CERT in Oregon

Community Emergency Response Teams

Growth of the FEMA Citizen Responder

- CERT concept developed and implemented by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985, from lessons learned in the Mexico City Earthquake.
  - Citizens are likely to be on their own during the early stages of a catastrophic disaster
  - Basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills improves the ability of citizens to survive and safely help others until responders or other assistance can arrive.

- CERT concept spread across the country, and in 1994 FEMA expanded the LAFD curriculum and materials to make them applicable to all hazards. They also created a Train the Trainer and a Program Manager Course to supplement the Basic CERT curriculum.
  - National CERT TTT and Program Manager courses are currently housed and delivered at the National Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD.
  - Administered in FEMA as a Citizen Corp Program

Basic CERT Course Curriculum

Designed to augment FIRE, EMS and Urban Search and Rescue capabilities until higher level responders arrive

- Local Hazards, Threats, and Operational Realities
- Light Fire Suppression and HAZMAT Awareness
- Mass Casualty Triage
- Mass Casualty Treatment
- Light Urban Search and Rescue
- CERT Level NIMS/ICS
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism Awareness
- Disaster Simulation/Functional Exercise

Beyond the Basic Skills Course

In Oregon

- Structural Damage Assessment
- EOC Operational Support
- CERT Amateur Radio Communications
- Traffic Control Assistance
- Bankside Water Rescue Ropes
- Shelter Operations
- Firefighter Rehabilitation
- Managing Urban Animals
- Managing Livestock
- Managing Spontaneous Volunteers
- Snow Removal
- Landslide/flood debris removal

Across the U.S.

- Swift Water Rescue Teams
- USAR Teams
- Canine USAR Teams
- Mounted SAR Teams
- EMT Teams
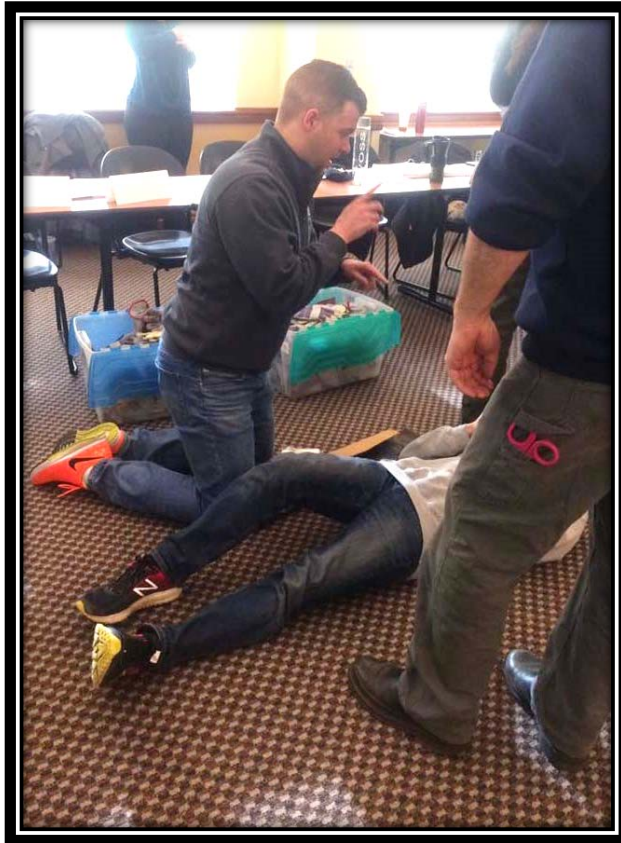- Wildland Support Teams
- Evacuation Support Teams

Program Development Courses

CERT Train the Trainer (TTT)

▶ How to competently and thoroughly deliver the CERT Basic Course.

▶ Adult Instructional Methodology

▶ Maximizing Learning across Generational Demographics

▶ Classroom Management

▶ Mastering the Basic Course Skills

CERT Program Manager

▶ Setting Program Vision

▶ Promoting the Program

▶ Working with Volunteers

▶ Working with Instructors

▶ Procuring / Managing Resources

▶ Training and Exercises

▶ Policies and Procedures

▶ Program Evaluation

▶ Sustainability

Basic CERT Courses

45 classes in 6 counties

CERT TTT Courses

20 classes in 12 counties

CERT Program Manager Courses

8 classes in 7 counties

Polk County CERT Course Deliveries Across Oregon

Who has CERTs in Oregon?

Public Service Agencies

- Fire Departments/Districts
- Police Departments
- City Offices of Emergency Management
- County Sherriff's Departments
- County Offices of Emergency Management

Other Populations

- Colleges and Universities
- Homeowners Associations
- High School Teen CERT
- Small Municipal Airport AERT
- CAP-CERT
- Businesses / Employee CERT
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Hospitals

Funding Models for
Public Service Agency CERT Programs

Approximates through informal surveys at classes.

▶ 30% self-supporting through team fundraising, volunteer provided supplies, in-kind donations

▶ 65% through a hybrid of minimal agency contribution, fundraising, Homeland Security Grants, other private grants

▶ 5% or less are fully funded by the agency they are under.

▶ Currently aware of 4 programs that have, or are in the process of creating, a 501(c)3 chapter for donations and fundraising procurement and management.

* Only CERT Programs attached to a Public Service Agency are eligible to apply for State Homeland Security Grant funds.

The vast majority of CERT Programs in Oregon do not have liability insurance coverage

Interface with Response Systems

FEMA's CERT Curriculum gives two potential models for deploying CERT Teams:

1) **Agency Deployment:**

The parent agency deploys their team within a defined set of parameters, for specific tasks within the scope of their team's practice.

2) **Self-Deployment:**

The parent agency determines a protocol by which CERT members self-deploy and begin performing CERT skills within their own immediate neighborhoods.

Some are tasked with rallying at pre-determined locations to form teams and conduct CERT USAR in the surrounding area; rescuing/treating victims, creating/operating casualty collection points, managing spontaneous volunteers and stabilizing neighborhoods until higher level responders arrive.

CERT Partnerships

As common practice continues to improve across CERT Programs, some have begun to work closely together across political boundaries to bolster CERT responder numbers for both emergency situations and in support of large planned community events. MOUs and/or insurance liability coverage issues are predetermined in order to allow for smooth call-outs when speed is of the essence.

Marion, Yamhill, Polk and Benton County CERT programs routinely assist each other in this capacity.

CERT programs often work closely with other Citizen Corp programs or partners including

- ❖ Medical Reserve Corp (MRC),
- ❖ Volunteers in Policing (VIPs)
- ❖ Amateur Radio Organizations (ARES, RACES),
- ❖ County Search and Rescue Teams

Some are beginning to work with other VOAD/COAD Organizations as well, including

- ❖ Local Food Banks
- ❖ American Red Cross
- ❖ Salvation Army
- ❖ Team Rubicon, USA