

CERT PROGRAMS IN MINNESOTA



Learn to better prepare for hazards and protect yourself, loved ones, neighbors, and community by joining a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program. CERT volunteers receive free training and develop skills to assist before, during, and after a disaster occurs. CERT personnel can “bridge the gap” until professional responders are able to arrive on the scene of a disaster. CERT volunteers may help with disaster prevention, special events, and other activities, too.

Join an existing CERT Program:

There are over twenty programs throughout Minnesota. To locate a program, check with your local jurisdiction (city, county or tribal nation), visit Find a CERT ([fema.gov](https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/cert-find-a-program)) <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/cert-find-a-program> or contact jeanne.rasmussen@state.mn.us

Start a CERT Program:

The first step is to determine a host for the program

- Campus CERT: post-secondary school can host including 2-year, 4-year or accredited training, such as cosmetology certification
- Community CERT: club, faith-based, social or neighborhood group, etc. may host
- Teen CERT: public, private, public charter or tribal schools. Youth groups are also eligible to host, such as boys & girls club, scout, 4-H, etc.
- Workplace CERT: hosted by a workplace

After a host is established, contact jeanne.rasmussen@state.mn.us

The second step is to secure a local sponsor such as a Fire, Police, Public Health, Sheriff, Emergency Management or another department within the local jurisdiction. The sponsor can also host their own CERT Program.

The third step is to join the FEMA Preparedness Community at

- CERT Home | Ready.gov ([fema.gov](https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/welcome-to-cert))
<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/welcome-to-cert>
- Register the program; click on the CERT “Register a CERT” tab.
- Please use the name of the jurisdiction, first [e.g. Baudette (City of) or Rock County (Lakes Area)]. This will make it easier for potential volunteers to find the team
- Email FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov with questions about the registration

Each CERT Program determines their team’s activities and budget. There are variety of supportive resources available.

For more information please email the Minnesota HSEM Volunteer Resources Coordinator: jeanne.rasmussen@state.mn.us