



City of Livonia
Department of Public Safety
Community Emergency
Response Team (CERT)



Thank you for your interest in the Livonia Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program!

We hope this information helps answer your questions regarding the new Livonia CERT program, how it will benefit the community, and what is involved in becoming a CERT volunteer.

What is CERT?

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program educates individuals about disaster preparedness and trains them in essential emergency response skills such as:

- Fire safety
- Light search and rescue
- Team organization
- Disaster medical operations

With this training, CERT members can provide immediate assistance to their families, neighbors, and co-workers when professional responders may be delayed. CERT volunteers also support emergency response agencies and engage in community preparedness projects.

CERT is part of the **Citizen Corps**, a national initiative encouraging Americans to strengthen their communities through active volunteerism and preparedness.

Why Take CERT Training?

While Livonia's first responders are highly trained and capable, large-scale emergencies can stretch resources thin. CERT training empowers individuals with the knowledge and skills to:

- Make informed decisions during emergencies
- Assist others safely and effectively
- Provide immediate help until professional responders arrive

The program enhances the safety and resilience of our community by preparing volunteers to respond with confidence rather than panic.

How Does CERT Benefit Livonia?

CERT-trained citizens are more aware of local hazards and how to reduce their impact. In the event of a disaster, CERT volunteers:

- Support their families and neighborhoods
- Provide valuable information to first responders

- Help coordinate community recovery efforts

Real-world example: During hurricanes in Florida, CERT volunteers from across the country assisted emergency personnel with evacuations, donation management, food preparation, and logistical support.

Beyond emergencies, CERT members can also volunteer at community events like the **Livonia Spree**, parades, and sports activities, and participate in ongoing training and drills.

What Training Is Required?

To become a CERT member, you must complete a **20-hour Basic CERT Training Course**, taught by professional emergency responders over several sessions.

Topics include:

- Emergency first aid and medical operations
- Fire suppression and safety
- Search and rescue techniques
- Disaster psychology and team leadership

Who Can Participate?

CERT training is ideal for:

- Neighborhood watch members
- School staff and workplace teams
- Faith-based and community groups
- Scout leaders and civic organization members

If you **live or work in Livonia**, you're welcome to join—no special background is required

What If I Have Physical Limitations?

Absolutely—you can still contribute meaningfully to the team. Roles are available that don't require physical activity, such as:

During training, if a physical task presents difficulty, simply notify your instructor. Observational learning is also encouraged, and all forms of participation are valued.

- Documentation and communication
- Logistics and coordination
- Event planning and data management

Are Minors Eligible?

At this time, all CERT participants must be **at least 18 years old**. We hope to develop a youth program in the future.

Is There a Cost?

No—training is completely free. We encourage all Livonia residents to attend these valuable classes to better prepare themselves and their families for emergencies.

How to Get Started

If you're ready to join, please complete the **Application for Volunteer Participation** included in this packet and return it to the address listed on the form.

Need More Information?

Contact:

Attn: Emergency Preparedness/CERT
Livonia Police Department
15050 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154

Phone: (734) 466-2371

Fax: (734) 466-2117

We look forward to welcoming you to the Livonia CERT program—where community safety starts with you.

References

Please list three professional references.

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Employment or Previous Employment

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Supervisor: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Reason for Leaving: _____

May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?

YES NO

Do you have any professional or prior volunteer experience in any of the following areas? (if so, describe briefly)

- Administration / Business _____
- Construction / Building _____
- Clergy _____
- Fire Service _____
- Law Enforcement _____
- Legal / Paralegal _____
- Marketing / Public Relations _____
- Medical / Emergency Medical _____
- Military _____
- Psychology / Counseling _____
- Other (describe briefly) _____

Do you have other training or expertise you could utilize as a CERT team member? (if so, describe briefly)

What type(s) of work would you be interested in performing as a CERT team member? *(describe briefly)*

Do you have any health problems, disabilities or other circumstances that would prohibit you from fully performing the physical responsibilities of a CERT member? *(if so, describe briefly)*

I further acknowledge that I may be photographed or filmed during the course of the CERT program. I grant full and unlimited permission to the City of Livonia and its agents and affiliates to use my name, photographs, or any other record of participation in the program in any broadcast, telecast, or other account of the program for publicity purposes, without compensation, by placing my initials here: _____

I agree and understand that any work I perform as a CERT member is provided on a voluntary basis, and that I do not expect payment or other compensation for performing any work. I also understand that a volunteer position does not constitute an employee-employer relationship with the City of Livonia, and that I serve at the discretion of the Director of Emergency Management and/or the Officer- In-Charge of the Livonia Police Department's Community Services Bureau. If I am currently a City employee, I know that any volunteer work to be performed is outside of my regular job classification, and is separate from any paid work responsibility/compensation.

I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application and any supporting documents. I understand that a background check may be conducted, and release all parties from any liability arising from such investigation.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement For the City of Livonia Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

The undersigned, in consideration for acceptance, approval and participation in the City of Livonia's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, does hereby agree to this consent, waiver and release of liability.

Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk

I recognize that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program will involve physical activity and labor and may carry a risk of personal injury. I further recognize that there are natural disasters and man-made hazards, environmental conditions, diseases and other risks, which in combination with my actions can cause injury to me. I hereby agree to assume all risks, which may be associated with or may result from my participation in the CERT program. I am not aware of any physical or medical condition that would interfere with my ability to participate in the Livonia CERT program.

Waiver and Release of Liability.

I agree to waive, release and discharge the City of Livonia, City departments, officers, employees, agents, sponsors, representatives, affiliates, directors, governors, volunteers, and employees (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Parties Released"), from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of actions, whatsoever, for any personal injury, death or property damage arising out of my participation in this Program.

Consent

I, the undersigned participant, am freely signing this agreement. I have read this agreement and fully understand that by signing it I am giving up legal rights and/or remedies, which may otherwise be available to me regarding any losses I may sustain as a result of my participation in the CERT program. I agree that if any portion of this agreement is held invalid, the remainder will continue in full legal force and effect.

Printed Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

Date

The Livonia Community Emergency Response Team is dedicated to upholding a Code of Conduct that encompasses commitment to service, ethical behavior, respect and diversity, confidentiality, safety, professionalism, continuous learning, teamwork, compliance with regulations, and active community engagement.

As members of the Livonia Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), we are committed to serving our community during times of crisis and community events with dedication, compassion, and professionalism. We will uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, honesty, and integrity in all our interactions with team members, emergency responders, and the public. We will treat all individuals with respect, dignity, and fairness, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances. We value and embrace diversity within our team and the community we serve. We will maintain strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information, respecting the privacy of individuals and families affected by emergencies. We prioritize the safety and well-being of ourselves, fellow team members, and those we assist. We will adhere to safety protocols and procedures at all times. We will conduct ourselves in a professional manner, following established guidelines, protocols, and standards of practice set forth by the CERT program. We are committed to continuous learning and improvement, staying updated on emergency response techniques, procedures, and best practices. We value teamwork, collaboration, and effective communication within our team and with external partners to ensure coordinated and efficient emergency response efforts. We will comply with all local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and directives related to emergency response activities.

We will actively engage with the community, promoting preparedness, resilience, and a culture of mutual support and cooperation during emergencies.

By adhering to this Livonia Community Emergency Response Team Code of Conduct, we demonstrate our dedication to serving our community and contributing to a safer and more resilient community.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____