



City of Taylor
Department of Emergency Management
**Community Emergency
Response Team**



Michigan
citizen corps

Thank you for your interest in the new Taylor Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program!

We hope this information helps answer your questions regarding the new Taylor CERT program, how it will benefit your community, and what is involved in becoming a CERT volunteer.

What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates citizens about disaster preparedness for hazards that could impact our area, and trains them in basic disaster response skills. These skills include fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using this training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhoods or workplaces following incidents when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in the community.

CERT is one of five organizations that operate under the Citizens Corps, the nationwide grass roots movement that encourages all Americans to help make their communities – and the nation – safer, stronger, and better prepared for all types of hazards and threats through active volunteerism.

Why should I take CERT training?

Your communities professional responders are well-trained and prepared to handle everyday emergencies. However, large-scale emergencies or disasters could easily overwhelm our response capabilities, resulting in possible delays. The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to help them provide immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates until the professional responders can arrive. While many people will respond to those in need without the proper training, the goal of the CERT program is to train and organize our volunteers thoroughly. With this knowledge, they can assist effectively – without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

How will the CERT program benefit Taylor?

CERT-trained citizens have a better understanding of potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the vulnerability of these hazards. If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capabilities, CERT members can apply their training to give critical support to their families, neighbors or associates in the immediate area until help arrives. When help does arrive, CERTs provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed, at the disaster site.

For example, one CERT success story comes from events during the recent hurricanes that took place in Florida, Local CERT members, along with members who traveled in from all parts of the country to help emergency management, fire department and police department personnel by assisting with evacuations, handling donations, preparing food for first responders, answering phones and a host of other tasks to assist the professional responders. This is a great example of CERT members and response personnel working together for the benefit of the community.

CERT members can also volunteer to assist with non-emergency projects that benefit the community. CERT members have distributed and/or installed smoke alarms, replaced smoke alarm batteries for the elderly, distributed disaster education material, and provided services at special events, such as festivals, parades, sporting events, and more.

What kind of training is required to be a CERT volunteer?

To become a Taylor CERT member, you need to complete the "core" CERT training program. Our next training program will be in February 2012, and will run Monday or Thursday evening per week (except for weeks around the Holidays) for eight weeks. Each session will run approximately 2 ½ hours – 6:30p.m. to 9:00p.m. All sessions will be held in Taylor, and will be taught by CERT Instructor. During these sessions, you will learn basic emergency response techniques, including emergency medical/first aid, fire safety, search and rescue techniques, response to floods, and more.

Who can take CERT training?

Natural for the training are participants of neighborhood watch programs, community organizations, communities of faith, school staff, workplace employees, scouting organization leaders, veterans organizations, and other group participants that come together regularly for a common purpose. Regardless of your background however, you are welcome to participate if you are a Taylor resident, or if you work in Taylor.

I would like to take the training, but I'm not ready to serve as a full-fledged member. Is this possible?
Absolutely! You are welcome to participate in the class for your own knowledge. At the conclusion of the class, you will have no further obligation.

I have physical limitations. Can I still participate as a CERT volunteer?

Yes! There are many jobs within a CERT for citizens who want to be involved and help. Following a disaster, CERT members are needed for documentation, comforting others, logistics, etc. Non-disaster related team activities might include keeping databases, developing a Website, planning activities, helping with special events and organizing exercises and activities.

During CERT classroom training, if one has a concern about doing a skill like lifting, just let your instructor know. You can learn from watching. We would like everyone who goes through this training to be an active participant – whether it is "hands on" involvement, or learning the techniques by careful observation.

Are minors allowed to participate as CERT volunteers?

Right now, we do not have a student program. Until a student program is in place, students are welcome to participate. Minors between the ages of 16 and 18 are welcome to participate if they are accompanied by a registered parent or guardian.

Are there costs involved?

There is no charge to register and attend the eight weekly classes. As a matter of fact, we encourage all residents to attend these classes to help them better understand how they (and families, co-workers, etc.) can better prepare for emergencies.

Who should I contact for more information on the Taylor CERT program?

Taylor CERT program coordinator is Blaine Honeycutt. Blaine Honeycutt's professional experience includes over 20 years in disaster training. He is an EMT-S, instructor for first aid & CPR for the RC & AHA also First Responder instructor for the National Safety Council. Instructor for FEMA disaster training and pre disaster preparation.

Blaine Honeycutt, EMT-S, CERT Coordinator/Trainer

Tel: (734) 231-7262

Email: Mcdadmedic@aol.com

I'm interested. What do I do next?

Just print and fill out the application for volunteer participation form located in this packet and return it to the Taylor Fire Department before January 27, 2012.

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Application for Volunteer Participation
City of Taylor, Michigan
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



Complete and return to:
Taylor Fire Department
Attn: Robert Tompos
23345 Goddard Rd
Taylor, MI 48180
Or Fax to (734) 374-2742

Note: Completed application must be received by January 27th 2012 to participate in the February 2012 session.

