



City of Dearborn Heights

Department of Emergency Management

Community Emergency Response Team



Thank you for your interest in the new Dearborn Heights Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program!

We hope this information helps answer your questions regarding the new Dearborn Heights CERT program, how it will benefit your community, and what is involved in becoming a CERT volunteer.

What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates citizens about disaster preparedness for hazards that could impact our area, and trains them in basic disaster response skills. These skills include fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using this training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhoods or workplaces following incidents when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in the community.

CERT is one of five organizations that operate under the Citizens Corps, the nationwide grass roots movement that encourages all Americans to help make their communities – and the nation – safer, stronger, and better prepared for all types of hazards and threats through active volunteerism.

Why should I take CERT training?

Your community's professional responders are well-trained and prepared to handle everyday emergencies. However, large-scale emergencies or disasters could easily overwhelm our response capabilities, resulting in possible delays. The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to help them provide immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates until the professional responders can arrive. While many people will respond to those in need without the proper training, the goal of the CERT program is to train and organize our volunteers thoroughly. With this knowledge, they can assist effectively and efficiently – without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

How will the CERT program benefit Dearborn Heights?

CERT-trained citizens have a better understanding of potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the vulnerability of these hazards. If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capabilities, CERT members can apply their training to give critical support to their families, neighbors or associates in the immediate area until help arrives. When help does arrive, CERTs provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed, at the disaster site.

For example, one CERT success story comes from events during the recent hurricanes that took place in Florida. Local CERT members, along with members who traveled in from all parts of the country to helped emergency management, fire department and police department personnel by assisting with evacuations, handling donations, preparing food for first responders, answering phones and a host of other tasks to assist the professional responders. This is a great example of CERT members and response personnel working together for the benefit of the community.

CERT members can also volunteer to assist with non-emergency projects that benefit the community. CERT members have distributed and/or installed smoke alarms, replaced smoke alarm batteries for the elderly, distributed disaster education material, and provided services at special events, such as festivals, parades, sporting events, and more.

What kind of training is required to be a CERT volunteer?

To become a Dearborn Heights CERT member, you need to complete the “core” CERT training program. Our next training program will begin on the evening of Wednesday, November 9, and will run each Wednesday evening per week (except for weeks around the Holidays) for nine weeks. Each session will run approximately 2 ½ hours – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All sessions will be held in Dearborn Heights, and will be taught by professional emergency responders. During these sessions, you will learn basic emergency response techniques, including emergency medical/first aid, fire safety, search and rescue techniques, response to floods, and more (*see attached course schedule*).

Who can take CERT training?

Natural for the training are participants of neighborhood watch programs, community organizations, communities of faith, school staff, workplace employees, scouting organization leaders Veterans organizations, and other group participants that come together regularly for a common purpose. Regardless of your background however, you are welcome to participate if you are a Dearborn Heights resident, or if you work in Dearborn Heights.

I would like to take the training, but I’m not ready to serve as a full-fledged member. Is this possible?

Absolutely! You are welcome to participate in the class for your own knowledge. At the conclusion of the class, you will have no further obligation.

I have physical limitations. Can I still participate as a CERT volunteer?

Yes! There are many jobs within a CERT for citizens who want to be involved and help. Following a disaster, CERT members are needed for documentation, comforting others, logistics, etc. Non-disaster related team activities might include keeping databases, developing a Website, planning activities, helping with special events and organizing exercises and activities.

During CERT classroom training, if one has a concern about doing a skill like lifting, just let your instructor know. You can learn from watching. We would like everyone who goes through this training to be an active participant – whether it is “hands on” involvement, or learning the techniques by careful observation.

Are minors allowed to participate as CERT volunteers?

Right now, we do not have a student program. Until a student program is in place, students (high school and above) are welcome to participate in the “senior” program. Minors between the age of 16 and 18 are welcome to participate if they are accompanied by a registered parent or guardian.

Are there costs involved?

There is no charge to register and attend the 9 weekly classes. As a matter of fact, we encourage all residents to attend these classes to help them better understand how they (and their families, co-workers, etc.) can better prepare for emergencies.

Who should I contact for more information on the Dearborn Heights CERT program?

The Dearborn Heights CERT Program Coordinator is Bob Ankrapp. Bob’s professional experience includes over 25 years in volunteer management & marketing/public relations. His academic background includes extensive studies in emergency management and communications, and is certified as a Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) in the State of Michigan. Bob is based at the Dearborn Heights Police Department where he serves as the City’s Emergency Manager & Public Information Officer, and is ready to assist whenever needed. He can be reached at:

Robert A. Ankrapp, PEM
City of Dearborn Heights - Department of Emergency Management
25637 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, Heights, MI 48125
Tel: (313) 277-7405 / Cell: (734) 751-5925 / Fax: (313) 277-5146
E-mail: rankrapp@ci.dearborn-heights.mi.us

I’m interested. What do I do next?

