

# Campus-Community Emergency Response Team (C-CERT)



# What is CERT?

The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program exists to educate people about disaster preparedness:

- Facts about what to expect following a major disaster.
- Their role in mitigation and preparedness.
- Training in life saving skills.
- Organizing teams so that they are an extension of first responder services.



# The Campus CERT Connection



Every campus community is a “city within a city”, with many of the same challenges to public health and safety faced by any other community along with some unique risks and vulnerabilities.



# The Campus CERT connection...

- Research shows that colleges/universities across the country have experienced many critical incidents, emergencies and disasters from man-made and natural hazards. The list includes:
  - Major fires
  - Earthquakes
  - Hurricanes
  - Floods
  - Hazardous materials incidents
  - Civil disturbances
  - Domestic terrorist attacks.



# Michigan State University C-CERT Grant

Effective October 1, 2005, the School of Criminal Justice, at Michigan State University (MSU) was awarded a two-year, competitive training grant for \$1,539,461 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Grants & Training to develop and deliver a Campus Community Emergency Response Team Train-the-Trainer Program for American colleges and universities nationwide.

# MSU's C-CERT Train-the-Trainer Program

- The three-day C-CERT Train-the-Trainer Program
- The program targets campus police, public safety, security, fire service, or other appropriate personnel
- This program is open to academic institutions of higher learning of all types.



# C-CERT Train-the-Trainer Program Curriculum



- Within the three day course, the following topics are presented emphasizing the campus environment:
  - Adult Learning & Educational Methodology
  - Campus CERT Issues & Implementation
  - CERT Instructor Guide Overview
  - Disaster Simulation Demonstrations

# C-CERT Train-the-Trainer Program Curriculum



- Two participant “Teach-Backs” are required for course completion:
  - Lecture-Based Units of CERT (1-8)
  - Disaster Simulation



The C-CERT Train-the-Trainer program has a strong hands-on component and emphasizes participant networking and the sharing of information and experiences throughout the class.



# The C-CERT Course Emphasizes Campus Hazards and Vulnerabilities

Each campus is unique:

- Large transient or resident populations.
- Large capacity sports stadiums and arenas.
- Critical Infrastructure.
- Research facilities.
- Visiting dignitaries or others.
- Transportation facilities.
- Satellite campuses or facilities.





# Addresses the Recruiting and Training of C-CERT Members

- Who will be recruited? Faculty, staff and/or students, others?
- What are the appropriate roles?
- How will they be organized and deployed?
- What issues must be addressed?
- How will the concept be sustained?

# Explores Possible C-CERT Functions

- Traffic / Crowd management
- Building / Campus Evacuations
- Emergency Response
- Non-Emergency Events



# Reviews Potential C-CERT / ICS Interfaces


- Fundamental response.
  - NIMS mandate.
  - The time for planning is now.
- Disaster preparations.
  - Initial focus must be with family, neighborhood, then community.
  - Call back methods.



# Highlights Team-Building Preparation

- Legal Issues
  - Authority to operate
  - Legal coverage
- Operational Issues
  - Interface with other organizations
- Community Focus
  - Community leadership
  - Emergency Operations Center





# Addresses Issues Of Liability and Injury

- How would members be covered in your jurisdiction?
- Make clear the authority and scope of operation of team members.
- What is the scope of the “Good Samaritan” law in your state?
- Is there a possibility of attaching the team to an existing campus group?

# C-CERT Program Management

- Responsible leadership with proper authority must be designated.
  
- C-CERT may be organized/administered under:
  - Campus police, fire or public safety department
  - Campus emergency management office
  - Community relations or outreach office
  - Environmental/occupational health and safety office
  - Local police/fire department or Red Cross chapter





# Selling The Program

- Support from the top is essential
- Development of “Champions” and other members
- Visibility
- Participation



# Best Practices

- Finding funding sources
- Adding C-CERT to the curriculum
- Integration with Citizen Corps
- Community Outreach

# C-CERT Equipment

- Each participant is issued a C-CERT Backpack containing the following equipment, including PPE (personal protection equipment) which is labeled and fitted:
  - C-CERT helmet
  - CERT vest
  - Gloves
  - Safety goggles
  - Belly-pack First Aid Kit w/ trauma dressing, splints and latex free gloves
  - M-90 Dura-Masks
  - EMS scissors
  - 4 in 1 tool
  - Duct tape and marking pencil
  - Whistle/compass
  - Rain poncho
  - Flashlight and batteries



# Important Websites

- CERT
  - [www.citizencorps.gov/cert](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert)
- MSU C-CERT
  - [www.c-cert.msu.edu](http://www.c-cert.msu.edu)



# Summary

- CERT and the Campus Connection
- C-CERT Train-the-Trainer Program
- Campus Annex
  - Campus vulnerabilities
  - ICS and EOC Interfaces
  - Program Management
  - Team Building
  - Selling the Program
  - Best Practices
  - Funding and Equipment