Community Emergency Response Team Program

Agenda

- CERT in Fairfax
- Program overview
- CERT outside disasters

CERT in Fairfax

- Fairfax Co. program started in 2003
- Three tiered program (Trained/Active/Advanced)
- Taught by Fire & Rescue Academy Instructors and Volunteer Instructor cadre
- Over 125 Basic CERT classes taught
- Over 3000 graduates
- 60 Extracurricular classes per year

CERT in Fairfax

The CERT program works on very simple, focused core principles:

If there is a disaster at home or at work:

- Take care of yourself. If you're OK…
- Take care of your family. If they're OK…
- Take care of your neighbors. If they're OK…
- Take care of your neighborhood, and do the greatest food for the greatest number
- Recruit and organize your neighbors to help

CERT Levels in Fairfax

- CERT Trained
  - Basic CERT class, may take more classes
  - No commitment (train and release)
- Active CERT – Continued Education Required
  - Background checked, credentialed
  - May be called out to assist large-scale incidents
- Active CERT-Advanced – continued education required- moderate commitment
  - Can be called out for a single specific incident

Local Disaster Threats

- Terrorism-Foreign or Domestic
- Man-made Disasters
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Floods
- Hazardous Materials
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Winter Storms
- Earthquakes

CERT Highlights

- Focus on making sure people plan, are prepared, and survive
- Be able to assist others, safely
- “All Hazards” approach
- Do the greatest good for the greatest number of people

CERT Class

- Fire and Rescue Academy
  - Two nights a week
  - Seven sessions and a Final Exercise
  - 7pm-10:30pm
- Community Classes
  - Community Centers
  - Places of Worship
  - Businesses

CERT Class, cont.

- CERT Incident Command
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Hazards
- Light Search and Rescue
- CERT and Terrorism
- Disaster Psychology
- Fire Safety
- Final Exercise

Extracurricular Classes

- First Aid and CPR/AED Training
- First Aid for Hostile Mass Casualty Incidents
- Amateur Radio and Communications
- Disaster Mapping and Compass Techniques
- Autism Recognition for First Responders
- Traffic/Crowd Management
- Red Cross Shelter Operations
- Pet First Aid and CPR
- WMATA Metro Training
- Infectious Control and Blood Borne Pathogens

CERT Outside a Disaster

- Post flood debris assistance
- Course Marshals
- Role playing as victims for mass casualty drills
- Community outreach
  - Fire Prevention Week
  - National Night Out

Assisting at County Events

- Assisting EMS providers with patient log
- Supplementing EMS teams
  - Crowd control
- Staffing “Lost Parents” booths
- Community Outreach

Recent Accomplishments

- Formation of Community Based Teams
  - Teams formed by Zip codes county-wide
- Community Assessment Program
  - Direct Communication with the EOC through Everbridge
- Strategic Planning
  - Future Goals and Objectives identified

Thank You!

Questions?

FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT
1742
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

CERT
FAIRFAX COUNTY
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TEAM