

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) : Building Resilient Neighborhoods

Empowering communities to prepare and respond effectively

Agenda

1. Introduction to the CERT Program
2. CERT Structure and Operations
3. Training and Preparedness Activities
4. CERT's Role in Emergency Responses and Community Preparedness
5. Phoenix CERT Contact Information

Introduction to the CERT Program

<https://www.fox13news.com/news/meet-cert-volunteers-who-jump-action-after-florida-storms>

Overview of CERT's Mission and Objectives

Mission of CERT

CERT trains citizens to respond effectively to disasters and reduce harm before professionals arrive.

Community Resilience

CERT promotes community resilience by empowering individuals with skills to handle emergencies proactively.

Disaster Readiness

Improving disaster readiness helps communities prepare and respond efficiently to emergency situations.

National Background and History of CERT

CERT Program Origin

CERT was established in 1985 by the LAFD to enhance local community involvement in disaster response efforts.

Nationwide Growth

The program expanded nationally with thousands of volunteers trained to assist in emergencies. In 1993, CERT formally established the CERT program.

CERT's Relevance to Local Communities

Skill Development for Emergencies

CERT equips citizens with essential skills to help during local emergencies, improving immediate response capabilities.

Enhancing Public Safety

By empowering residents, CERT contributes to overall public safety and resilience in neighborhoods.

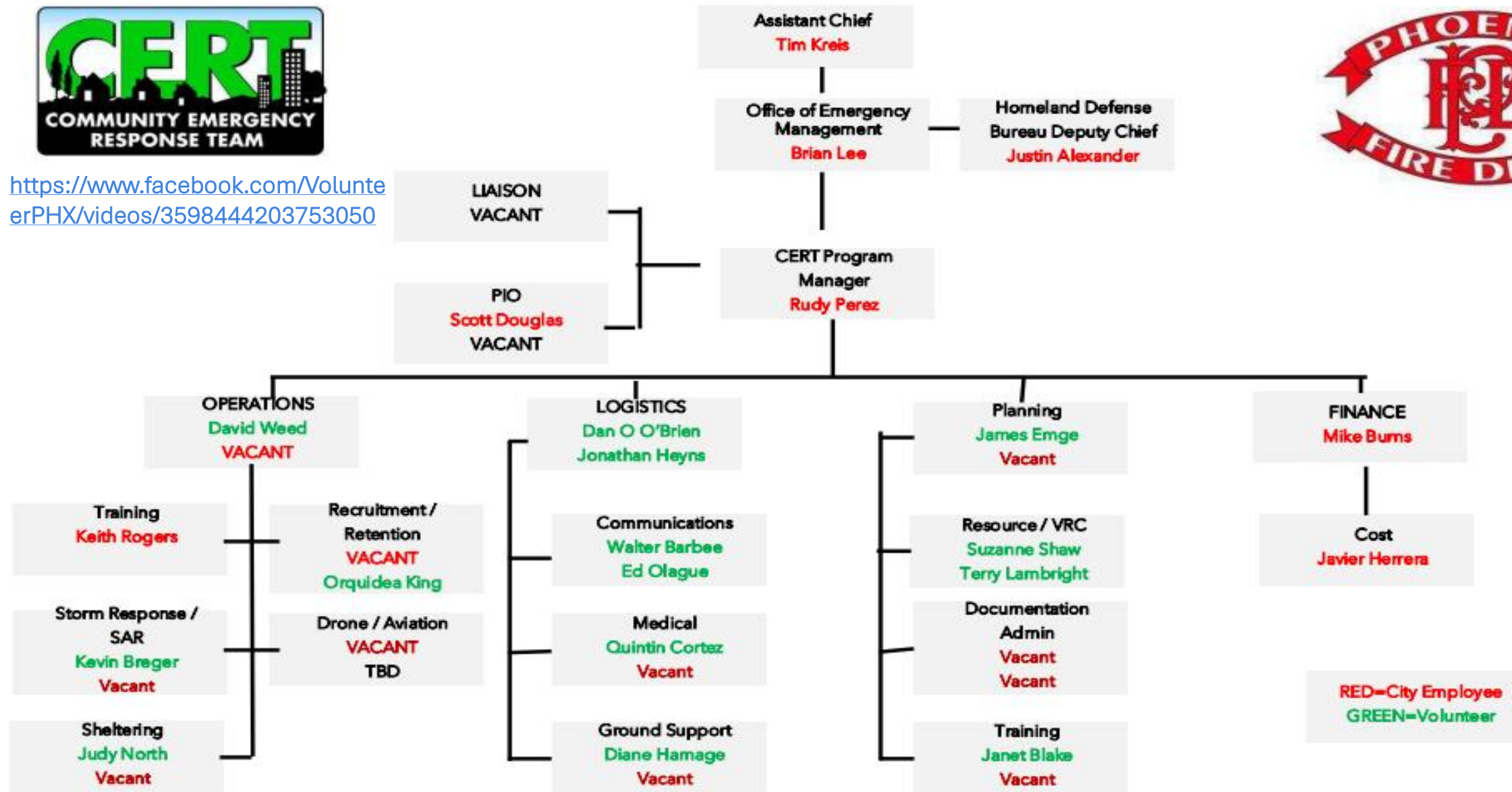
Collaboration with Local Agencies

CERT fosters partnerships between citizens and local agencies to ensure coordinated emergency efforts.

