

Lee County CERT Needs Your Help!

Fellow residents, you are probably aware that in case of an emergency or natural disaster, first responders and emergency services could be overwhelmed by requests for help. However, there is a way community can support our first responders and help ourselves. It is CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team. CERT is an all-volunteer group of local residents. We are here to augment, when needed, the local first response personnel and emergency services staff, to ease the workload by providing support in the tasks they specify, to allow professional service providers to more easily meet the needs of the community.

There have been many disaster situations across the country over the last few years – fires, hurricanes, tornados, and winter storms. CERT played a significant part in helping with recovery from those disasters. CERT teams exist in many areas of the country, as well as here in North Carolina, helping wherever needed when requested or directed by first responders. We can work in locations such as shelters, staging emergency evacuation sites, providing food distribution to those in need, basic search and rescue, assistance in transport, and other tasks, for which members are trained.

While Lee County is relatively small, our CERT team is composed of residents from different areas of the county, all for the same mission. That said, we need more participants. The majority are from one small portion of Lee County (Carolina Trace). We are also looking for members from other outlying areas: Lemon Springs, Tramway, as well as the more rural areas of the county.

CERT training is not difficult. Classes usually take only two weekends of your time: two Friday evenings, and two Saturdays. The classes are given by experienced CERT Instructors and experts in the subject matter. Classes include Fire Safety, Disaster Preparedness, First Aid, Search & Rescue and much more. Nothing taught is difficult for most people, regardless of age. The only age requirement is that members must be at least 18 years old.

Training is provided through Central Carolina Community College's Emergency Services Training Center and is free of charge to Lee County residents.

Additional classes are provided throughout the year with topics such as: CPR, Ham Radio Basics, Drone operations, and Personal Safety.

We invite you to check us out on Facebook! [CERT Lee County NC](#)

For further information and to sign up, please contact Penny Turner, pbturner@windstream.net.