

Celebrate 30 Years of CERT at Universal City, CA



Mark your calendars! This year is the 30th Anniversary of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. To celebrate, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has partnered with [CaliforniaVolunteers](#), NBCUniversal, and other CERT partners to host a [National CERT Conference](#) **September 8 – 10, 2016** in Universal City, CA.

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state administrator for the CERT program in California. CaliforniaVolunteers is part of the governor's office, and the lead agency for volunteer and donations management during a disaster. Part of the administration of the CERT program is holding an annual conference or a workshop pending funding and resources.

Attendees will join around 650 CERT program managers, instructors, and volunteers during the event. "We want to have a lot of people who have historical relevance to CERT. We'd also like to have a good amount of presenters outside of California at the conference," said Suu-Va Tai, Director of Disaster Volunteering and Preparedness for CaliforniaVolunteers. Frank Borden, who created the CERT program will attend.

From a tour of LA City's Emergency Operations Center to advanced training on staffing a volunteer reception center, conference attendees will enjoy a variety of activities and workshops. . Workshops include FEMA's All Abilities Annex and how to teach the CERT curriculum to people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. Other workshop highlights include how to use CERTS in a variety of disaster response activities.

One of this year's highlights is the 30th Anniversary National CERT Conference Awards ceremony. Similar to FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Awards, the ceremony will be an opportunity to recognize all the great programs, volunteers, and partners that have made CERT successful. Award categories include Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives and/or Innovation, Most Valuable CERT Volunteer, and Preparing the Whole Community.

This year's conference is an event you don't want to miss! Tai encourages programs nationwide to register and attend because the benefits are immeasurable. "By attending the conference, people get to see the whole big world of CERT. People will know who they can reach out to for help with their CERT program. Many volunteers are program managers and instructors as well, so they will have new skills and tools to help with that effort now. You hear about these great programs or great instructors and by hosting a conference with these people and having them host workshops, you can better build professional relationships with them."

To learn more about the 30th Anniversary National CERT Conference, visit the [CaliforniaVolunteers website](#). Please register for the conference here: <http://2016certconference.eventbrite.com>.