

# CERT

## What is a CERT?

A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is formed by members of a neighborhood or workplaces who want to be better prepared for the hazards that threaten their communities. They are trained to recognize, respond to and help their communities recover from major emergencies or disasters.



These teams provide immediate, vital (and often life-saving) services during large scale incidents, particularly when the response from professional emergency responders might be delayed. CERTs are not intended to replace a professional responder response capability, but rather, to serve as an important supplement to it. It's families helping themselves, neighbours helping neighbours to prepare, respond and recover in their own neighborhood.

## Who should get involved in CERT?

It Starts with YOU. The CERT program is open to anyone and everyone in the Cayman Islands.

Individuals who are concerned in making our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared are encouraged to get involved.



As a member of a CERT team, you can respond to disasters, participate in drills and exercises, and take additional training. CERT teams are known and trusted resources to emergency responders and their communities.

No matter where you live, no matter who you are, we all have a role in your community preparedness. What role will YOU play?

## Why are CERTs Important?

Under the direction of the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC), CERT members give critical support to

first responders in emergencies, provide immediate assistance to victims, organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site, providing damage assessment information, and collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.



Volunteers trained in CERT also offer a potential workforce for performing duties such as shelter support, crowd control, and evacuation.

CERT members must keep their safety in mind as their first priority.

CERTs do NOT:

- Suppress large fires.
- Enter structures that they consider heavily damaged and dangerous (e.g., leaning or moved from foundation).
- Perform hazardous materials cleanup or respond to incidents involving radiological, chemical, or biological agents.

- Perform medical, fire, or search and rescue operations beyond their level of training.
- Activate or deploy unless called for in their procedures.

### What about Training?

It is free! Government recognizes the great benefit of having CERT members trained in CPR, first aid, fire safety and suppression and disaster response; interested persons can sign up for these important, life saving skills.

The training sessions may be scheduled to accommodate the availability of community residents - so you decide what suit you!

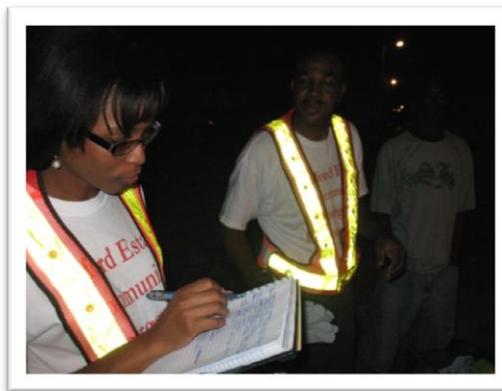
Participants will learn how to:

- Identify and anticipate hazards
- Reduce fire hazards in the home and workplace
- Extinguish small fires
- Assist emergency responders
- Conduct light search and rescue
- Set up medical treatment areas
- Apply basic medical techniques
- Help reduce survivor stress

### After the CERT course

Teams are encouraged to meet at least quarterly to update information, practice basic first aid, review communications /

radio procedures, and revise the forms needed for record keeping.



CERT teams are encouraged to gather a list of vulnerable people in their community and also put together a list of assets. The assets may include people in your community with medical experience, people who have all terrain vehicles that may be used in emergencies, people with chain saws for road clearance etc.

### How do you sign up for CERT?

Contact Hazard Management Cayman Islands or the Cayman Islands Red Cross! Or visit our website at [www.caymanprepared.ky](http://www.caymanprepared.ky)



# HAZARD MANAGEMENT CAYMAN ISLANDS

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