

A world map is centered on the slide, rendered in a light blue color against a darker blue background. The background features a subtle hexagonal pattern. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Disaster Preparedness

Community Emergency Response Team

Unit Objectives

- Describe the types of hazards to which your community is vulnerable
- Describe the functions of CERTs
- Identify preparedness steps



Preparing for a Disaster

CERTs should prepare by:

- Identifying potential hazards in their homes and workplaces
- Reducing hazards, where possible
- Developing a disaster supply kit




A vertical graphic on the left side of the slide showing a world map. The top half is in shades of cyan and blue, while the bottom half is in darker blue. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

Responding To a Disaster

CERTs should respond by:

- Locating and turning off utilities, if safe
- Extinguishing small fires
- Treating injuries
- Conducting light search and rescue
- Helping to relieve survivor stress

A stylized world map in shades of blue and green, centered on the Atlantic Ocean, serving as a background for the slide.

Non-Disaster CERT Roles

CERT members can:

- Distribute preparedness materials
- Staff first aid booths at special events
- Assist with installation of smoke alarms

Citizen Corps

- The President has encouraged Americans to volunteer to improve and safeguard the nation.
- Areas of emphasis for volunteer efforts:
 - **Crime**
 - **Natural Disasters**
 - **Terrorism**



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Additional CERT Training Opportunities

- Shelter management
- Community relations
- Donations management
- Special needs concerns
- Debris removal
- Utilities control
- Advanced first aid
- Automated External Defibrillator use
- CPR Skills

Course Review

The scope of this course includes:

- Fire Safety
- Disaster medical operations
- Light Search and rescue
- CERT organization
- Disaster psychology
- CERTs and terrorism



Types of Disasters

- Natural
- Manmade
- Technological



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Key Elements of Disasters

- They are relatively unexpected
- Emergency personnel may be overwhelmed
- Lives, health and the environment are endangered

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Effects on Infrastructure

Damage to transportation

- Inability to assess damage accurately
- Ambulances prevented from reaching victims
- Police prevented from reaching areas of civil unrest
- Fire departments prevented from getting to fires
- Interruption to the flow of needed supplies

Effects on Infrastructure

Damage to structures:

- Damaged hospitals unable to function
- Increased risk of damage from falling debris



Effects on Infrastructure

Disrupted communication:

- Victims unable to call for help
- Coordination of services hampered



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Effects on Infrastructure

Damage to utilities:

- Loss of utilities
- Increased risk of fire or electrical shock
- Loss of contact between victims and service providers
- Inadequate water supply
- Increased risk to public health

Effects on Infrastructure

Damage to fuel supplies:

- Increased risk of fire or explosion from fuel line rupture
- Risk of asphyxiation



A vertical graphic on the left side of the slide showing a world map. The map is rendered in shades of blue and white, with the continents visible against a dark blue background. The top of the map is lighter, suggesting a sky or light effect.

Hazards from Home Fixtures

- Gas line ruptures from displaced water heaters or ranges
- Damage from falling books, dishes and other cabinet contents
- Electric shock from displaced appliances
- Fire from faulty wiring, overloaded plugs or frayed electric cords

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Personal Safety

Personal safety measures vary depending on:

- The type of event
- The amount of warning available
- Location during the event (i.e., inside, outside or driving)

Home/Workplace Preparedness

- Structural and non-structural hazard mitigation
- Individual preparedness:
 - Assemble disaster supplies
 - Develop a disaster plan
 - Develop a safe room



A vertical graphic on the left side of the slide showing a stylized world map in shades of blue and white, with a bright light effect at the top.

Sample Structural Hazard Mitigation

- Bolt older houses to the foundations
- Strap propane tanks
- Raise utilities
- Strap mobile homes to their slabs
- Ask a professional to check foundation, roof connectors, chimney, etc.

A vertical graphic on the left side of the slide showing a stylized world map in shades of blue and white, with a bright light effect at the top.

Sample Non-Structural Hazard Mitigation

- Anchor heavy furniture
- Secure appliances and office equipment
- Secure cabinet doors with childproof fasteners
- Locate and label gas, electricity and water shutoffs
- Secure water heaters and have flexible gas lines installed

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The Emergency Operation Plan (EOP)

- Assigns responsibility to organizations and individuals
- Sets forth lines of authority
- Describes how people and property will be protected
- Identifies personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies and other resources

CERTs in a Disaster Setting

- Assist first responders when requested
- Initially assume many of the same functions as response personnel when necessary until help arrives:
 - **Fire Safety**
 - **Light Search and Rescue**
 - **Disaster Medical Operations**



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Summary

- CERTs are among a variety of agencies and personnel who cooperate to provide assistance in the aftermath of a disaster
- CERTs have proven themselves invaluable in the areas in which they were tested
- CERTs have become a key component of the Citizen Corps program