

**Springfield-Greene County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Code of Conduct**



Purpose: The purpose of this form is to detail the conduct expected of individuals volunteering under the auspices of CERT. The CERT is an extension of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (SGF-GC OEM).

Individuals volunteering for, activated by or representing the CERT shall adhere to the following policies. All CERT members will sign this document to indicate that they understand and agree to abide by the codes identified within this document. Incident Commanders or supervising authority (CERT Branch Director or designee) will have the authority to deactivate any activated CERT representative for behavior(s) that is contrary to the code of conduct based on their discretion:

1. Individuals shall project a professional manner and appearance while participating in any CERT-related activities. The following will not be tolerated while on site at a disaster, conference or other activity where SGF-GC OEM, CERT, or CART is being represented:
 - a. Consumption of or imbibing of any substance that may alter mental, emotional or physical capacities and/or capabilities in such a way as to create an unsafe or unprofessional behavior and or an unsafe work environment.
 - b. Violation of any laws, most especially with respect to illegal drugs or illegal firearm usage and display.
 - c. Public outbursts, public derogatory remarks about other organizations or individuals.
 - d. Any behavior or language considered to be sexual harassment.
 - e. Any behavior of language considered to be inappropriate by supervising authority.
2. Individuals shall identify operations that are beyond their capabilities based on their experience, training and knowledge, and will provide and carry professional credentials during activation. Individuals shall observe all safety rules and regulations and be familiar with proper usage and operation of all equipment.
3. Individuals shall be expected to accept assignments and/or orders as directed by the supervising authority or, if required, make discretionary decisions based on appropriate intent and good judgment. Any discretionary actions being taken by any individual must be reported as appropriate.
4. Individuals, while representing CERT, will not otherwise participate in operations that serve to promote personal gains or ideologies.
5. Individuals shall not enter private properties to perform CERT duties without first seeking permission from the owner. In lieu of owner permission, individuals may enter private property with consent of supervising authority (e.g., local emergency manager or designee) or accompanied by a law enforcement escort.

6. Individuals shall remain in contact with the appropriate ICS authority, and confine their activities to the stated mission, objectives, and directives of the Incident Action Plan.
7. All individuals shall wear current identification, preferably CERT badge and CERT t-shirt, while on site for a disaster.
8. Individuals will be required to document or participate in documentation associated with a deployment in a timely manner, and submit documentation to commander.
9. Individuals shall not transport animals to facilities other than the ones that have been assigned by the supervising authority without permission from the supervising authority.
10. Individuals shall refrain from taking photographs out of respect for the privacy of the owner. Any photos that are made will not be used for public display without the expressed written permission of the owner. Photos taken on any scene or activation can result in confiscation of the property used to take the photos by a law enforcement officer and can result in deactivation of CERT membership.
11. In situations in which an animal(s) is rescued and transported from a property without prior permission, individuals participating in such rescue must leave notification of the removal of the animal or disturbance of the property on the property in the most visible area possible.
12. Individuals shall not accept personal gratuities. All personal donations shall be directed to the CERT Treasurer.