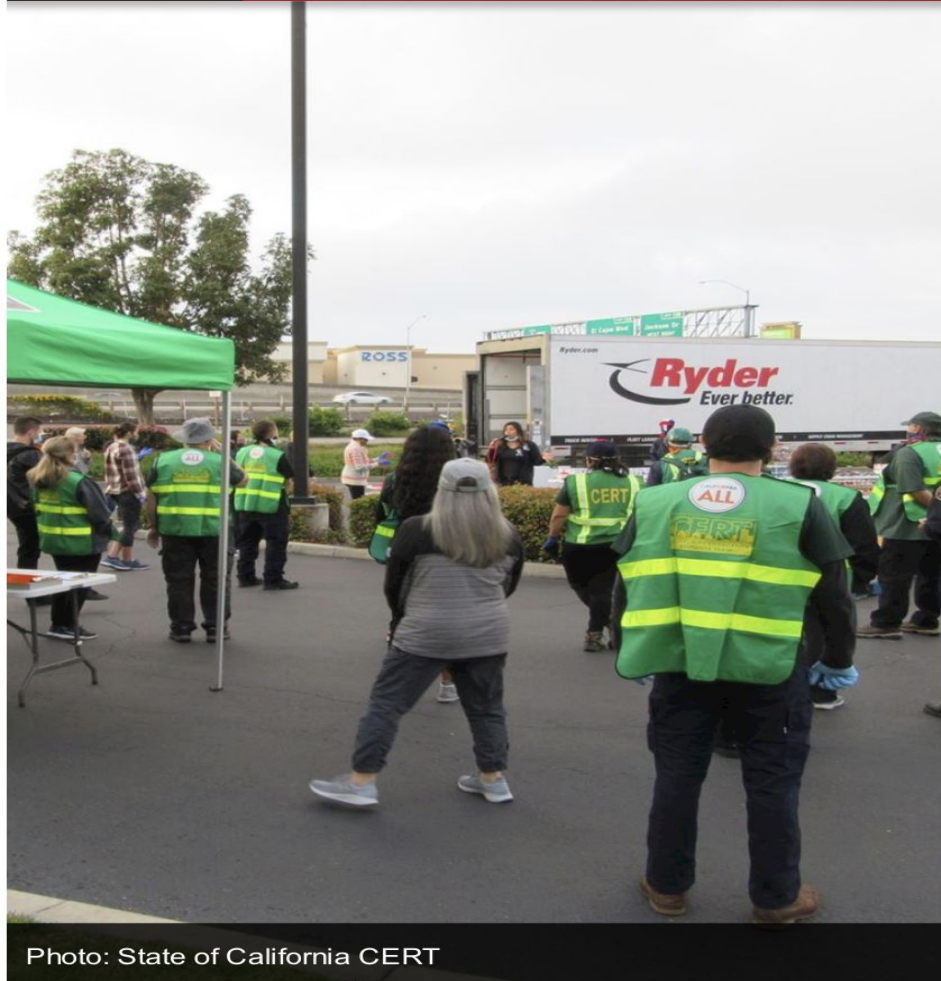
CERT Responsibilities

- CERT volunteers respond in the period immediately after a disaster
- Assist emergency response personnel when requested
- A CERT volunteer's FIRST priority is their own personal safety and the safety of their family



