

# Teen CERT: Connecting School Emergency Management and Youth Preparedness

Presented by

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# U.S. Department of Education (ED) Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS)



# Goals and Objectives

- Understand the role of Teen CERT and youth preparedness in school emergency management
- Identify key principles and concepts for Teen CERT and youth preparedness in school emergency management
- Learn strategies for effective Teen CERT program implementation



# Key Components of School Emergency Management (Pre-K – Higher Education)

## Effective school emergency management planning

- Uses an all-hazards approach and is framed by the four phases;
- Is customized based on vulnerability assessments;
- Is done in collaboration with community partners;
- Integrates people with disabilities and special needs, including students, staff, and visitors;
- Supports the implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS); and
- Includes training and practice.



# Key Components of School Emergency Management (Cont'd.)

## Guiding Principles:

- Comprehensive
- Progressive
- Risk / Data driven
- Integrated
- Collaborative
- Coordinated
- Flexible
- Professional



# Relating School Emergency Management to Youth Preparedness

Students play a key role in school emergency management:

- **Prevention-Mitigation:** Identify vulnerabilities in schools and on school grounds
- **Preparedness:** Help prepare/distribute Go-Kits
- **Response:** Teen CERT
- **Recovery:** Peer mentoring





# FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic and Teen CERT Training

Presented by  
Rachel Jacky, National CERT Program Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency



# Overview of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

- What is CERT?
- Why does CERT make sense?
- How are CERTs trained?
- CERT training for teens
- FEMA resources for CERT training and programs



# What is CERT?

CERT is a FEMA program that trains citizens to safely assist their families, neighbors, co-workers, or anyone who needs help during a widespread emergency when professional responders may not be able to reach everyone as soon as help is needed.



# What is CERT? (Cont'd.)

- Launched by FEMA as national program in 1994
- Local CERT programs across the U.S. sponsored by local fire department, emergency management agency or police department
- Training conducted by government agencies, schools, colleges/universities, employers

