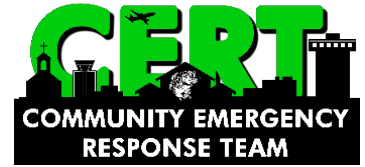


Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management



CERT Code of Conduct



Purpose

The Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) is a citizen volunteer program under the authority of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. The program utilizes volunteers to supplement and support overall emergency response and special event participation.

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 CERT shall adhere to the following.

- 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:
 - Consumption of or imbibing in 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.
 - Violation of any laws, most especially with respect to illegal drugs or illegal firearm usage and display.
 - Public outbursts, public derogatory remarks about other organizations or individuals.
 - Any behavior or language considered to be sexual harassment.
 - Any behavior of language considered to be inappropriate by supervising authority.
- 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.
- 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 done within the confines of their training and be reported to the team leader as appropriate.
- Individuals, while representing CERT, will not otherwise participate in operations that serve to promote personal gains or ideologies.
- 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.

- 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.
- While on-site for a disaster, all individuals shall wear current identification, preferably CERT badge, CERT vest, and CERT t-shirt.
- Individuals will be required to document or participate in documentation associated with a deployment in a timely manner and submit documentation to the incident commander via the team/task force lead.
- Individuals who are not members of CART (CERT Animal Rescue Team) shall not transport animals to facilities other than the ones that have been assigned by the supervising authority without permission from the supervising authority.
- Individuals shall refrain from taking photographs of identifiable persons or property (such as buildings or vehicle license plates). Any photos that are taken will not be used for public display without the expressed written permission of the owner.
 - If it is necessary to take photographs, such as working as part of a CART team or doing assigned damage assessment, those photographs are the property of CERT and the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management and must have approval from both of those agencies prior to use.
 - Unauthorized 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.
- 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 as outlined in CART standard operating procedures.
 - Documentation of said notice must be made as outline in CART standard operating procedures.
- Individuals shall not accept personal gratuities. All personal donations shall be directed to the CERT Program Manager, who will turn them over to the Administrative Manager and send them to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks for disbursement.

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.

All CERT members will sign and submit an acknowledgement of receipt of this code of conduct, indicating they understand and agree to abide by the codes identified within this document.