



## **North Kansas City Community Emergency Response Team (NKC CERT)**

The City of North Kansas City would like to introduce the new Community Emergency Response Team (NKC CERT) to the people and businesses of North Kansas City.

With the beginning of the New Year, North Kansas City will be starting the process of creating, outfitting, recruiting and training citizens to participate in our Community Emergency Response Team. Currently, there are already teams in operation in Platte County, Gladstone, Liberty, and Smithville, Missouri in the Northland. North Kansas City will be the fifth team to come on-line.

We are looking for citizens who are patriotic, outgoing, motivated and are interested in serving their community as a volunteer.

In the days and months ahead, we will be distributing additional information as our team takes shape. North Kansas City would like interested volunteers from our residential communities, church community, school community and our business community to participate. This is an opportunity to meet your friends and neighbors, obtain valuable knowledge about disaster preparedness and response and play a valuable role in supporting your hometown.

Community Emergency Response Teams are a segment of what the Federal Government identifies as a National Culture of Preparedness which includes individual readiness and preparedness for at least 96 hours after an incident. Research on preparedness shows that people who believe themselves "prepared" for disasters often aren't as prepared as they think. 40% of survey respondents did not have household plans, 80% had not conducted home evacuation drills, and nearly 60% did not know their communities evacuation routes.

Our nation's emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement, EMT/Paramedics, and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they can't do it alone.

### **WHAT IS CERT?**

The Community Emergency Response Team (NKC CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them 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.

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. The Community Emergency Response Team (NKC CERT) program is an all-risk, all-hazard training program. This valuable course is designed

to help you protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, your neighborhood, and possibly your business in an emergency situation.

CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and their actions can make a difference. While people will respond to others in need without the training, one goal of the CERT program is to help them do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger. In CERT training, citizens learn to:

- Manage utilities and put out small fires.
- Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding and treating for shock.
- Provide basic medical aid.
- Search for and rescue victims safely.
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.
- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

### **WHY DO THE CERT TRAINING?**

Well, it's like paying for car insurance. You might never need either; you'd hope not to. But if the occasion arises, having the CERT training, just like having car insurance, means you're as ready as you can be to help yourself, your family and your neighborhood.

The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, if a community wants to supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business, and government teams that, in essence, will be auxiliary responders. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster.