

**More Information**

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**Henrico County  
Community  
Emergency  
Response Team  
(HCCERT)**



**Neighbors coming  
together in a time of  
crisis.**



## About HCCERT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, using the model created by the Los Angeles Fire Department, began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994. Since then, CERT's have been established in hundreds of communities nationwide. In January 2003, the first CERT program in Henrico County began as a partnership between the Divisions of Fire and Police. With the graduation of the first class in March 2003, there is a strong link between the community and the emergency services providers in Henrico County - the Henrico County Community Emergency Response Team (HCCERT).

Partnering efforts between emergency services, emergency management, and the people that they serve, HCCERT utilizes the experts in their fields - police, fire, and emergency medical services - to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. These response skills allow HCCERT members to assist others by applying their skills if a disastrous event overwhelms or delays Henrico County's emergency services response. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives.

## Training Covers:

- Disaster Preparedness
- CERT Organization
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Disaster Psychology
- Fire Safety and Utilities Controls
- Light Search and Rescue Operations
- Terrorism and CERT
- Disaster Simulation

## Training Includes:

A 3-hour introductory course, a 12-hour online course, and an 8-hour hands-on drill session to help students learn new skills.

Training requires 23 hours to complete.

## You Can Learn To:

**The HCCERT program is designed to give you an insight into emergency response procedures and to help you prepare for many of the hazards in our community.**

**HCCERT participants will learn to:**

1. Describe hazards most likely to affect your home and community.
2. Describe how HCCERT members can augment the first responder response capability.
3. Take steps to prepare for a disaster.
4. Identify and reduce potential fire hazards at home and in the workplace.
5. Learn how and when to operate a fire extinguisher in a simulated fire situation.
6. Learn simple things to save lives by opening an airway, controlling bleeding, and treating victims for shock.
7. Conduct medical triage and treatment under simulated conditions.
8. Identify planning, size-up, and extrication techniques for potential search and rescue operations.
9. Describe ways to protect rescuers and those around them during the disaster and recovery period.