



MOUNT ANGEL COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

“People Helping People”

In times of major disasters or emergencies, local police and fire departments become rapidly overwhelmed and help may be long in arriving from the outside. Communities may need to help themselves for extended periods of time. The CERT program has been developed in hundreds of cities all over the country to do just that. We have started a CERT program here under the sponsorship of the Mount Angel Fire District.

A well organized volunteer CERT group can augment the local responders by assisting in many vital duties so that the professional agencies may perform their main jobs. In addition, CERT volunteers often assist city agencies and organizations in local events and celebrations by helping with traffic control, food booth inspections, providing information to visitors, and other helpful tasks. Our CERT also has a goal of getting Basic Emergency Preparedness information out to all the citizens in our community.

CERT volunteers receive qualification training in basic fire prevention, light search and rescue, debris removal, First Aid and CPR, medical assistance, evacuation, and triage, as well as emergency operations. After qualification, each volunteer receives a basic equipment package. Many other training events come up throughout the year giving ample opportunities to expand skills and knowledge. Some of these include traffic control and flagging certification, radio communications, sheltering, and the psychology of disasters.

The Mt. Angel CERT usually meets once a month in the evening, so it is not very time consuming to belong. Of course, those with more time can get involved to a greater degree in various activities. Retired individuals with their many life skills are most welcome as are young people 17 years and older.

If you would like to join our CERT to help our community, would like an application form, or just want more information, you may contact Tom Duker, Mt. Angel CERT Coordinator, at dukerdepot@mtangel.net or phone at (503) 845-4046 or Assistant Coordinator, Jason Sucich at jsucich@live.com. Phone (503)931-1318.