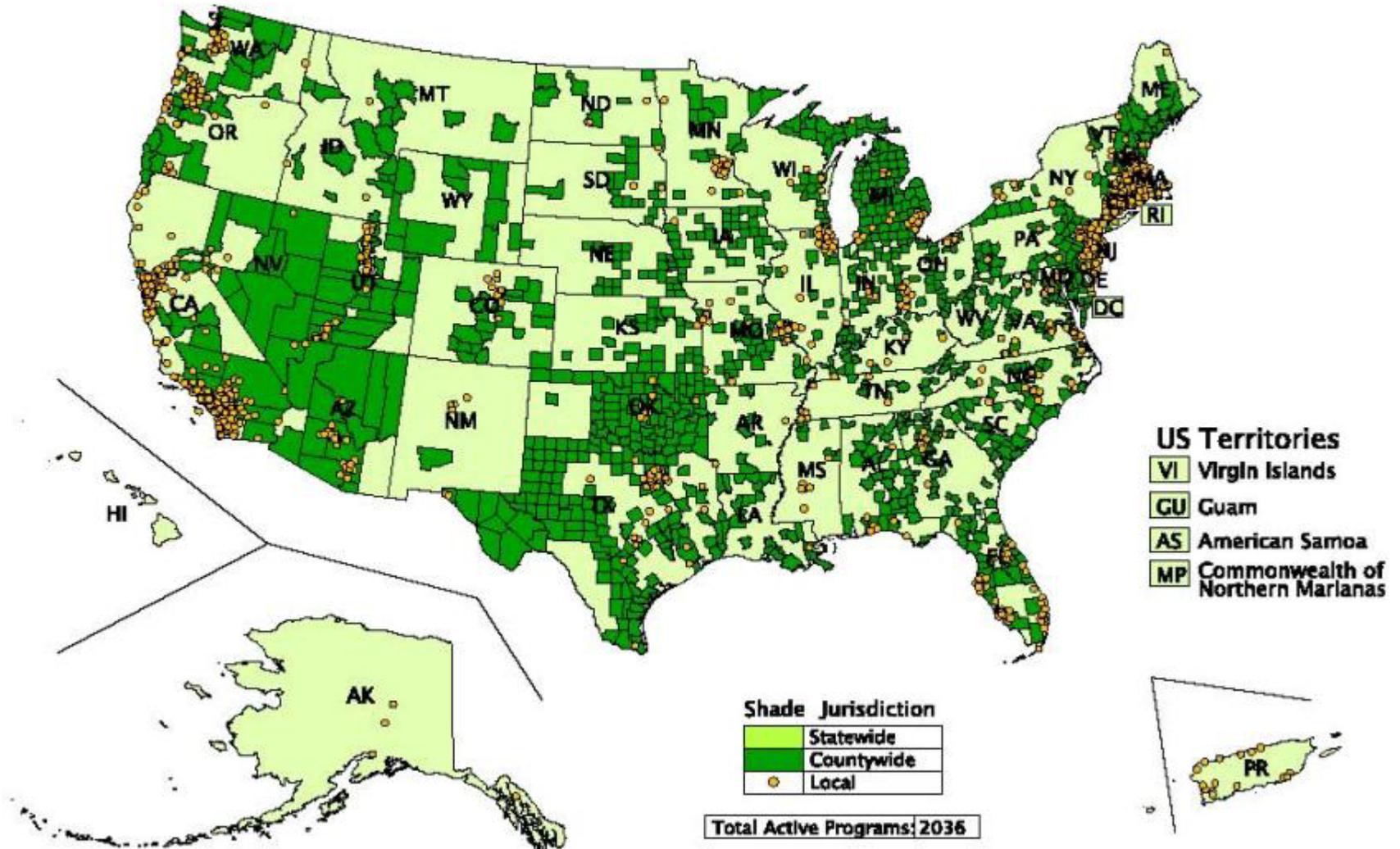


# What is CERT? (Cont'd.)

- Local CERT programs engage many groups
  - Neighborhood
  - Workplace
  - High school
  - College/university campus
  - People with disabilities
  - Service clubs, e.g., Rotary
  - Military families



# Community Emergency Response Teams



# Why Community Emergency Response Teams?

- Disasters happen
- Professional responders may be overwhelmed
- People who want to help can save lives
- People who want to help can also get hurt
- Training can increase the personal safety and effectiveness of people who want to help



# How are CERTs Trained?

## FEMA *CERT Basic Training* course

- Helps ensure the safety of CERT members
- Gives CERT members ability to help the greatest number of people in least amount of time in an emergency
- Provides clear model for team organization and leadership



# How are CERTs Trained?

## FEMA *CERT Basic Training* course

- Eight units and final exercise = 21-28 hours
- Classroom-based with emphasis on hands-on practice
- Trainers are usually professional responders
- Related *CERT Train-the-Trainer* course



