



# Scottsville Task Force 17 Community Emergency Response Team



**"Don't be scared, be prepared"**

Thank you for your interest in the Scottsville Task Force 17 Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

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

## **CERT Mission**

**"To do the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people"**

## **What is CERT?**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates citizens regarding disaster preparedness relative to hazards that could impact our area, and provides basic disaster response skills training. These skills include fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Once trained, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhoods, workplace or in other communities 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 your 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 community's 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 and efficiently – without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

## **How will the CERT program benefit me and my community?**

CERT-trained citizens have a better understanding of potential threats to their homes, workplace and community and can take the proper steps to lessen the vulnerability of these hazards. When 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, CERT members 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 recent ice storm that took place in the town . This is a great example of CERT members and emergency 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 disaster education materials, and provided services at civic events, such as festivals, parades, sporting events, and more.

## **What kind of training is required to become a CERT volunteer?**

To become a CERT member, you need to complete the "core" CERT training program. Our training program will consist of approximately 30 hours. All sessions will be taught by trained emergency responders or trained



## Scottsville Task Force 17 Community Emergency Response Team

instructors. During these sessions, you will learn basic emergency response techniques, including emergency medical/first aid, fire safety, search and rescue techniques, response to emergency incidents and more.

### Who can take CERT training?

Naturals for the training program are participants of neighborhood watch programs, community organizations, communities of faith, school staff, workplace employees, scouting organization leaders and other group participants that come together regularly for a common purpose. Regardless of your background, you are welcome to participate if you are willing to "get involved" in your community.

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

Absolutely! There are many tasks within a CERT program 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, helping with social media and website, planning activities, logistics, helping with special events and organizing exercises and activities.

### Are there costs involved?

There is no charge to register and attend the classes.

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

The CERT program coordinator is Captain Jack Maxwell which can be reach at (434) 996-8073 or email [jack@svilletf17.com](mailto:jack@svilletf17.com)

### I'm interested. What do I do next?

Just complete the attached application for Volunteer Participation form along with the Volunteer Agreement form and the Disclosure and Authorization for Background Investigation form and return them to the address listed.



Scottsville Task Force 17  
**Community Emergency  
Response Team**

**Community Emergency Response Team Application**

**Applicant Information**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Skills and Training: \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur Radio Operator? Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Licenses (MD, RN, LPN, EMT, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Employment Status: ☐ Full Time ☐ Part Time ☐ Retired ☐ Unemployed

Other Languages Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense other than minor traffic violations? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Highest School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you Graduate? ☐ Yes ☐ No Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any personal health issues that would impact your ability to volunteer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, please list here or speak personally with CERT: \_\_\_\_\_



Scottsville Task Force 17

# Community Emergency Response Team

Are you a part of an emergency/disaster plan with any other organization? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Scottsville Task Force 17  
**Community Emergency  
Response Team**

**References**

*Please list two references.*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

**I fully understand, acknowledge, and agree to the following:**

The program is under no obligation to accept all interested volunteers.

Any or all of the following may be required before placement in any sensitive volunteer position:

- a. Criminal History check
- b. sex offender

I hereby certify that all information on this application is accurate and correct, and I hereby make application for membership in the Scottsville Task Force 17 Community Emergency Response Team program. I understand that I am applying for a volunteer position without compensation, and this is not an application for, nor a contract of, employment. I understand that this application does not automatically make me a member and that further interviews and training will take place.

I understand that every attempt will be made to reduce the risks to volunteers; however, some risks may be present during an emergency, disaster, during training and at non-emergency events.

I further understand and hereby give written permission for the Town of Scottsville to submit my name for criminal and sex offender background checks.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this form and submit by mail or hand it in to:**

**Town of Scottsville  
Attn: SV-TF17 CERT Program  
401 Valley Street,  
Scottsville Virginia, 24590**

*If you have any questions about this program or application, please contact Captain Jack Maxwell at (434) 996-8073.*