

An Introduction to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Did you know....

- ❖ There is a very good chance that your neighborhood will be on its own during the early stages following a catastrophic disaster.
- ❖ After a catastrophic disaster, citizens will volunteer to help. Without proper training these people can expose themselves to potential injury and even death!
- ❖ Experience has shown that basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills improves the ability of citizens to survive until responders or other assistance arrives.

The La Paz County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

The La Paz County Office of Emergency Management has become a part of a national network of CERT communities. This CERT program is designed to help neighborhoods prepare for and respond after catastrophic disasters such as floods, wildfires, and other major emergencies.

Individuals completing CERT training may be affiliated with one or more of the following teams:

- **Neighborhood CERT:** Ten or more neighbors serving immediate residential neighborhood.
- **Business or Government CERT:** Co-workers serving places of business and surrounding areas, or county, city or state agency employees.
- **School CERT:** School faculty and staff serving school and surrounding area.
- **Faith-Based CERT:** Teams based at a house of worship serving the immediate neighborhood, or travel into areas that need assistance.

Individuals not affiliated with a team may still be trained and serve their community



CERT In Action



Once trained, a CERT will be able to provide the following services to their neighborhood:

- ❖ Increase their neighborhood's disaster readiness
- ❖ Assess damage after a disaster
- ❖ Extinguish small fires and teach fire safety
- ❖ Assist Law Enforcement with light search and rescue operations
- ❖ Perform triage and provide medical services to the injured
- ❖ Organize procurement of supplies
- ❖ And more.....

