
Becoming a CERT Volunteer in Kern County

THE MISSION OF KERN COUNTY CERT

The Mission of the CERT program in Kern County is to proudly serve our communities:

1. Through support for the community during non-emergency events and hosting preparedness activities
2. Through safe response to emergency situations in support of KCFD and other sponsoring agencies

CERT Volunteers fulfill this mission by:

- Training and exercising with their Team to maintain their skills.
- Serving with their Team at planned events, festivals, etc. to promote preparedness in the community and assist with support of the event.
- Responding with KCFD to assist in the community by performing a specific assignment during or in the aftermath of a disaster.

HOW TO BECOME A CERT VOLUNTEER

Participants who attend and complete the entire CERT Basic Training classroom and wish to join a Local Team are required to complete all the following steps in sequence within the stated timeframes:

1. Complete the four minimum additional training courses within 90 days:
 - IS-100, Intro to Incident Command System (Online)
 - IS-700, NIMS, An Introduction (Online)
 - Standard First Aid with CPR/AED, Adult CPR (Classroom)
 - American Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals (Classroom or ARC Volunteer course)
2. Once all training is complete,
 - Turn in copies of the training certificates of completion
 - Fill out the KCFD CERT Application, the Kern County CERT Code of Conduct, and other paperwork assurances (Anti-Harassment, Privacy, etc.).
3. Take the assigned Live Scan forms for fingerprinting, completed within 30 days.
4. The KCFD Investigations Unit performs a criminal background check.
5. When a satisfactory background is returned, make an appointment with KCFD to be sworn in as a Disaster Service Worker.

Before the above is completed, the volunteer cannot participate as a CERT Volunteer in any activations, exercises, or trainings. They can participate in planned events, training, and exercises but may not have liability coverage and should not wear CERT gear.

MAINTENANCE OF CERT VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP

All CERT volunteers are required to maintain themselves and their own household in a state of readiness, as their first responsibility is to their own. As a part of this, CERT volunteers are required to maintain their assigned and personal equipment in good working order.

CERT volunteers are required to participate in meetings, trainings, and exercises with their Teams in order to maintain a state of readiness, maintain their training and connection with their local Team, and maintain their Disaster Service Worker status.

The minimum participation for individual volunteers will be at least 20 hours per year, divided amongst the various meetings, events, responses, trainings, and exercises by their Team, with other Teams within the County, or with KCFD CERT events.