



FRANKLIN COUNTY CERT

&

YOUR COMMUNITY

A Partnership Between FCEM&HS, FC
CERT, and Your Community



AGENDA



- What is CERT; The Definition of CERT; and Why Does CERT Exist?
- 2013 Risk Assessment
- Why Prepare for Emergencies and Disasters?
- Statistical Data
- What Does and Does Not CERT Do?
- Does CERT Have Authority?
- What Can You Do as CERT for Your Community and Franklin County?
- Summary

WHAT IS CERT?



CERT is neighborhood or workplace based citizen volunteers preparing to help themselves, their family, and potentially their neighbors or coworkers immediately after an emergency or disaster for up to 72 hours when first responders are not immediately available.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF CERT?



Definition of CERT:

- Community
 - A unified body of individuals: as
 - The people with common interests living in a particular area; broadly
 - An interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location
 - A group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society
 - A group linked by a common policy
 - A body of persons or nation having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests
 - A body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society
- Emergency
 - An unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action
 - An urgent need for assistance or relief
- Response
 - An act of responding
- Team
 - A number of persons associated together in work or activity

(Source: www.merriam-webster.com)

WHY DOES CERT EXIST?



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,

(Source: <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>)

2013 RISK ASSESSMENT



1. Tornadoes
2. Dam Failure
3. Flooding
4. WMD Terrorist Incident
5. Cyber-Terrorism
6. Infectious Diseases
7. Severe Winter Weather
8. Hazardous Materials Incident
9. Transportation Accident – Aircraft
10. Severe Summer Weather
11. Utility / Energy-Interruptions / Failures
12. Civil Disturbance
13. Lone-Wolf Terrorist Event
14. Air / Water-Pollution / Contamination
15. Extreme Heat
16. Drought
17. Invasive Species
18. Earthquakes

WHY PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS?



- EMA responsible for the overall coordination, planning, and resources in Franklin County and supports Incident Commanders such as Police and Fire Departments
 - Many services will be overwhelmed:
 - Police
 - Fire
 - EMS
 - Other government services providing day-to-day activities and emergency activities

Many citizens will be on their own for at least the first 72 hours

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY STATISTICS



As of 4/11/13

- U.S. population
 - 308,745,538
- Firefighters
 - 1,190,000 career, volunteer, paid per call, civilian staff and non firefighting personnel
 - = 1 firefighter for every 260 citizens
- Police Officers (state and local)
 - 1,133,000 full-time officers and 765,000 sworn personnel
 - = 1 officer for every 273 citizens

(Source: National Fire Department Census Quick Facts - <http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/census/summary.cfm#c>)

(source: Bureau of Justice Statistics - <http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2216>)

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NATIONAL HEALTH CARE STATISTICS



As of 4/11/13

- U.S. population
 - 308,745,538
- Physicians
 - 954,224 physicians
 - = 1 physician for every 324 citizens
- Nurses
 - 2,908,000 Registered Nurses (RN) [2012 projected]
 - = 1 RN for every 106 citizens
- Emergency Medical Service (EMS) workers
 - 826,111 credentialed EMS professionals (24% paramedic)
 - = 1 EMS worker for every 374 citizens

(source: American Medical Association - <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/our-people/member-groups-sections/minority-affairs-section/physician-statistics/total-physicians-raceethnicity.page?>)

(source: U.S. Department of Labor - <http://www.dol.gov/wb/factsheets/Qf-nursing.htm>)

(Source: National EMS - http://www.ems.gov/pdf/2012/Newsletter_Fall_2012.pdf)

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TOTAL NATIONAL STATISTICS



As of 4/11/13

- U.S. population
 - 308,745,538
- All public safety and health care workers
 - 7,011,335 total workers
 - = 1 public safety and health care worker for every 44 citizens

Many citizens will be on their own for at least the first 72 hours

ISSUES WITH STATISTICS



How many public safety and/or health care professionals live in your neighborhood?

- Nationwide statistics
 - Not equal statistics across country
- Many public safety officials multiple professional areas
 - Multiple Ohio firefighters are also EMS workers
- Physicians and RN's are a broad spectrum of health care services as specialists

WHAT DOES CERT DO?



27 HOUR COURSE (9 Units)

- Preparedness
- Disaster Fire Suppression
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Urban Search & Rescue
- Disaster Psychology
- CERT Organization
- Terrorism & CERT
- Disaster Simulation

Subject matter experts make the difference

WHAT DOES CERT NOT DO?



- Replace first responders
- Ignore official local instructions
- Put out large fires
- Enter heavily damaged structures
- Conduct any operations outside their scope of training
- Self-deploy outside their neighborhoods unless authorized

DOES CERT HAVE AUTHORITY?



- CERT has **NO** authority in Franklin County or Ohio
- CERT will only work if family, neighbors, and co-workers will work together
- CERT does perform functions of civil defense which is authorized in law under the Ohio Revised Code ([ORC 5502.21](#))
- Civil defense is a function of emergency management who has the authority to exercise civil defense
- Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security is authorized to exercise the laws of ORC 5502.21 – 5502.51

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS CERT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?



Before

- Monitor your community Outdoor Warning Siren
- Identify functional needs concerns within your neighborhood
- Train family neighbors and co-workers disaster preparedness skills

YOU are the CERT Team

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS CERT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?



During

- Community Relations
 - Disseminate information to your family, neighbors and/or co-workers from local officials
 - Give local officials and FCEM&HS a better picture of the current condition of your neighborhood or work place

YOU are the CERT Team

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS CERT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?



After

- Check on neighbors
- Turn off utilities of damaged homes if safe
 - Only when utilities present a major danger to yourself and others
- Search for and extricate lightly trapped neighbors
- Sustain life until first responders arrive to stabilize disaster survivors for transport to a treatment facility
- Help disaster survivors cope with emotional stressors

YOU are the CERT Team

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS CERT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY?



- Local Official Damage Assessment
 - Recovery effort conducted after all life saving operations have concluded
 - Provides FCEM&HS with a snapshot of the current condition of our county
 - Later determines state and federal involvement

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS CERT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY?



- Operation Flood Fight
 - Flooding is a top risk
 - City of Columbus officials requested trained volunteers for Operation Flood Fight
 - Hundreds of volunteers will be needed to sandbag 6 points along the Franklinton Floodwall
 - Multiple supervisory and staff volunteers needed to manage the volunteers

SUMMARY



CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

Questions?



OHIO

Michael R. Pannell, Director

Chris Williams

CERT Coordinator

614-794-0213

chriswilliams@franklincountyohio.gov

www.twitter.com/fcemhs

