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**FEMA**

# What is CERT?



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) provides volunteer emergency assistance to the West Hartford community by use of trained community volunteers. When activated, the Team provides:

- Preparedness Education and Outreach
- Emergency Sheltering
- Emergency Services Support
- Emergency Operations Center Assistance
- Point of Distribution (POD) Support
- Damage Assessment
- Assisting at Town-sponsored events

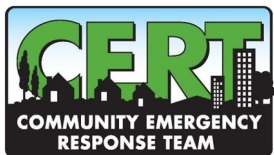


# Why ?



“Perhaps one of the biggest myths in emergency management is that the public will panic during a crisis. Instead of panicking, the public often pulls together and even puts themselves in harm’s way to help each other. Furthermore, the public, not first responders, are often first on-site during an emergency.

*Roger Parrino, commissioner of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services .*



# History of CERT



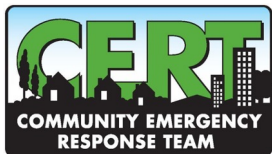
- Developed by the LAFD in 1985 to respond specifically to earthquake disasters in California
- Quickly proved to be an important local resource
- Became national program in 1993
  - Under FEMA
- President Bush Creates the Citizen Corp Program January 2002. CERT incorporated into that program along with Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
- Now more than 2,700 local CERT programs nationwide
  - And over 600,000 volunteers trained



Tokyo Metropolitan  
Government Disaster  
Prevention Guide Book



The Disaster  
Preparedness Tokyo character  
Based on the PINKO



# West Hartford CERT Timeline



2009

- Chief William Austin forms local CERT team.

2011

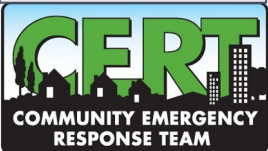
- *October*: CERT team assists and emergency shelter due to winter storm. Last activation.

2020

- *October*: At direction of Fire Chief Gregory Priest, **CERT Team workgroup created** to evaluate feasibility of relaunch.

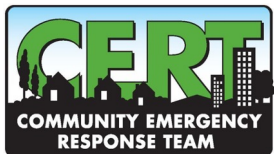
2021

- *March*: Presentation to Public Safety Committee. **Formal approval for CERT received**. CERT Workgroup branches into Advisory and Operations teams.
- *April*: **Recruitment begins** for first training cohort(s).
- *June*: First CERT training **class begins**.



# Where do we fit in?

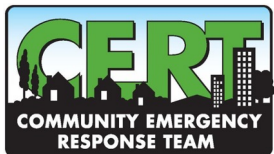
- The CERT is a voluntary organization sponsored by the Town of West Hartford Office of Emergency Management
- Under the direction of the Emergency Management Director (Fire Chief)
- When formally activated for a disaster considered part of Civil Preparedness Force
- Monthly Meetings at Elmwood Community Center
- Support to the Team
  - Town provides \$10,000 in funding each year
  - State grant of \$1,200 for each training class (run 3 classes a year)
  - State grant of \$1,000 for equipment
  - State provides backpacks, training materials, other equipment



# Training Eligibility & Structure



- West Hartford CERT training is free for anyone aged 18+ who lives, works, studies, or volunteers in the Town of West Hartford
- Training runs a total of 20 hours, covering 8 modules of content taught by local emergency response & management personnel
- Training ends with a final practical exercise, written exam, and oath



# Training Content



Date	Day	Time	Unit
February 20, 2024	Tuesday	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	1-Disaster Preparedness
February 27, 2024	Tuesday	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	2- CERT Organization
March 3, 2024	Sunday	8:00 am to 12:30 pm	Emergency Medical Training
March 12, 2024	Tuesday	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	8- CERT and Terrorism
March 19, 2024	Tuesday	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	5- Disaster Psychology
March 26, 2024	Tuesday	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	7- Light Search and Rescue
April 2, 2024	Tuesday	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	6- Fire Safety and Utility Controls
April 7, 2024	Sunday	8:00 am to 12:30 pm	Final Exam, Practical





# Liability



## **Sec. 28-13. Immunity from Liability.**

(a) Neither the state nor any political subdivision of the state nor, except in cases of wilful misconduct, ...nor any member of the civil preparedness forces of the state nor any person authorized by such civil preparedness forces or by any member of such civil preparedness forces ....., shall be liable for the death of or injury to persons or for damage to property as a result of any such activity

## **Sec. 28-14. Compensation for Death, Disability or Injury.**

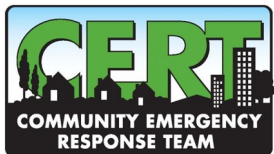
All members of any auxiliary police, auxiliary fire or other civil preparedness force shall be compensated for death, disability or injury incurred while in training for or on civil preparedness duty under the provisions of this chapter as follows...(2) any persons who are engaged in regular employment apart and separate from their duties as members of civil preparedness forces and for whom such compensation is not so provided shall, while in training for or engaged in civil preparedness duty under the provisions of this chapter, be construed to be employees of the state for the purposes of chapter 568 and section 5-142 and shall be compensated by the state in accordance with the provisions of said chapter 568 and section 5-142.



# Current Team



- Team has conducted 8 CERT Basic Training classes
- Currently have +240 residents trained
- 173 active members on our email list
- Next Class will be start on February 20<sup>th</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday evening classes, with 2 Sunday morning



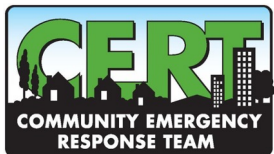
# Team Philosophy



- Goal of team is to make West Hartford residents better prepared.
- Educate that “you are responsible for your own safety.”
- Members take care of themselves and family first.
- Members only do what they are available for and interested in.
- Members only do what they are able to do and trained to do.
- Team is open to all.



**PREPARED,  
NOT SCARED**



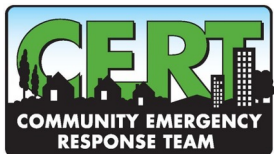
# CERT Activities 2023:



- Host Community Reception Center Drill
- Assist as needed at the West Hartford Food Pantry
- Assist at vaccination clinics
- Distributed Thanksgiving Turkeys
- Delivered Thanksgiving meals to homebound residents
- Public Library's Fun Run
- Annual Memorial Day and Park Road parades
- Teen CERT Class
- Booth at Celebrate! West Hartford
- Juneteenth Day
- Pride Festival
- Role players during tactical training sessions with the Police and Fire departments
- Staff Support Vehicle that provides shelter, heating and cooling at major events



# CERT Back Pack



# Questions

