

## Alameda County Fire Department's CERT Program

*Serving the cities of San Leandro, Dublin  
Newark, Union City and the Unincorporated  
Areas of Alameda County*



**What is CERT?** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994 from the model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Since then, CERT programs have been established in hundreds of communities nationwide. The purpose of CERT is to train people living in Alameda County to take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster.

**Why Do We Need CERT?** After several large scale disasters such as 9/11, the Oakland Hills Fire and the Loma Prieta earthquake, there was a realization that not all emergency services personnel will be able to reach everyone right away. By attending CERT training classes, you will learn the skills to help save lives and protect property. As a CERT team member, you can participate in disaster drills and exercises and help your community that you live in by volunteering.

**CERT Training** – CERT members are taught by Alameda County Fire Department staff and its Reserves. CERT members are taught basic fire suppression, utility control, light search and rescue, triage and shock treatment. Other topics include putting together your own disaster kit, disaster psychology and disaster incident management. The training involves attending all six evening sessions for a total of ~20 hours. The training format is lectures, interactive skills based training, and it concludes with a hands-on exercise to practice the skills that were just learned.

**Who can be a CERT member?** Anyone who is at least 18 years of age or older can participate. CERT is ideal for organized community groups such as Neighborhood Watch, home owner's associations, community based organizations, civic or advocacy groups, condominium owners and dense urban housing complex residents.

To sign up for CERT classes or to schedule a [Personal Emergency Preparedness \(PEP\) class \(2 hour\) for your group](#), call Alameda County Fire Department at 510-618-3490.

**When:** Thursday Evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm  
**Dates:** Starting January 20<sup>th</sup> until February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
**Where:** Castro Valley Library  
3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley, Ca 94546  
**Cost:** No Charge  
**Register:** By phone (510-618-3490) or by email:  
[marla.blagg@acgov.org](mailto:marla.blagg@acgov.org)