



Northwest Tarrant Community Emergency Response Team

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Prospective Member Information

Thank you for your interest in joining our team. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a FEMA and Homeland Security program made up of volunteers. Our mission is to provide support to first responders, to educate and prepare community members on disaster preparedness, and to assist with coordinated disaster response and recovery efforts.

NWT CERT works to assist the local community in being self-sufficient in the aftermath of a major disaster through deploying CERT(s) as first responders when professional first responders (Police, Fire, EMS, etc.) are overwhelmed or unable to respond. When deployed, CERT(s) can provide limited emergency response until first responders arrive and can then assist as directed. A secondary mission of CERT(s) is to provide trained volunteers to supplement law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical, or other governmental departments when additional staffing is needed for crowd or traffic control, search operations, special events, first aid, and other public safety and community preparedness activities. CERT members will be trained to first help themselves, their family, and then their community during times of emergencies or disasters. This training will allow CERT members to perform essential, non-technical functions, and assist first responders in the event of an emergency.

What's Required?

To join our team you must be 18 years old and complete a membership application. A background and driving history check is performed on all prospective members.

At a minimum, we require the following FEMA online courses be completed, and certificates of completion provided within 30 days of approval for membership. These courses are self-paced, online, and revolve around the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) used nationally. Links to these are on our website at: <https://www.northwesttarrantcert.org/join> or can be found below. Courses typically take less than 2 hours each to complete.

IS 100: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c&lang=en>

IS 100, Introduction to the Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training.

IS 200: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.c&lang=en>

IS200, Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, reviews the Incident Command System (ICS), provides the context for ICS within initial response, and supports higher level ICS training.

IS 700: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b&lang=en>

An Introduction to the National Incident Management System - This course provides an overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

IS 800: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-800.d&lang=en>

IS-0800.d, An Introduction to the National Response Framework. The goal of this class is to provide guidance for the whole community.

To be able to be deployed in a disaster/emergency you must also complete G-317 – Community Emergency Response Team (Basic Training). This is 24 hours of classroom training plus an exercise to provide the knowledge and skills citizen volunteers need to effectively serve their community. Skills to prepare for local emergencies and respond to them are the focus. This class is offered a couple of times a year, usually on a Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday. You can still be a member and

participate in our meetings, training, and public awareness events while waiting to attend this class.

Meetings:

We meet monthly on the last Thursday of the month. Meetings are from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm and include some continuing education training. You are expected to attend at least 50% of the meetings each year. Check our website at: <https://www.northwestarrantcert.org/meetings>

What you do as a member:

Thankfully, there are not a lot of disasters and emergencies that we get activated for. That allows us time to fulfill our other mission objective, preparing the community. We participate in many community events where we have a booth and provide information on how to be better prepared for an emergency. We also are called on by the cities to assist in public events by directing people around the event and assisting in parking, first aid, and traffic control. We understand that we are all volunteers and not everyone can attend every event.

Next Steps:

Attend a meeting, fill out an application, and get started on your training! You can get the form and info at our website: <https://www.northwestarrantcert.org/join> Or, send us an email at saginawcert@gmail.com with your contact information and we'll send you the application.

We hope you'll consider joining our team and preparing yourself, your family, and helping our community.

The Leadership Team