



BERRIEN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release For Immediate Release

Date: 10/09/2018
RE: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training being offered to Berrien County Citizens
Media Contact: Capt. Rockey Adams (269) 983-7111 x4916 or radams1@berriencounty.org

The Berrien County Office of Emergency Management is pleased to announce Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training, delivered in partnership with the Berrien County Firefighters Training Council.

Date(s): 7 Sessions all on Tuesdays and Thursdays; beginning October 16, 2018 and ending November 06, 2018. A graduation ceremony will be held Saturday November 10, 2018.

Time: 6:00 PM to about 9:00 PM (9AM on Nov 18 for Graduation Day)

Cost: Free

Location: Berrien Springs – Oronoko Twp Public Safety Building; 4411 E. Snow Rd.

Pre-Register Required. Visit [bcsheiff.org](http://www.bcsheiff.org) and click on the Emergency Management Division CERT page. (Direct Link: <http://www.berriencounty.org/1518/2018-CERT-Academy>) Contact us at bcoem@berriencounty.org if further help is needed.

The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. The students will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Also, many businesses have started CERT Teams to help with their emergency response during a disaster and become, essentially, emergency responders for that business. "CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people." said Capt. Rockey Adams, the Coordinator of the Berrien County Sheriff's Dept., Emergency Management Division. "Disasters affect different people in many different ways. As more people learn about how disasters may affect them and how to cope with them, the community as a whole will become more resilient to disasters. Recent disasters have highlighted why it is important for the whole community to be better prepared" Capt. Adams added.

The CERT Program educates people in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. The students will learn about CERT groups and volunteer opportunities available to them during the class.

For more information on the National CERT program, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams/> also, visit www.bcsheiff.org

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