



HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Highland Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

ABOUT THE CERT PROGRAM

During the 2002 State of the Union Address, President Bush asked Americans to volunteer their services in order to improve and safeguard their country. Harnessing the spirit of cooperation that developed as a result of the tragic events of September 11th, he created the Citizen Corps Program to organize volunteer services in the areas of crime, natural disasters and terrorism. The Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, is a part of the Citizen Corps Program.

CERT - THEN AND NOW

The CERT concept dates back to 1985, when the Los Angeles Fire Department recognized that in the early stages of disaster - earthquakes in particular - local emergency responders would be overwhelmed, and basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills would improve the ability of community members to survive until responders or other assistance arrived.

Recognizing the universal value of this program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) worked in conjunction with the LAFD to make the CERT program applicable to all types of hazards and developed a CERT training program which could be used nationwide and adapted to meet local conditions when the need arose.

The tragic events of September 11 remind us that disaster can strike anywhere or anytime, and that basic safety and disaster survival skills can mean the difference between life and death. CERT training empowers community members to prepare responsibly and respond appropriately when emergencies occur.

WHAT CERT TEAMS DO

CERT members give critical support to first responders in emergencies, provide immediate assistance to victims, organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site, and collect disaster intelligence to support first responders.

ABOUT CERT TRAINING

If you join CERT, you will receive basic-level training in the following areas:

Unit 1 - Disaster Preparedness

Unit 2 - Fire Safety

Unit 3 - Disaster Medical Operations - Part 1

Unit 4 - Disaster Medical Operations - Part 2

Unit 5 - Search & Rescue Operations

Unit 6 - C.E.R.T. Organization

Unit 7 - Disaster Psychology

Unit 8 - Terrorism & C.E.R.T.

Practical Exercise / Certification

Total training is usually about 18 hours, scheduled in 2-4 hour modules, over a period of weeks or months, in order to address the scheduling needs of team members. It's held in the community where you live.

Training courses, student materials and equipment are provided free of charge.

ROLE OF CERTs IN AN EMERGENCY

CERTs have been used to:

- Search for lost or kidnapped children

- Staff Emergency Operations Centers and monitor events

- Emergency Operations Center security; driving, information, assisting disabled visitors and minor first aid
- Manage "spontaneous/convergent" volunteers

- Assist Red Cross and other relief organization on mass care

HOW CAN I JOIN?

To become a CERT member you must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid driver's license.

If you want to volunteer your services and become trained to protect yourself and families from disaster; natural or man-made...

Become a CERT member!



Highland Park Borough
 Community Emergency Response Team
 Office of Emergency Management
 222 South 5th Avenue
 Highland Park, NJ 08904

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____
 Email: _____
 Contact in an emergency: _____ Phone: _____

I. Skills and Interests

Education: Degree _____ Institution _____ Dates attended _____
 License(s) held: _____ Language(s) spoken _____ fluently: _____
 Hobbies, _____ skills, _____ & _____ interests: _____
 _____ Occupation: _____
 _____ Employer: _____ Address: _____
 _____ Phone: _____

II. Experience (paid and volunteer, beginning with the most recent):

Position	Organization	Dates:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

III. Volunteering Preferences:

Is there a particular type of volunteer work in which you are interested?

 Availability (days & hours): _____
 Do you have access to a vehicle that you can use for volunteer work? YES _____ NO _____
 How did you hear about Highland Park Borough C.E.R.T.? _____

IV. References

Give the names and contact information for three people (not relatives) who know you well and can attest to your character.

V. Verification and Consent for Reference and Background Check

I verify that the above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I give Highland Park Borough Community Emergency Response Team permission to inquire into my educational background, references, licenses, police records, and employment and/or volunteer history. I also give permission to the holder of any such information to release it to Highland Park Borough Community Emergency Response Team.

I hold Highland Park Borough Community Emergency Response Team harmless of any liability, criminal or civil, that may arise as a result of the release of this information about me. I also hold harmless any individual or organization that provides information to the above named agency. I understand that Highland Park Borough Community Emergency Response Team will use this information only as part of its verification of my volunteer application.

Name (please print)	Social Security Number
Signature	Date
Witness	Date

Mail Application to:
Mr. H. James Polos
OEM / CERT Coordinator
222 South 5th Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904