

College of Scouts BSA - 2025

BSA 425

**Community Emergency Response Teams
(CERT) –**

You are the help until help arrives

Carol Brown

cbrown.scouts@aol.com

Assistant Scoutmaster, Burke Lake District



**Fairfax County CERT
Community Emergency
Response Teams**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

What is it?

Why is it important?

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

What is it?

**Being prepared for emergencies
Big and small.**

Why is it important?

You are your own first response.

Who is the most important person? I AM!!

What can I do? More than you think!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

What is an emergency?

What is a disaster?

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

What is an emergency?

An issue or problem that you can not, nor should not handle on your own.

What is a disaster?

A situation where the issues and problems greatly outweigh the capability/resources of the responders.

We don't have disasters here. Do we?

YES, we do!



In 95% of emergencies, the victim or a bystander provides the first immediate assistance on the scene.

THINKING BEFORE YOU ACT

What are you trained to do?

What are you willing to do?

What actions are safe to undertake?

CERT History

- 1985 – CERT starts as an idea in Los Angeles based on a Japanese model of preparedness.
- 1986 – Mexico City Earthquake kills 10,000; injuries > 30,000. Volunteers organized and completed more than 800 rescues, but 100 spontaneous volunteers die trying to rescue others.
- 1993 – CERT becomes a part of the FEMA training curriculum, focusing on an “all-hazards” approach
- 2003 – Fairfax County begins teaching CERT

The Mission of the CERT Program

The CERT program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in:

**basic disaster response skills,
such as fire safety,
light search and
rescue, team organization, and
disaster medical operations.**

CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

CERT Curriculum

- Disaster Preparedness
- CERT Organization
- Terrorism and other types of disasters
- Disaster Psychology
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search and Rescue Operations
- Fire Safety and Utility Controls

Combination of online, classroom, drills and exercises.

CERT Activities

- Community Assessment Program
- Dulles Airport K9 Training
- Dulles Airport Mass Casualty Exercise
- Canteen Operations
- Victim Actor Opportunities
- Sound the Alarm, smoke detector program
- Skywarn Network
- Emergency Preparedness outreach

Community Assessment Program

Aug 07 2023 06:41:19 pm

**Unusually high winds were reported in your area. Please survey damage in your neighborhood and submit findings. Report emergencies to 911.
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/c4d6437f4e544e0bb5e5e0cc43acec0>**



Ready Fairfax

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provides public education and outreach efforts to promote a prepared and resilient community. Providing tips and ideas to get yourself, your family, and your business prepared to respond and recover from disasters.



Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG)

2019



Four Phases of Emergency Management



Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge Five Aspects of Emergency Preparedness

1. Preparedness
2. Response
3. Recovery
4. Prevention
5. Mitigation

STEPS TO PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

1. Make a Plan

2. Build a Kit

3. Stay Informed

4. Get Involved

Where to go to get Warnings



- Fairfax Alerts

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/alerts-and-emails>

- Wireless Emergency Alerts

https://www.weather.gov/media/wrn/WEA_flyer_final.pdf

- Local News

– WTOP

- Weather Apps

– Weather Channel, Radar Apps

Add FEMA alerts

STEPS TO NEIGHBORHOOD PREPAREDNESS

1. Define Your Area

2. Recruit Leaders

3. Scout Your Area

4. Build Your Team

5. Plan Your Approach

Troop Emergency Response Plan

**After you have taken care of yourself and
your family... THEN**

What skills do your scouts and leaders have?

What kind of equipment do you have?

What are you comfortable doing?
(Safety, Complexity, Duration)

Where can you operate?

Troop Plans

Make One

Communicate It

Practice It

Update It



Developing Exercises and Drills

- Goal
- Time
- Resources
- Personnel
- Safety
- Debrief



STaRT

CERT Exercises

Simple Triage

Victims are sorted based on priority of treatment
NOT THE INJURY

and

Rapid Treatment

Rapid treatment of life threatening injuries

RPM Process

R - Respiration

Not Breathing after 2 head tilt/chin lifts attempts

Breaths faster than every 2 seconds (30/minute)

P – Perfusion/Pulse

Capillary Refill > 2 seconds, pulse is not strong or regular, above 100 or below 60



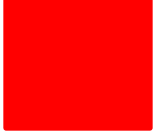
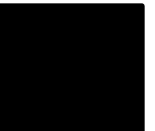
M - Mental Status

Cannot follow simple commands

Pass All tests

Non-Ambulatory **or** Ambulatory

Color Codes of Triage

-  Green/Minimal – passes all of the RPM assessments minor injuries, ambulatory
-  Yellow/Delayed – passes all of the RPM assessments non-ambulatory
-  Red/Immediate – fails any one of the PRM assessments major injuries
-  Black/Deceased/Expectant - deceased and for those whose injuries are so extensive that they will not be able to survive given the care that is available

RPM Process

30 – 2 – CAN'T DO

Pressure Dressing Demo

- Use what you have.
- Direct Pressure is the most effective treatment to stop bleeding.
- Make it tight. Bandage like you mean it.
- Add more layers if the bleeding does not stop.
- Do not remove layers or loosen a bandage once it is in place.





A Scout neckerchief can be used for making a sling and a bandage. Make the bandage neat by tucking in the end as shown by the arrow.

Tourniquets

A quick note. 95% of civilian wounds do not need tourniquets. Where you might need one: gun shots, blast injuries, full or partial amputations, mangled limbs.

Limited Resource

Know how to use them.

Know when to use them.



**YOUR BIGGEST ASSET
IS THE GEAR
BETWEEN YOUR EARS**

Contact Information

Carol Brown, ASM

Troop 1853, Boys and Girls Troops

Springfield, VA

cgbrown08@verizon.net

CERT Programs in the NCAC, VA

Fairfax County – fairfaxcountycert.org

Arlington County – arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Emergency/Get-Involved/CERT

Alexandria County – alexandriava.gov/CERT

Manassas City -
volunteerprincewilliam.org/agency/detail/?agency_id=5670

Prince William County - pwcgov.org/government

Falls Church City - fallschurchvfd.org/cert.asp

Stafford County – [staffordcountyva.gov/government/departments_fire_and_rescue/about_us/branches/emergency_management/community_emergency_response_teams_\(cert\).php](http://staffordcountyva.gov/government/departments_fire_and_rescue/about_us/branches/emergency_management/community_emergency_response_teams_(cert).php)

CERT Programs in the NCAC DC and MD

- **District of Columbia** – serve.dc.gov/service/community-emergency-response-team-cert-training
- **Montgomery County** – montgomerycert.org
- **Prince Georges County** – princegeorgescountymd.gov/776/Community-Emergency-Response-Team
- **Frederick County** – fcva.us/departments/fire-rescue/emergency-management/cert
- **Calvert County** – co.cal.md.us/331/Community-Emergency-Response-Team-CERT
- **Charles County** – charlescountymd.gov/services/emergency-services
- **St. Marys County** – <https://smchd.org/emergency-preparedness/>