



## CERT Frequently Asked Questions



Dear Sir or Madam:

I want to thank you for your interest in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The Bentonville Fire Department, in conjunction with the Benton County Department of Emergency Management, is proud to provide CERT training to individuals in and around our community. I trust the following information will help you better understand the CERT program.

### **What is CERT?**

The intent of CERT is to provide students with knowledge and skills that prepare them to sustain themselves, their family, and their neighbors through the days following a disaster.

In the event of a large disaster, the resources of your emergency response agencies, i.e. Fire Department and Police Department, will be limited in their ability to respond to all emergencies as quickly as normal. By obtaining training through the CERT program, you will learn how to help victims of a disaster and how to minimize the possibility of becoming a victim yourself.

### **When are CERT classes?**

The CERT class series are offered at the fire department twice per year. They are conducted on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 9:00. The spring class series begin on the first Thursday of April, and summer series begin on the first Thursday of August. Each class series consists of seven nights of classroom instruction and hands-on training.

### **Must I attend all sessions?**

To receive a CERT certification, you need to attend all of the sessions in your selected class.

### **Where are CERT classes held?**

CERT classes are conducted in the training facility at the main fire station in Bentonville. It is located at 800 SW A St.

### **How do I apply to take a CERT class?**

Applications are located on the City of Bentonville's web site at [www.bentonvillear.com](http://www.bentonvillear.com), or may be obtained by contacting the fire department at (479)-271-3151.



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### **How much does it cost?**

CERT classes are offered free of charge. All it will cost you is your time and effort.

### **How can I get even more information about CERT?**

The following website address will take you to the Citizen Corps official CERT website. It may provide you with more detailed information about the CERT program.

<https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/about.shtm>

If you have questions, please contact me at the number at the bottom of this letter or via email at [bjhyde@bentonvillear.com](mailto:bjhyde@bentonvillear.com).

Again, thank you for your interest in the CERT program.

Sincerely,

Division Chief BJ Hyde  
Training Officer  
Bentonville Fire Department  
479-271-5921