



MCKINNEY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) *Prepared Citizens for Safer Communities*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What is CERT?

CERT is about community readiness and response, people helping people, neighbors helping neighbors, during disasters or other major incidents.

If a major disaster strikes McKinney, our citizens may have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life-saving and life sustaining needs. McKinney CERT is a training program that prepares citizen volunteers to respond to emergency situations that may affect our community. CERT members are trained to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours following a major emergency incident and can provide critical support to professional first responders. They provide immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site.

CERT members are considered "Good Samaritans" and are covered under the Volunteer Protection Act. CERT volunteers do not have any authority beyond serving as a "Good Samaritan" when helping others.

What is the goal of CERT?

Prepared Citizens for Safer Communities

What is the mission and purpose of the CERT Program?

To provide the community with neighborhood based teams of trained volunteers who can respond immediately to any *major* disaster or emergency situation *if professional first responders (police and fire/EMS personnel) are not immediately available to help.*

Why do we need a CERT Program in McKinney?

Following a major disaster, the professional first responders who provide fire and medical services may not be able to meet the demand for these services. The large number of victims, communication failures and road blockages may prevent the professional first responders from reaching victims for several hours. If an emergency situation or disaster overwhelms the community's immediate local response capability, CERT members can apply their training to give critical support to their family, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives.

The CERT Program in McKinney also provides a forum for communication and cooperation between the professional first responders and our citizens. It has the potential to bring neighbors together creating a more close-knit community and provide meaningful opportunities for community service.

How is the McKinney CERT Program organized?

Currently teams of interested citizen volunteers are being trained at large city wide. Trained CERT members will be organized into neighborhood "teams" of 10-20 members in specific geographic areas based on McKinney ISD elementary school boundaries and our current Fire Districts. Each team will be assigned to one of McKinney's Fire Stations and will be taught to utilize the assigned station as their home base or staging area. There is a job for everyone in the CERT program based on an individual's skills, abilities, interests and physical limitations.

What is the role of the McKinney Fire Department in the CERT program?

As the primary agency responsible for Emergency Management and Preparedness in McKinney, the McKinney Fire Department:

- Coordinates the CERT Program and provides overall direction and support services.
- Assists in organizing neighborhood based CERT teams.
- Conducts the 9-Unit CERT Basic Training course and provides hands-on training exercises and advanced classes on topics of interest to CERT members.
- Provides opportunities for CERT members to participate in various activities that support the McKinney Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management.

In what other types of activities do McKinney CERT members participate?

CERT members can apply their skills during non-emergency activities such as City sponsored community events and special projects.

What are the requirements to be a McKinney CERT member?

In order to participate in the McKinney CERT Basic Training course an individual must:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years old
- Possess a valid driver's license
- Be able to perform physical activities within their own capabilities
- Be able to pass a background investigation
- Live or work in the City of McKinney

What is covered during the CERT Basic Training course?

The Basic Training course consists of 9 Units with an emphasis on hands-on skills practice.

UNIT 1: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

UNIT 2: FIRE SAFETY.

UNIT 3: DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS – PART 1.

UNIT 4: DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS – PART 2.

UNIT 5: LIGHT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

UNIT 6: CERT ORGANIZATION.

UNIT 7: DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY.

UNIT 8: TERRORISM AND CERT.

UNIT 9: COURSE REVIEW AND DISASTER SIMULATION.

**Classes are three hours in length and held once a week for 8 weeks. The Disaster Simulation is held on a Saturday morning.*

What are the requirements to be a Certified CERT Responder?

- Attend all sessions in the 9-Unit, 8-week Basic Training course
- Actively participate in ongoing emergency response activities, team training exercises, and community events

To apply for membership in the McKinney CERT Program, please complete the application on page 3.

For more information on McKinney CERT, contact: *McKinney Office of Emergency Management (972) 547-2866 or Contact-EmergencyManagement@mckinneytexas.org*



MCKINNEY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM APPLICATION

Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: _____ Sex: F or M

Driver's License #: _____ State: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home E-Mail: _____

Other Phone / Cell / Pager: _____

Business / Occupation: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Bus. Phone: _____ Bus. E-Mail: _____

Years living or working in McKinney: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby grant permission to the McKinney Fire Department, to conduct a background investigation on me to determine my eligibility to attend the McKinney "Community Emergency Response Team" training program, and for no other purpose. I understand that my acceptance is predicated on no felony convictions, no convictions for offenses involving moral turpitude and no outstanding warrants of any kind. I further understand that should I not qualify for any reason, that all records obtained, collected, or otherwise prepared for this purpose shall be destroyed in their entirety.

Signed

Date

Note: Applications will be reviewed and approved in the order they are received. Only 23 positions are available in each Class. Applicants who have previously completed the McKinney Citizens' Fire Academy or Police Academy will be given preference to attend, as it relates to class size. Applications not approved due to class size will be held for the next available class.

Please return this application to:
Office of Emergency Management, McKinney Fire Department, 2200 Taylor Burk Drive, McKinney, TX 75071