



5 What is Corporate CERT?

In 2007, the NYC CERT program expanded to the private sector through the creation of the Corporate CERT program. Businesses can sponsor training to strengthen their employees' ability to address emergencies. Corporate CERTs can also serve as extensions of their community counterparts.

Corporate CERT was introduced through a pilot initiative with BNP Paribas Bank in midtown Manhattan. The bank recruited a team of its employees to comprise CoVERT™, the Corporate Volunteer Emergency Response Team. By educating and preparing their employees, BNP Paribas was able to enhance the capabilities of its crisis management team and strengthen the surrounding community.

For more information on the Corporate CERT program, call the NYC CERT hotline: 718-422-8585.

Visit CERT online at NYC.gov/cert
or call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115)
to find out if a team exists in your Community Board.



What is the New York City CERT program?

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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Joseph F. Bruno, Commissioner

New York City's Community Emergency Response Teams are groups of community- based volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and emergency response.

Organized through Community Boards, NYC CERT members undergo an intensive, 11-week training course so they can prepare for and respond to local disasters.

Emergency services personnel are best equipped to respond to emergencies. However, following a catastrophic disaster, NYC CERTs can assist with initial emergency response while they wait for professional first responders.

During non-emergency situations, NYC CERT members educate their communities about disaster preparedness.

There are more than 50 teams throughout the city.



1 Why should I join NYC CERT?

Your community needs you. Join NYC CERT if you want an opportunity to:

- Educate yourself, your family, and others about preparing for emergencies.
- Help your neighbors in times of disaster.
- Strengthen your relationship with your community.

2 What kind of training will I receive?

Office of Emergency Management staff and partners from the New York City Fire and Police Departments, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the American Red Cross in Greater New York teach the training courses. Topics include fire safety, light search and rescue, terrorism awareness, disaster medical operations, and mental health education.

3 How do I join NYC CERT?

If you are 18 or older and you are interested in joining or establishing an NYC CERT in your community:

- Visit NYC CERT online (NYC.gov/cert) or call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) to find out if a team exists in your Community Board.
- Call the NYC CERT hotline (718-422-8585) or e-mail an NYC CERT administrator at cert@oem.nyc.gov with your inquiry.

4 How does NYC CERT help the community?

The NYC CERT program has a role for everyone. Members use a combination of NYC CERT training and community knowledge to serve their neighbors in times of disaster.

NYC teams in action:

- In February 2007, NYC CERT members in Far Rockaway were among the first to arrive at a six-alarm fire in their neighborhood. Their familiarity with the residents and local resources helped speed up efforts to provide food and shelter to evacuees.
- NYC CERTs supported the Astoria, Queens, community during the 2006 power outage. Members helped emergency responders locate stranded residents in high-rise buildings.
- In 2005, an NYC CERT in Washington Heights supported the response to the Henry Hudson wall collapse. Team members helped evacuate their neighbors from affected buildings.



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