



# American Legion Auxiliary

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## NATIONAL SECURITY



### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SUPPORT TOOLS

A collection of resources from National Headquarters to assist and guide members and volunteers in serving veterans, servicemembers and their families.

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## How to Train for a Federal Emergency Management Agency Community Emergency Response Team

### Background Information:

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), through its National Security Program, calls upon ALA members to maintain strong communities at home. Part of that includes being prepared for natural and man-made emergencies that might occur.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed a program to prepare citizens for emergency response. FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates community members on disaster preparedness in their local communities. Training is offered on four topics: fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Once trained, CERT members can assist their communities in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Training in community emergency response is a great way for an individual ALA member to fulfill her service obligation independent of others. It's also a great opportunity for an ALA unit to organize a group of ALA members to train together.

### Register For A CERT Training:

1. Go to <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>. Click on "Find Nearby CERT Programs"
2. You will be redirected to a page where you can input your zip code. This page will produce a list of CERT programs near you.
3. Once you select a local program, you will be provided contact information.
  - a. The number, type, duration, and frequency of trainings vary by local program.
4. Contact the designated individual to register and begin training.

### Promote ALA and Report Your Impact:

The ALA encourages members serving as CERT members to identify themselves as such, as doing so brings visibility of ALA to community members who may not know us.

Please also be sure to report your volunteer activities and hours to your unit's National Security Chairperson, the committee with oversight of ALA's homeland security activities.

### Resources:

- <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>