

CERT Fact Sheet

Q. What does CERT mean?

A. Community Emergency Response Team

Q. What is the purpose of a CERT team?

A. The program was developed under the assumption that citizens would very likely *not receive* emergency support during the first 48-72 hours of a catastrophic disaster. CERT training has been strongly recommended by both FEMA and the US Department of Homeland Security as a means of preventing large-scale losses of life following a disaster. Team members are trained to: evacuate people from buildings; extract people from debris when possible; extinguish small fires; recognize and mitigate hazards; organize food services; perform triage and administer first aid.

Q. What are the benefits of the training?

A. In the event of a disaster such as the Loma Prieta earthquake, emergency services will be busy primarily with containing nuclear and chemical spills and dealing with fires at the labs on campus for the initial 48-72 hours after the event. This means that the greater campus community may be without police, fire or medical response for that period. Without proper training and planning, the exposure issues and health risks to students, staff and faculty are significant.

Q. How much does the training cost?

A. The training can be provided free of charge, however there is a materials charge of \$90.00 per participant for responder supplies.

Q. Who needs to receive CERT training?

A. Persons in jobs that primarily interact with students in a residential setting and those persons responsible for managing unit or program response to a disaster. This would include, but is not be limited to: , CUHS Senior Management Team, CREs, ACAOs, CSOs, ADs, FACs, Residential and Dining Services staff and managers, SAEOC branch leaders and other SA designated managers.

Q. Why is there a need for this training now if we have never had the training in the past?

A. Santa Cruz County has more disasters per year than any other county in the state even though it is the second smallest county in California after San Francisco. The unique location and geography of the campus lends itself to the strong possibility that portions of the campus will become isolated following a disaster. There is a growing need to better prepare for disasters as the campus population increases while staffing levels remain the same.