# CERT Basic Training Course (Cont'd.)

1. Disaster awareness and home preparedness
2. Fire extinguishers
  - Utilities management
  - Hazardous materials



# CERT Basic Training Course (Cont'd.)

## 3. Disaster medical operations (Part I)

- Life-threatening injuries
- Medical triage



## 4. Disaster medical operations (Part II)

- Treating common injuries
- Public health considerations



# CERT Basic Training Course (Cont'd.)

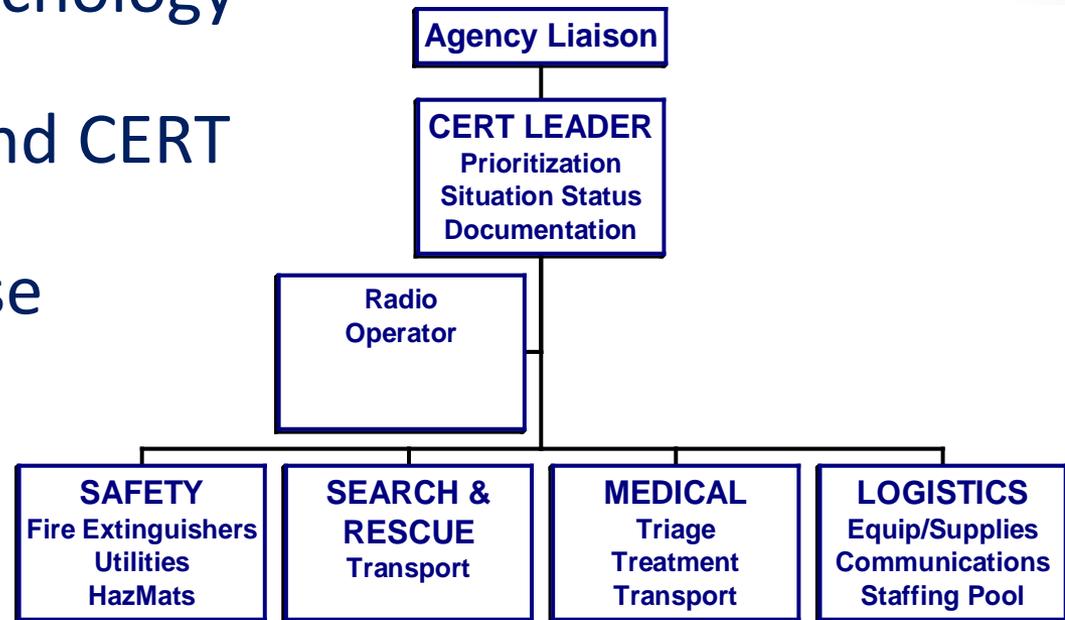
## 5. Light search and rescue

- Visual damage assessment
- Pre-rescue planning
- Search techniques
- Rescue techniques



# CERT Basic Training Course (Cont'd.)

6. CERT organization and operations
7. Disaster psychology
8. Terrorism and CERT
9. Final exercise





# CERT Supplemental Training and Evaluation

Tabletop exercises, drills and full-scale exercises designed by FEMA or local program

- *CERT Animal Response I*
- *CERT Animal Response II*
- *CERT Communications*
- *CERT Flood Response*
- *Tools for Effective CERT Leadership*
- *Traffic and Crowd Management*
- *Firefighter Rehabilitation*
- *CERT Exercise Swaps*



# CERT Training for Teens ("Teen CERT")

- Importance of FEMA CERT training for teens
- Mutual benefits
- FEMA resources for teen CERT training and programs



# Importance of Teen CERT Training

- Schools are part of country's critical infrastructure
- School populations can overwhelm local government's capability to respond effectively in widespread emergencies
- Students should be engaged in keeping their schools safe



# Importance of Teen CERT Training (Cont'd.)

- With training, high school students can prepare for and respond to an emergency
- Students will carry preparedness information to their families
- Student awareness and training prepares the next generation of community leaders



# Benefits of Teen CERT Training

## For the high school:

- Enhanced safety and readiness
  - In-house response assistance when needed
  - “Eyes and ears” engagement
- Student support for non-emergency safety activities



# Benefits of Teen CERT Training (Cont'd.)

## For the students:

- Life skills to assist safely in emergency response
- Leadership skills
- Team-building skills
- Discipline, critical thinking and decision-making
- Opportunity to give back to the community (and to fulfill community service requirements)





# Teen CERT: Implementation and Training for High School Students

Presented by

Sue Graves, Safety Coordinator, Lincoln County School District (OR)



# Connecting Adult CERT to Teen CERT Training

- Disaster – when professional emergency response is delayed or unavailable
- Empowers teens with lifelong emergency preparedness and response skills



# Connecting Adult CERT to Teen CERT Training (Cont'd.)



- Help yourself
- Help your family
- Help your neighbor
  
- **Help your school!**



# What is Teen CERT?

- Safety
- Buddy system
- Greatest good for the greatest number of people



# Teen CERT is:

## Disaster Preparedness



- Identify and reduce hazards at home and at school
- Utility shut-off's
- Home disaster kit and plan

# Teen CERT is:

## Fire Safety

- Fire chemistry
- Extinguish small fires
- Hazardous materials



# Teen CERT is:

## Disaster Medical

- Identify and treat the “3 Killers”
  - Airway
  - Bleeding
  - Circulation (Shock)



# Teen CERT is:

## Disaster Medical

- Triage = Sort

Immediate

Delayed

Minor

Dead



# Teen CERT is:

## Disaster Medical



- Proper hygiene
- Treat minor injuries
  - Splinting
  - Wound care
  - Fractures, sprains
  - Burns
  - Hypothermia



