



Public Safety Communications
and Emergency Management

Arlington Community Emergency Response Team

Created in the wake of 9/11 in 2002 by concerned residents, Arlington CERT volunteers work with the Arlington County government in building a more resilient community through preparedness and response activities.

Who We Are

Arlington Community Emergency Response Team (Arlington CERT) is a diverse, trained volunteer group composed of 300+ Arlington community members. More than 1,200 community members have gone through the training to become volunteers and have contributed more than 24,000 hours.



Volunteer Training

Volunteers must complete our 30-hour CERT Basic Training (CBT), a national curriculum developed by FEMA.

CBT covers emergency preparedness and basic disaster response skills, including fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Interactive, in-person classes are taught by local public safety personnel and volunteers twice a year.



Verification + Credentialing

All volunteers have passed national and state sex offender checks. Upon completion of their training, volunteers receive a CERT ID, t-shirt, backpack, and safety vest.



Organization

Arlington CERT is sponsored by the Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management (DPSCEM) and collaboratively managed by DPSCEM staff and Arlington CERT volunteers. Volunteers are organized into 9 neighborhood teams which are led by volunteer leaders.

Our Impact

Community Outreach

- Teaches hands-on lifesaving skills workshops (Until Help Arrives)
- Delivers emergency preparedness presentations (First 15)
- Engages with the public at local events and fairs (e.g., Arlington County Fair)

Emergency Response

- Provides critical support during local emergencies (e.g., COVID, 2019 flooding)
- Provides standby support for reoccurring large events requiring large public safety presence (e.g., July 4th, elections)
- Enhances first responder training (e.g., survivor acting, admin support, moulage)

Continuing Education

- Refines volunteer emergency response skills through repeated training and drills
- Promotes volunteer continuing education through resource sharing and engagement opportunities

Join Us!

Visit us at [ArlingtonCERT.com](https://www.ArlingtonCERT.com) | Contact us at CERT@arlingtonva.us