

Encinitas CERT Mobilization & Activation Procedures

CERT MOBILIZATION

When a disaster incident occurs, CERTs are mobilized in steps. Immediately following a disaster incident, CERT members take care of their families, homes, and their immediate neighbors. There are 3 priorities of Mobilization:

1. Personal Safety
2. Immediate Neighborhood Safety
3. Community Safety (Activation Level)

Personal and Neighborhood Safety are the highest priority, while Community Safety occurs once CERT Members have been activated using text, email or telephone by their local government agency.

Personal Safety

In a disaster, your first responsibility is your personal safety and that of your family (including your pets). **Take care of yourself and your family.**

- Ensure you and your family are safe
- Text or call your out-of-state contact
- Locate your CERT equipment and keep it with you
- Inspect your house for damage
- Inspect and turn off utilities if necessary and safe to do so
- Open your family disaster supply kit, if needed

Immediate Neighborhood Safety

Once you have secured the safety and welfare of your family, **Take care of your immediate neighbors**, if it is safe to do so.

- Work with a second person
- Conduct an immediate neighborhood damage assessment
- Identify and aid neighbors who might need assistance
- Do not start out beyond your immediate neighborhood on your own and until activated. If not formally activated CERT members are not covered by Worker's Compensation Insurance.

Community Safety (Activation)

If you have been activated to assist emergency response personnel, report to the meeting point identified in the activation message, if not stated in the message report to the Encinitas Community Center, if possible.

- Respond with CERT equipment
- Exchange information with fellow CERT members
- Assess the situation and formulate a plan.
- Follow local protocols, extinguish small fires, treat injuries, perform light search and rescue and relieve survivor stress
- Document all actions, results, messages and activities

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- Keep track of personnel at all times
- Adjust the plan of action as necessary

Key priorities of the CERT teams are:

1. Neighborhood damage assessment,
2. Disaster medical aid,
3. Light search and rescue,
4. Fire suppression.

Activation Principles

CERTs are activated according to the principles of Incident Command System (ICS):

- Each group of CERT personnel should establish a command structure under FEMA Incident Command System guidelines
- A Command Post must be established for the CERT to command and control activities
- Team activities are directed by the CERT team leader
 - The first person at a predesignated staging area assumes the CERT team leader role, which may be delegated to a predesignated leader when that person arrives
 - The CERT team leader stays in the Command Post. If they must leave, the responsibility of team leader must be delegated to someone at the Command Post
- Each division must have an identified leader to supervise tasks, account for team members, document all activity, and report information to his or her designated leader

Team Configurations

Manageable teams consist of between three and seven team members reporting to one designated leader. Assignments during the incident will be based on the needs of the incident.

When performing search and rescue one safety person will remain outside the area that is to be searched. Two people, minimum, will conduct the search.