WHY SHOULD I TAKE CERT?
Webster’s Dictionary defines a disaster as “any event that overwhelms existing resources to deal with the event.” Within the first five minutes of a disaster, all available resources will have been committed, leaving you and your neighbors or co-workers to help yourselves. CERT can minimize the effects of a disaster and facilitate recovery.

CERT OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of the CERT program, you will be able to:
- Describe the types of hazards that are most likely to affect your home and community
- Take steps to prepare yourself for a disaster
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in your home or workplace
- Conduct triage under simulated disaster conditions
- Perform head-to-toe patient assessments
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds, and apply splints to suspected fractures and sprains
- Describe ways to protect rescuers during light search and rescue operations

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
The CERT program is a FREE, 20-hour training program, broken up into the following units:

UNIT 1: Disaster Preparedness
- Introduction to disasters
- Impact of disasters on infrastructures
- Role of CERT’s in disaster response

UNIT 2: Disaster Fire Suppression
- Fire Chemistry and basic fire suppression
- Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards
- Firefighting resources and techniques
- Introduction to Hazardous Materials Incidents

UNIT 3: Disaster Medical Operations I
- Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions
- Principles of Triage

UNIT 4: Disaster Medical Operations II
- Head-to-Toe patient Assessments
- Establishing treatment areas
- Treatments for burns, lacerations, fractures, sprains, and other injuries

UNIT 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations
- Search and rescue priorities and resources
- Size-up techniques and rescuer safety
- Lifting, cribbing, and victim removal

UNIT 6: Disaster Psychology & Organization
- Post-disaster emotional environment
- CERT organization: Incident Command System
- CERT decision-making and documentation

UNIT 7: Terrorism
- Risk and threat analysis
- Types of terrorism weapons
- Travel and terrorism

UNIT 8: Course Review and Simulation
- Course Review
- Disaster simulation drill
CERT training can be arranged for evening classes (one night a week for 7 weeks), or Saturday classes (3 Saturdays). We can also arrange other schedules that would be mutually convenient. If you know of a group (minimum 20, maximum 40) who would like to receive this training, please contact:

Los Angeles County
Fire Department

Public Affairs
CERT Unit
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for more information visit us at:

www.fire.lacounty.gov