Just print and fill out the Application for Volunteer Participation form located in this packet and return it to the address listed on the form before October 26, 2011.

Dearborn Heights CERT Training – Fall/Winter 2011-12

Schedule (tentative)

All CERT members are required to complete a series of “core” training classes. The Fall/Winter 2011-12 training program consists of nine evening classes, which will be held weekly beginning November 9. Each class will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at approximately 9:00 p.m. Classes will be held either at the Dearborn Heights Justice Center’s Officer Dowidait Meeting Room (Michigan Avenue/Beech Daly) or the Dearborn Heights Fire Department (Ford Road/Beech Daly). The session topics for the Fall/Winter 2011-12 series include:

Week 1 – Wednesday, November 9

Introduction / Disaster Preparedness
Dearborn Heights Justice Center

Week 2 – Wednesday, November 16

CERT Team Organization & Management
Dearborn Heights Justice Center

Wednesday, November 23

No Class (Thanksgiving)

Week 3 – Wednesday, November 30

Fire Safety
Dearborn Heights Fire Department

Week 4 – Wednesday, December 7

Damage Assessment/Flood-Related Hazards
Dearborn Heights Justice Center

Week 5 – Wednesday, December 14

Weather-Related Hazards
Dearborn Heights Library

Wednesday, December 21

No Class - Christmas

Week 6 – Wednesday, December 28

Basic Disaster Medical Operations – Part 1
Dearborn Heights Justice Center

Week 7 – Wednesday, January 4

Basic Disaster Medical Operations – Part 2
Dearborn Heights Justice Center

Week 8 – Wednesday, January 11

Basics of Light Search & Rescue
Dearborn Heights Fire Department

Week 9 – Wednesday, January 18

Terrorism and CERT and Class Recap
Dearborn Heights Justice Center



Application for Volunteer Participation

City of Dearborn Heights, Michigan Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



Complete and return to:

Dearborn Heights Police Department
Att'n: Bob Ankrapp, Department of Emergency Management
25637 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125
or Fax to (313) 277-5146 (be sure to fax both sides)

Fall/Winter 2011-12 Training Program (evening classes)

Note: Completed application must be received by October 26 to participate in the Fall/Winter 2011-12 session.

Name _____
Last / Family Middle Initial First / Given

Street Address _____
Apt. No.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Home _____ Work _____ ext. _____

E-mail (required) _____ Fax _____

Drivers License No. _____ State _____ Date of Birth _____

Now Employed? Yes No Company Name & City _____
 Retired

Your Profession / Job Title _____

Emergency Contact _____
Name (First & Last) Relationship
_____ ext. _____
Emergency Contact Phone Number - Daytime Emergency Contact Phone Number - Evening

Do you have any professional or prior volunteer experience in any of the following areas? (if so, describe briefly)

- Administration / Business _____
- Construction / Building _____
- Fire Service _____
- Law Enforcement _____
- Legal / Paralegal _____
- Marketing / Public Relations _____

Selections continued on back

Professional Experience *(continued)*

- Medical / Emergency Medical _____
- Military _____
- Psychology / Counseling _____
- Other *(describe briefly)* _____

Do you have other training or expertise you could utilize as a CERT team member? *(if so, describe briefly)*

What type(s) of work would you be interested in performing as a CERT team member? *(describe briefly)*

Do you have any health problems, disabilities or other circumstances that would prohibit you from fully performing the physical responsibilities of a CERT member? *(if so, describe briefly)*

Typically, what day(s) of the week would you be most likely available to serve?

- Any day of the week Typically weekdays (Mon – Fri) Typically weekends (Sat – Sun)

On these days, I am typically available:

- Anytime Daytime Hours Nighttime Hours

Have you ever been arrested for a misdemeanor or felony? If so, please describe. *Note: A conviction of any offense will not necessarily eliminate you from consideration as a CERT member.*

I agree and understand that any work I perform as a CERT member is provided on a voluntary basis, and that I do not expect payment or other compensation for performing any work. I also understand that a volunteer position does not constitute an employee-employer relationship with the City of Dearborn Heights, and that I serve at the discretion of the Mayor or his/her Designee. If I am currently a City employee, I know that any volunteer work to be performed is outside of my regular job classification, and is separate from any paid work responsibility/compensation. I understand that if I am between the ages of 16 and 18, I will be accompanied at all times by a parent or legal guardian who is also registered in the program.

I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application and any supporting documents. I understand that a background check may be conducted, and release all parties from any liability arising from such investigation.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____