Phoenix CERT: Structure, Operations, Training, and Preparedness Activities



<https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerPHX/videos/3598444203753050>



Phoenix Fire Department Phoenix Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Eff 5/3/2025

Partnerships with Local Agencies and Stakeholders

Collaboration with Fire Departments - Phoenix CERT works closely with fire departments to enhance emergency response and resource sharing.

Coordination with Police – Partnerships with police ensure safety and smooth operations during emergencies and community events.

Engagement with Emergency Management - Collaboration with emergency management agencies helps align CERT efforts with city-wide disaster plans.

Community Organization Partnerships - Working with community organizations fosters local support and resource mobilization during crises.

Recent CERT Activities

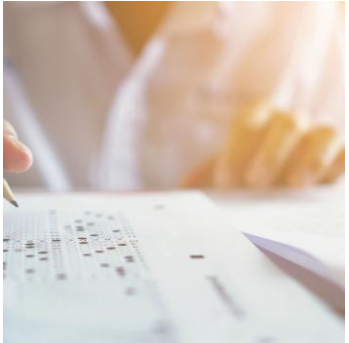


- Westwood Village Community Safety Fair
- Girl Scouts Safety Day - fire safety, communications and go-bags
- Assisted the Phoenix Fire Community Assistance Program at the Cinco de Mayo Block Party
- Desert Botanical Garden - Search and Rescue talk to 6 – 12 years olds
- Heat Ready Trail Outreach at Echo Canyon
- City Council Water Station outside City Hall
- Logistics Support AC Units and Generator Testing
- ARRL Field Day
- Assisted in registering the AZ-TF1 team for deployment to Texas and issuing their gear

Training and Preparedness Activities

Steps to Become a CERT Volunteer

Complete an application.



Attend Orientation to learn about CERT roles and expectations.



Attend basic training courses and pass a background check.



Basic CERT Training Modules and Skills Taught

Disaster Preparedness - prepares volunteers to respond effectively to natural and man-made disasters.

Fire Safety Training - fire prevention, suppression techniques, and safe evacuation procedures.

Medical Operations Skills - basic first aid, triage, and medical assistance in emergency situations.

Search and Rescue Techniques - methods for locating and safely rescuing victims in disaster zones as well as assisting in searches for lost individuals.

Tactical Communications – communication techniques and strategies to effectively and safely manage situations, especially during emergencies or when dealing with the public; use of ham and other radio systems for communications during emergencies and events.

Requirements - Level 3 (Background check after items in blue)

- Orientation
- CERT Basic Training Course – 20 hours
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- First Aid
- CPR/AED
- Stop the Bleed (STB)
- Grief Support, Crisis Intervention, & Death Notification
- Crime Scene Preservation
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Ethics, Cultural Diversity, Harassment Training
- Incident Documentation
- Tactical Communications (FRS/GMRS/MURS/700 Mhz Radio use)
- IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System
- IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response
- IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction
- IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction
- IS-1151: Blue Campaign Disaster Responder Training

Additional Requirements for Search and Rescue (SAR)

- Missing Person Orientation
- IS-559 Local Damage Assessment
- IS-11: Animals in Disasters: Community Planning
- Missing Person Search - Classroom
- Missing Person Search – Field
- Land Navigation - Classroom
- Land Navigation – Field
- Using a GPS - Classroom
- Using a GPS – Field
- Pack Test



Ongoing Education and Specialized Workshops



Advanced Training Workshops - Phoenix CERT provides advanced workshops that enhance basic emergency response skills.

Hazardous Materials Training - Specialized workshops focus on handling and responding to hazardous materials safely.

Emergency Communications - Ham license classes and testing are offered. Workshops include training on effective emergency communication techniques and equipment usage.

CERT's Role in Emergency Responses and Community Preparedness

Initial Response and Support

- Provide immediate assistance to victims.
- Identify and reduce fire hazards and safely suppress small fires.
- Assist with rescue operations and managing flood-related hazards.
- Assist with evacuations and shelters.
- Search and rescue.
- Provide basic medical assistance to the injured.

Supporting Professional Responders

- Provide valuable information on the extent of damage and identify critical needs.
- Manage spontaneous volunteers.
- Support emergency operations centers.
- Support shelter operations and assist with crowd control.
- Provide communications via ham radio and other radio systems.

Enhancing community preparedness and resilience

- Community outreach and education such as public events to raise awareness and build strong community relationships. Safety fairs educate the public about preparedness and promote safety practices
- Assist with special events like parades or fairs by assisting with traffic control, crowd management, and staffing first aid tents.
- Neighborhood meetings encourage dialogue and foster local involvement in safety initiatives.
- Build stronger communities by fostering a sense of community preparedness and empowering citizens to take an active role in ensuring their own safety and the safety of their neighbors.

Phoenix CERT Contact Information

Phoenix Fire Department Volunteer Information:

<https://www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/fire/fire-volunteer.html>

Volunteer Application PDF

https://www.phoenix.gov/content/dam/phoenix/firesite/documents/fire_cadet_application.pdf

Fill out your CERT application, then save it and send it via e-mail to: phx.cert@phoenix.gov

CERT Phone Number: 602-261-8038

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixCERT/>