



## 5 What is a Community Disaster Network?

Community Disaster Networks refer to the contacts CERT members establish within their community districts. To develop these networks, teams reach out to colleagues and organizations in their neighborhoods and capture information about resources, skills, or other details that might be used to help the community better respond to or recover from a disaster. More importantly, these networks help teams connect their communities with preparedness and recovery resources.

For more information on Community Disaster Networks, call the NYC CERT hotline: 718-422-8585.

Whether they are staffing reception centers, delivering supplies to neighbors, or interpreting conversations between community members and first responders, CERT volunteers have shown they are ready to help at a moment's notice, and the City is extremely grateful for their service. I encourage anyone who wants to strengthen the preparedness of his or her neighborhood to join the New York City CERT program.

— OEM Commissioner Joseph J. Esposito



Visit CERT online at [NYC.gov/cert](http://NYC.gov/cert) or call the **CERT hotline** (718-422-8585) to find out more about the NYC CERT program.



CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# What is the New York City CERT program?



**OEM**  
New York City  
Office of Emergency Management  
Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Joseph J. Esposito, Commissioner

# New York City's Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are groups of community- based volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and emergency response.

NYC CERT members undergo an intensive 10-week training program that provides basic response skills needed for fire safety, light search and rescue, community disaster support, disaster medical operations, and traffic control.

Emergency services personnel are best equipped to respond to emergencies. NYC CERT members are trained to support New York City's first responders.

During non-emergency situations, NYC CERT members educate their communities about disaster preparedness through OEM's Ready New York program and by building Community Disaster Networks.

There are more than 50 teams throughout the city.



## 1 Why should I join NYC CERT?

Your community needs you. Join NYC CERT if you want an opportunity to:

- Educate yourself, your family, and others about preparing for emergencies.
- Help your neighbors in times of disaster.
- Strengthen your relationship with your community.

## 2 What kind of training will I receive?

Classes are held for 10 weeks. NYC CERT instructors are FDNY, NYPD, and OEM personnel. The NYC CERT curriculum has been adapted from the FEMA national program to reflect the unique hazards that exist in New York City. Course topics include an introduction to NYC CERT and incident command, urban environment training, disaster medical operations, fire safety, light search and rescue, community organizing, police science, and terrorism awareness.

## 3 How do I join NYC CERT?

If you are 18 or older, live or work in New York City, and are interested in joining, visit NYC CERT online ([NYC.gov/cert](http://NYC.gov/cert)) or call the NYC CERT hotline (718-422-8585).

## 4 How does NYC CERT help the community?

The NYC CERT program has a role for everyone. Members use a combination of NYC CERT training and community knowledge to serve their neighbors in times of disaster.

Since OEM began running the program in 2003, NYC CERT members have participated in community preparedness and disaster response activities, including:

- Traffic and crowd control at the Macy's Thanksgiving Eve Balloon Inflation, the Five Boro Bike Tour, the ING NYC Marathon and Half-Marathon, Walk MS, and the Autism Speaks fundraiser.
- Escorting NYC residents of evacuated buildings to retrieve personal belongings.
- Staffing assistance centers and interpreting for displaced New Yorkers.
- Emergency food and supply distribution during power outages and water main breaks.
- Presenting Ready New York preparedness information to neighbors.



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