# Teen CERT is:

## Light Search and Rescue



- Size up
  - Hazards
  - Damage assessment
- Search methods



# Teen CERT is:

## Light Search and Rescue



- Leveraging
- Cribbing
- Safely lifting objects out of the way

# Teen CERT is:

## Light Search and Rescue



- Removing victims
- Lifts, drags, and carries
- Using available resources



# Teen CERT is:

## Disaster Psychology

- Reduce your stress and the survivors' stress
- Listening and empathizing
- Psychological and physiological symptoms



# Teen CERT is:

## Anti-Terrorism

- Terrorist weapons
- Environmental and physical indicators
- Home preparedness



# CERT Organization

- Leadership and management structure
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Documentation



# Teen CERT Final Exercise/Drill



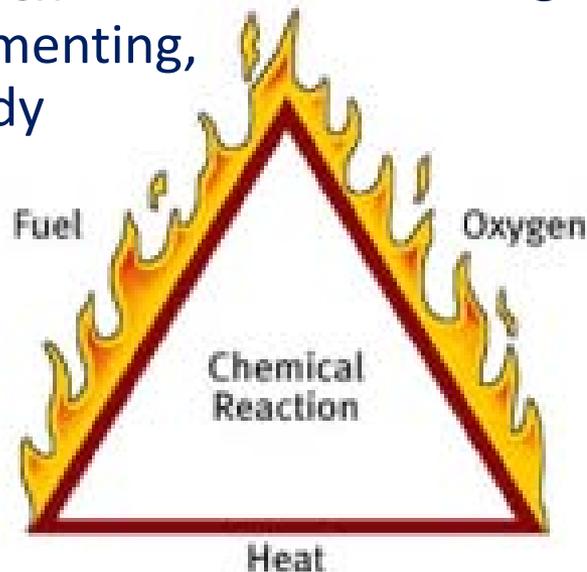
- Realistic scenario
- Practice skills in a controlled environment

# Teen CERT Graduation



# How does Teen CERT relate to our existing curriculum?

- **Earth sciences** (natural disasters)
- **Psychology**
- **Organizational skills and teamwork** (search methods, documenting, ICS, triage, buddy system)
- **Chemistry** (fire and hazmat)
- **Health Sciences** (medical)
- **Physics** (cribbing, leveraging, building assessments)



# How long is Teen CERT?

- 25-30 hours or more
- Flexible schedule
  - 1 time per week (2-3 hrs)
  - 2 times per week (1+ hrs)
  - Daily, ideal
- More hours for extended training



# Is there advanced training?

- CPR/AED
- Shelter operations
- Advanced ICS and NIMS
- Community involvement



# Where does Teen CERT fit?

**Think Sustainability!!**

- Stand alone class
- Health class
- Vocational education class
- Science class
- Summer class
- Leadership
- Club
- Senior project



# Who can participate?

**THINK SAFETY**

- Class Size: 20-25
- Cross section of student body
- Application process
- GPA/Behavior
- Grade level



# What about special populations?



- Empowers students with life-long learning skills
- Self awareness
- Self protection in emergencies and disaster situations



# Who will deliver the curriculum?

- School  
Coordinator/Instructor
  - Health, PE, Science teacher
  - School Nurse
  - School Resource Officer
- Community Partners
  - Emergency management professionals
  - Fire, Police, EMS
  - Red Cross, or other disaster relief personnel



# What about risk?



- This program is about learning to respond SAFELY!
- Reduce risk and liability
- Trained student responders who know how to react in the face of danger or disaster
- Parent permission slip



# How much does it cost?

- Start-up costs
  - Classroom training aids
  - Protective gear
  - Student manuals
  - Set of CERT kits
- Instructor training
- Ongoing costs:
  - Refill fire extinguishers
  - Instructor wages



# Does CERT influence careers?

## **YES!!!**



- Medical
- Police
- Fire
- Health and Human Services
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)



# What's in it for my students?

Satisfaction from helping others  
*"I can make a difference"*

- Accountability
- Responsibility
- Organization
- Leadership
- Team work



- Personal protection
- Emergency preparedness at home
- Life-saving skills
- Community service hours
- Improved self-image



# What's in it for our schools?

- Improved school safety and security
- Reduction in school violence
- Peer role models
- Awareness of additional resources in case of an emergency
- Trained team of first responders for mass casualty disaster



***TEEN CERTS are NOT replacements for professional responders.***



# Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center



# REMS TA Center

<http://rems.ed.gov>

The TA center supports schools and school districts in developing and implementing comprehensive emergency management plans by providing technical assistance via trainings, publications, and individualized responses to requests.

