

Help the American Red Cross and CERT Sound the Alarm!



From April 28 through May 13, 2018, the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA), the [National Community Emergency Response Team](#) (CERT) Program Office, the [American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign](#), and local fire departments will install smoke alarms for local Sound the Alarm events.

These fire safety events will occur in every state. Major events will take place in more than 100 communities nationwide. This program offers local CERT programs the

chance to attract and engage volunteers.

Consider volunteering yourself or mobilizing your team for a local Sound the Alarm event. The Red Cross handles the training, logistics, communications, and liability. CERT programs can use this as a simple and easy way to engage their communities, make a real difference, and promote CERT!

Joining is simple! Follow these steps to sign up as a Sound the Alarm volunteer:

1. Go to www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page. Enter your zip code to find a nearby event.
3. Scroll down again. Click the region nearest you.
4. Scroll down again to "Volunteer Opportunities." Click the event that works for you. Then, fill out the short application.
5. Be sure to type "CERT team/program name" in the Group/Organization field so FEMA can recognize your team.

Registration is open now.

Participation is simple! After you register, the American Red Cross will contact you about training and event logistics. On your event day, you will meet at the appointed location. You will begin your walk from home to home. You will help educate residents about fire safety and install smoke alarms, where needed. Your training will take two hours or less. You can expect the volunteer event to last eight hours or less.

Share your pictures, stories, and contributions by using #HomeFireCampaign in your social media posts.

This collaboration presents an opportunity for CERT organizations to engage their volunteers. This national effort can make a difference in the emergency preparedness of communities across the United States.

At the conclusion of the campaign, FEMA will share the results and contributions made by CERT to *Sound the Alarm*.

Since 2014, *Sound the Alarm* installation and fire safety events have installed more than 840,000 smoke alarms, in almost 350,000 households, and have saved 235 lives. We hope you will join this national effort. Opportunities may not be available in all areas and volunteer positions may fill quickly.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What exactly will we be doing?** *Sound the Alarm* teams enter pre-selected neighborhoods. They travel door to door providing critical fire safety information and installing smoke detectors where needed. Teams are composed of three people — an installer, a documenter, and an educator. There is a job for everyone.
- **Will we need special training?** Yes. The American Red Cross will contact you to set up your participant training.
- **What about liability and insurance?** While volunteering at a *Sound the Alarm* event, you or your team are considered American Red Cross volunteers. The American Red Cross will cover you.
- **Can I wear my CERT gear at an American Red Cross event?** Yes! You may wear a CERT jacket, T-shirt, vest, headgear, or combination thereof. The American Red Cross organizes events by regions and local chapters. Our partners may request that you wear an American Red Cross clothing item, but you are free to wear your CERT hat or vest or other apparel in addition to that item.
- **What if my CERT team already participates in *Sound the Alarm*?** Great! Whether your program participates as a partner direct program or registers through the same web link found above, keep doing what you are doing. When you register as a participant, please enter “CERT” in the group/organization field, so that FEMA can recognize your contribution.
- **What if I try to register and registration is closed?** You may try to register for another event in your area, as other events may have openings. Please register early! Your local CERT Program Manager may also contact the local American Red Cross chapter to discuss other possibilities for participation, including planning a partner direct event.