

What is CERT?

Each year, many North Texas communities are rocked by severe weather, such as tornadoes, floods or flash floods, winter storms, or by man-made disasters.

The damage caused by disasters effect everyone. Disasters may:

- severely restrict and overwhelm emergency response resources, communications, transportation, and utilities; and
- leave individuals and neighborhoods cut off from outside emergency support.

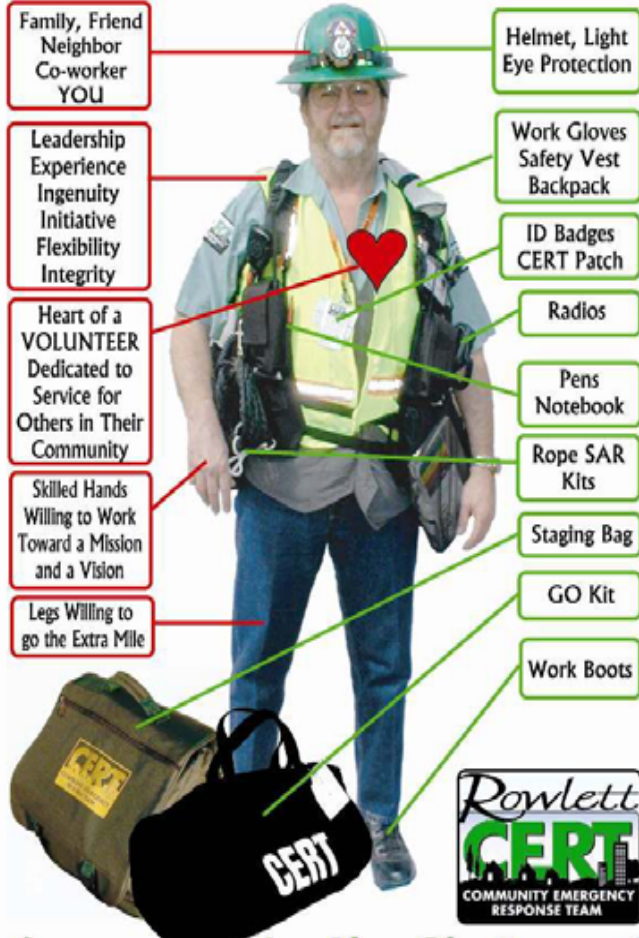
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are trained to take care of themselves and then help others in their communities for the first three days following a disaster.

This is when debris-clogged or damaged roads, disrupted communications, or high volume of calls may prevent immediate access by emergency response personnel.

The purpose of CERT training is to provide citizens with the basic skills required to handle their own needs and then to be able to respond in their communities in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.



Extreme CERT



Are you up to the Challenge?



Rowlett CERT is a core program of the Rowlett Citizen Corps Council and co-sponsored by Rowlett Fire Rescue. The RCCC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to disaster preparedness and family safety initiatives. See our website at www.rowlettcitizen corps.org for more information on our course offerings.



Rowlett Community Emergency Response Team



For Information email CERT@RowlettCitizenCorps.org

About CERT...

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, using the model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994. Since then, CERT teams have been established in thousands of communities.

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community professional response, CERT members can assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills that they learned during training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives. CERT skills also apply to daily emergencies and crisis.

Rowlett CERT members maintain and refine their skills by participating in exercises, meetings and additional training. The program has annual requirements for active membership and a robust awards and recognition banquet. CERT members also participate in community service projects, local events, fundraising, and other support activities throughout the year.

About a CERT Course?

The Community Emergency Response Team course consists of 20+ hours of training, held on two consecutive Saturdays. Classes are taught by trained personnel from your community.

The course agenda includes:

Day 1 **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

Introduction to disasters, impact of disasters on infrastructures, the role of CERT in disaster response.

DISASTER FIRE SUPPRESSION

Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards, basic fire suppression strategy, resources, and techniques.

DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS, 1

Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions and principles of triage.

DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS, 2

Head-to-toe assessments, treatment for various injuries

Day 2 **LIGHT SEARCH & RESCUE OPERATIONS**

Techniques for size-up and search, lifting, cribbing and removing victims, rescuer safety

PRE-STORM CERT OPERATIONS

Personal readiness, CERT equipment, organizing and deploying your team, communications and terrorism.

FINAL GROUP EXERCISE & GRADUATION

The Course Agenda is subject to change. Please consult our website or administrative contact for the most current information.

How can you help?

First, recruit interested people from your community, neighborhood, school, or business. Some natural groups to approach and recruit are:

Community Groups - Homeowners associations, neighborhood watch groups, religious groups and similar organizations, geographically distributed within the local area.

Business and Industry - Possible locations include high-rise office buildings, large hotels, and industrial complexes.

Schools - PTSA organizations and faculty groups

Local Government - Local government employees who are trained in CERT procedures can help local government agencies continue to provide needed services to citizens during an emergency.

Then, **VOLUNTEER** in your community. There are many opportunities available for you to explore. Share your talents and expertise, and strengthen your community and neighborhood.

The Rowlett Citizen Corps Council sponsors many programs for you to explore. See the whole list at www.rowlettcitizencorps.org.