Name

Last/Family

Middle Initial

First/Given

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Home _____ Work _____ ext. _____

E-Mail (required) _____ Fax _____

Drivers License No. _____ State _____ DOB _____

Now Employed? Yes No Company Name & City _____
 Retired

Your Profession/ Job Title _____

Emergency Contact

Name (First & Last)

Relationship

Do you have any professional or prior volunteer experience in any of the following areas? (if so, describe briefly)

- Administration / Business _____
- Construction / Building _____
- Fire Service _____

Professional Experience (continued)

- Law Enforcement _____
- Legal / Paralegal _____
- Marketing / Public Relations _____
- Medical / Emergency Medical _____
- Military _____
- Psychology / Counseling _____
- Other (describe briefly) _____

Do you have other training or expertise you could utilize as a CERT team member? (if so, describe briefly)

What type(s) of work would you be interested in performing as a CERT team member? (describe briefly)

Do you have any health problems, disabilities or other circumstances that would prohibit you from fully performing the physical responsibilities of a CERT member? (if so, describe briefly)

Typically, what day(s) of the week would you be most likely available to serve?

- Any day of the week Typically weekdays (Mon – Fri) Typically weekends (Sat – Sun)

On these days, I am typically Available:

- Anytime Daytime Hours Nighttime Hours

Have you ever been arrested for a misdemeanor or felony? If so, please describe. Note: A conviction of any offense will not necessarily eliminate you from consideration as a CERT member.

I agree and understand that any work I perform as a CERT member is provided on a voluntary basis, and that I do not expect payment or other compensation for performing any work. I also understand that a volunteer position does not constitute an employee-employer relationship with the City of Taylor, and that I serve at the discretion of the fire chief or his/her designee. If I am currently a city employee, I know that any volunteer work to be performed outside of my regular job classification, and is separate from any paid work responsibility/compensation. I understand that if I am between the ages of 16 and 18, I will be accompanied at all times by a parent or legal guardian who is also registered in the program.

I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application and any supporting documents. I understand that a background check may be conducted, and release all parties from any liability arising from such investigation.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Volunteer Agreement

Taylor, MI

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

I, _____, hereby request permission to participate in the Taylor Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. I understand that participating in both this training and actual incidents as required involves active physical activity, which includes a potential risk of personal injury and/or personal property damage. I make this request with the full knowledge of the possibility of personal injury and/or personal property damage.

1. I agree to hold the City of Taylor, their personnel and their agents harmless from any and all claims, actions, suits and/or injury that I may suffer and which may arise as a result of my participation in the CERT program.
2. I attest that I am in good health, and have no medical or physical limitations or other circumstances that would prohibit me from executing the duties of a CERT member. If I do have limitations, I have disclosed these to the CERT training coordinator.
3. I agree to follow the program rules established by the instructors, and to exercise reasonable care while participating in the CERT program. I understand that if I fail to follow the instructor's rules and regulations, or if I fail to exercise reasonable care, I can be administratively removed from the program. In addition to the rules set forth by the CERT program, I also agree to conform with all rules and regulations of the City of Taylor. I understand that I will begin service on a reciprocal trial basis.

4. I agree to participate in all required training. I understand that I will perform services and assistance only to the degree that has been covered through my training. I will not perform services or assistance beyond the extent of which I have received proper training.
5. I understand that a background investigation and driver's record review may be conducted.
6. I understand my volunteer service represents an important commitment and realize the City of Taylor is depending on my services. If, for any reason I cannot keep this commitment, I will notify my CERT supervisor in advance.
7. I agree and understand that any work I perform within the scope of this agreement will be provided on a voluntary basis, and that I do not expect nor will accept payment or other compensation for performing any work. I also understand that a volunteer position does not constitute any employee – employer relationship with the City of Taylor, and that I serve at the discretion of the City of Taylor CERT program.
8. If I am currently a City employee, I know that any volunteer work to be performed is outside of my regular job classification, and is separate from any paid work responsibility/compensation.
9. I agree not to divulge any information regarding persons who are receiving services or other assistance from the City or otherwise involved in my volunteer services. I recognize that unauthorized release of confidential information may make me subject to legal action.

10. I understand that I am fully responsible for maintaining my own personal records of time volunteered to the City for the purposes of internships, community service, certifications, etc., and is subject to my CERT supervisor's verification. At the end of my volunteer service, I can request a letter documenting hours donated, and I understand that the City will maintain no permanent record of this time.
11. I agree to report any volunteer-related injury or incident to my CERT supervisor immediately.
12. I understand the City has a zero-tolerance policy against any type of harassment or discrimination, and agree to comply with this policy.
13. I understand that the City has a zero-tolerance policy against any type of violence, threat or intimidation, implied or actual, in the workplace, and agree to comply with this policy.
14. I understand that the City has a zero-tolerance policy against any use of, or being under the influence of, illegal drugs or alcohol in the workplace, and agree to comply with this policy.
15. I understand that the City has a zero-tolerance policy against carrying, or use of any type of weapon or firearm by individuals other than active members of the City and its Police reserves while executing the duties of a CERT member, and agree to comply with this policy.
16. I understand that the City is not responsible for loss or damage to personal belongings.
17. I understand that if I am under the age of eighteen (18) years, my parent or legal guardian will also register and participate in this class, and will personally supervise my participation in this class, and will personally supervise my participation in all future CERT activities (until I reach the age of eighteen (18)).
18. I understand that I am responsible for the reasonable care and maintenance of any CERT related equipment issued to me by the City to ensure its proper working order. This includes, but is not limited to, regular replacement batteries in equipment. I understand that the issued equipment/gear is owned by the City, and will be returned to the City should my status as a CERT member terminate. I understand that I am responsible for replacement costs of the equipment/gear if I terminate and fail to return the issued equipment/gear.

By executing this release, I certify that I have read this release in its entirety, understand all of its terms and have had any questions regarding the release or its effect satisfactorily answered. I also certify that I have disclosed any and all known medical and physical limitations fully. I sign this release freely and voluntarily.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Witness

Date