

Thank you for considering becoming a CERT volunteer. CERT is a community-based initiative aimed at making Marco Island a safer place to live: the Marco Island Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). When an emergency or disaster occurs, Marco Island CERT members will be trained to give critical support to responders and provide immediate assistance in a coordinated manner. In addition, CERT members may assist with emergency preparedness projects. CERT is intended to improve the overall safety of participating communities. Take a moment and look at the information contained within this brochure and become involved in the CERT program. Through coordinated efforts, collaboration, and education, Marco Island will be a stronger, more resilient island ready to better handle emergency situations. Be educated, prepared, and safe. Support CERT.

Steve Fickling

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**JOIN
THE
CERT
TEAM
TODAY!**



"Able to Help"



CERT members enjoy volunteering

**SPONSORED BY
THE CITY OF MARCO ISLAND
FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

Call 239-389-5040



WHAT IS CERT?

CERT is a group of community people receiving special training and organized to recognize, respond and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation. Few CERT members have had previous emergency experience. CERT is organized under the direction and leadership of the Marco Island Fire-Rescue Department, and is supported by county, state and federal emergency management administrations.

CERT members during a training drill



CERT members learning first aid

Citizens volunteers are training by emergency responder personnel in techniques that will help them take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors before, during and after major emergencies, i.e. hurricanes, tornadoes and terrorist incidents.

As an organized team, CERT members provide vital services in conjunction with emergency responders, whose arrival may be delayed due to the scope of the situation. Services such as:

- Recognizing potential hazards and taking appropriate action.
- Taking steps to get to safety and helping others to do so in an organized fashion.
- Administrating triage and first aid to victims.
- Identifying, organizing and utilizing available resources.
- Performing needs assessment, documenting and communicating to local authorities.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Training involves seven weekly classes given by the Marco Island firefighters and rescue personnel. Lecture is supported by visuals, video and practical and team building exercises whenever possible.

Curriculum includes; disaster effect and response; disaster medical operations; light search and rescue; fire suppression, utility control and safety; pre and post storm planning and final mock disaster drill.

After graduation students join previously trained members of Marco CERT, who meet from time to time for skill practices and new information. All CERT members are fully equipped with protective gear provided by the Marco Island Fire-Rescue Department.



CERT members learn about fire suppression