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# ALBUQUERQUE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



## What is Albuquerque CERT?

The City of Albuquerque's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is sponsored by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact your neighborhood, the community, and the surrounding area.

## CERT in the "Big Picture"

As part of a Ready.Gov program, CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

## CERT in New Mexico

New Mexico is an active participant in FEMA's Citizen Corps program. CERT is one of the five key programs that composes Citizen Corps. The Corps endeavors to educate the people of New Mexico about personal preparedness and how they can help their community during major emergencies and disasters.

## Training

CERT training is available to anyone who is interested. Children 14-17 must be accompanied by a legal guardian/parent at all trainings and events.

Training consists of six (6) weekday evening training sessions and one (1) weekend morning session for a total of 21 hours.

You will receive FEMA-guided training in basic disaster response skills, such as:

- Functions of CERT and their roles in immediate response
- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Light Search & Rescue
- Team Organization
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Terrorism and CERT
- Skill-based Lab Exercises

Other topics include:

- Putting together your own disaster kit
- Disaster psychology
- Disaster incident management

## Why should I volunteer?

Volunteering to become a CERT member provides for strong community engagement. Helping neighbors during an emergency build far stronger and healthier neighborhoods. By becoming a CERT team member, you will receive the training you need to do “the greatest good for the greatest number of people” in the event of an emergency.

## How much does it cost?

CERT training is free to all citizens of Albuquerque. Upon successful completion of training, you will receive a starter CERT equipment bag filled with tools and items essential in emergency support work that you will use when called upon as a CERT team member.

## How does CERT help in the community?

Once a disaster strikes, CERT team members are encouraged to check on their families, neighbors, and homes first. Your own safety is paramount to us!

Once activated by the City of Albuquerque’s Office of Emergency Management, CERT members then assemble at pre-designated areas and organize into teams. These teams spread out into their neighborhood or workplace to serve as the eyes and ears of the City’s Emergency Operations Center and first responders. They provide emergency support in any capacity as directed.

Albuquerque CERT contributions also go beyond disaster response by providing support for various events associated with the Office of Emergency Management.

## Community Emergency HUBS

During an emergency, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may activate a Community Emergency HUB to assist in managing the situation. These HUBS are staffed by trained CERT members and are located in each geographical quadrant of the city.

**Become a CERT member today!**