CERT Responsibilities

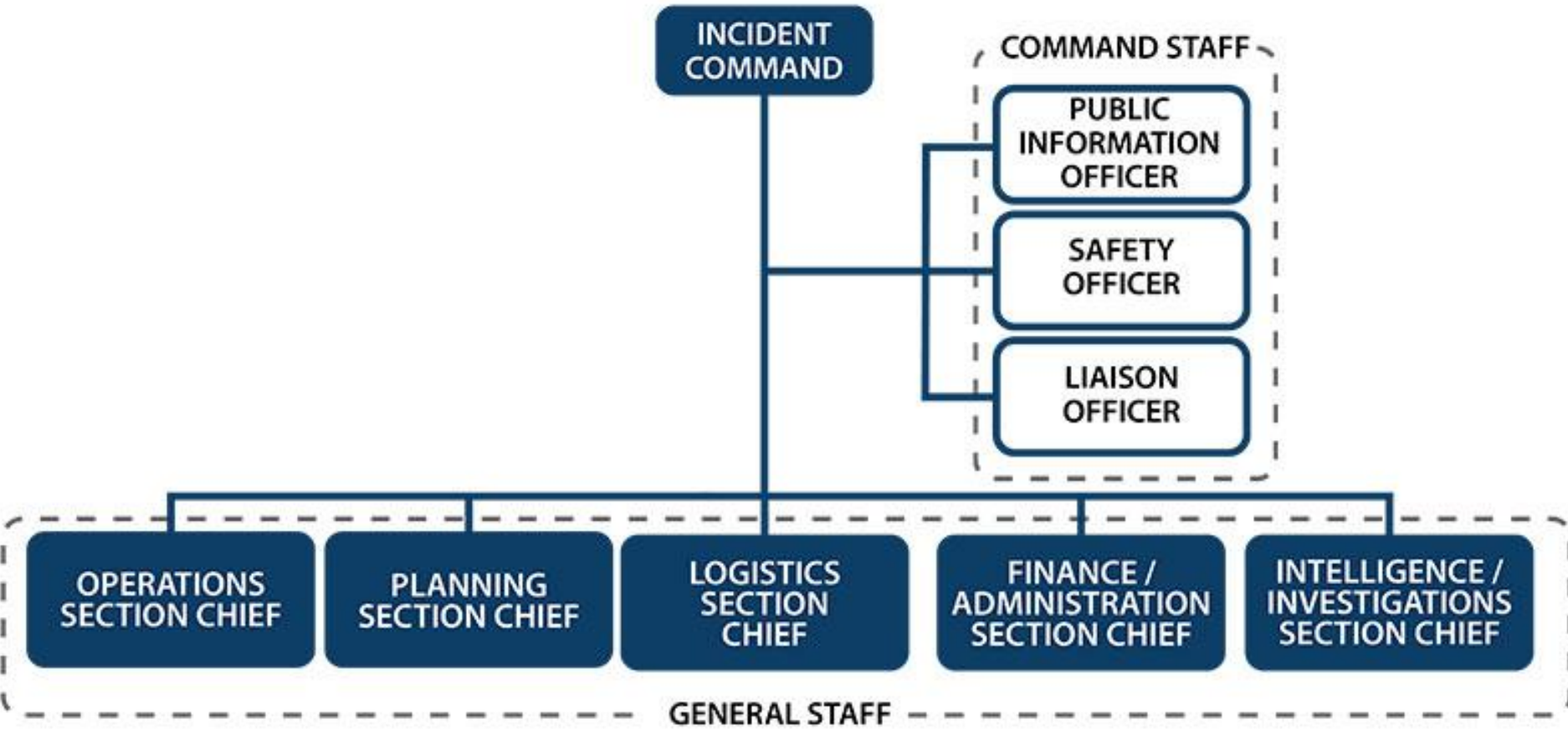
- Some of your efforts will include treating life-threatening injuries, shutting off utilities, and extinguishing small fires
- Volunteers also help survivors cope with emotional stressors



CERT Responsibilities

- Some of your efforts will include treating life-threatening injuries, shutting off utilities, and extinguishing small fires
- Volunteers also help survivors cope with emotional stressors
- CERTs conduct light search and rescue operations
- Volunteers can also be trained for shelter support, crowd and traffic management, and spontaneous volunteer management

Incident Command System





CERT Organization

- As a CERT volunteer, you will be assigned to one of three section chiefs
- CERT organizational structure will be covered in Unit 2

Operations Section

Responsible for:

- Fire suppression
- Search and rescue
- Medical operations

Photos: State of California CERT



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Planning Section

Responsible for:

- Tracking incident status
- Tracking CERT personnel on scene
- Preparing team action plan
- Documentation



Photos: State of California CERT

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Logistics Section

Responsible for:

- Communications
- Food
- Managing supplies and facilities

Photos: State of California CERT

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Personal Protective Equipment

- ✓ **Helmet**
- ✓ **Goggles**
- ✓ **N95 Mask**
- ✓ **Leather Gloves**
- ✓ **Non-Latex Gloves**
- ✓ **Sturdy Shoes or Work Boots**

**Your first job is to STAY SAFE!
Wear your **REQUIRED** equipment
when volunteering as a CERT member.**



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Non-Disaster Roles

- Identify and aid neighbors/ coworkers who might need assistance
- Distribute preparedness materials and provide demos
- Staff first aid booths at special events
- Assist with installation of smoke alarms
- Parade route management



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Protection for Disaster Workers

CERT volunteers are generally protected by :

- Good Samaritan Laws
- Volunteer Protection Act of 1997
- Relevant State Statutes
- Citizen Corps Volunteer Liability Guide

Liability Guide



Additional Training for CERTs

CPR

Online Courses

Introduction to Incident Command System

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response

National Response Framework

Other Considerations for Training

- Advanced First Aid
- Flood Response
- Shelter Management
- Donations Management
- Traffic/Crowd Management
- Spontaneous Volunteer Management
- Responder Rehab
- Emergency Communications

Winter Safety

Prepare now for winter weather.

[Winter Weather Tips](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[Get Trained and Volunteer](#)

[Citizen Corps](#)

[Community Emergency
Response Team](#)

[Neighbors](#)

[Voluntary Organizations Active in
Disaster](#)

[Preparedness Research](#)

[You Are the Help Until Help
Arrives](#)

[Community Based Organization
Training](#)





Unit Summary

Upon completion of this unit you should be able to:

- Identify roles and responsibilities for community preparedness
- Describe the types of hazards that affect your community and their impact
- Undertake personal and organizational preparedness actions
- Describe the functions of CERT volunteers
- Assemble a disaster kit
- Understand how to begin developing a disaster plan for you and your family