- **Training Opportunities**
  - On-site trainings by request
  - Online training courses
  - Materials
  - Online webinars



# No-Cost Training Opportunities



Emergency Management-101:  
An Overview of the Four Phases of  
Emergency Management for Schools

Adult Sexual Misconduct in Schools:  
Prevention and Management



Safe School Initiative Threat Assessment  
Training



# Emergency Planning Online Courses for School Staff

## Foundation Series Courses

- Introduction to the Four Phases of School Emergency Management

## Special Topics Course Series

- Emergency Management Considerations for Students and Staff with Disabilities
- Bereavement at Schools
- Food Defense for Schools: Essential to a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Conducting a Safety Audit at Schools: Inspecting School Buildings, Grounds, and the Surrounding Community
- Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning in School Emergency Management



# REMS TA Center

<http://rems.ed.gov>

- **Technical Assistance**

- Available via telephone and e-mail
- [tasupport@remstacenter.org](mailto:tasupport@remstacenter.org) and 1-866-540-7367 (REMS)

- **Website Resources**

- Publications, including the *Lessons Learned* and *Success Stories* series
- Resources featuring key priority emergency management issue-specific topics

- **“Resource Repository”** of tools, templates, and other items that may be commonly used for school and campus emergency planning

[http://rems.ed.gov/index.php?page=resources\\_Repository](http://rems.ed.gov/index.php?page=resources_Repository)



# FEMA Resources for Teen CERT Training

<http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert>

- Information on CERT program and training
- All training materials and videos for download
- Select Teen CERT to download:
  - *Launching and Maintaining Teen Training* guide
  - Teen CERT annexes to *CERT Basic Training* and *CERT Train-the-Trainer* courses
  - Teen CERT PSA and other videos
  - Teen CERT brochure



# Additional Resources

- *“Engaging Students in Emergency Management”* Helpful Hints Vol. 3, Issue 1 (2008)  
[http://rems.ed.gov/docs/HH\\_Vol3Issue1.pdf](http://rems.ed.gov/docs/HH_Vol3Issue1.pdf)
- *“Engaging Administrators in School Emergency Management”* Helpful Hints Vol. 2, Issue 5 (2007)  
[http://rems.ed.gov/docs/HH\\_Vol2Issue5.pdf](http://rems.ed.gov/docs/HH_Vol2Issue5.pdf)
- *“Planning and Conducting a Functional Exercise”* Helpful Hints Vol. 2, Issue 4 (2007)  
[http://rems.ed.gov/docs/HH\\_Vol2Issue4.pdf](http://rems.ed.gov/docs/HH_Vol2Issue4.pdf)
- *U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Healthy Students Emergency Planning Website*  
<http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/index.html>



# Contacting the REMS TA Center

TA requests can be made via telephone Monday through Friday. E-mail requests are responded to during business hours of operation. Whatever you need, we're willing to help! Requests for assistance can be made:

- **Telephone 1-866-540-7367 (REMS)**
  - When you have a quick question, follow-up (e.g., training events).
- **Web site <http://rems.ed.gov/>**
  - When you need information or resources, or would like to request TA through the online request form.
- **Email [tasupport@remstacenter.org](mailto:tasupport@remstacenter.org)**
  - When you have a question or need TA.



# Presenters' Contact Information

## **Rachel Jacky, Director, National CERT Training Program**

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Website

<http://www.citizenscorps.gov/cert>

## **Sue Graves, Safety Coordinator, Lincoln County School District (OR)**

- Lincoln County School District website:

<http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us/>

- LCSD Teen CERT web page:

<http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=3187>

