

# **OSERT**

**(Oceana Senior Emergency Response Team)**

## **Emergency Preparedness Information**



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# About Oceanside CERT

In 2005, a “grass roots” effort was started by a few concerned citizens that requested the Oceanside Fire Department to consider starting and supporting a civilian disaster preparedness training program called CERT. After some discussion and support from the City’s Police and Fire Commission, the program was approved and the “daunting task” of setting up the program was assigned to then Fire Captain Joe Urban. The program was initially funded by a County grant and supported with a small budget from the Fire Department. After much planning and work, the first class was delivered in the Fall of 2005 and it graduated about 25 citizens.

Since then, the program has grown to support a volunteer organization called “Oceanside CERT” which now has an elected board of directors to oversee and manage the group. They have also recently formed internal working committees (such as Training, Social, Fundraising, Equipment, Communications, Newsletter and Website) that any active member can join and help further the capabilities of Oceanside CERT. The Fire Department will continue to support the program by providing the initial certification training (through a partnership with Palomar College) and hosting the continuing education activities. The Fire Department also serves as the program advisor to the group and as the sponsoring representative to the San Diego County CERT Council.

The program now has over 200 trained community members and City employees. About 125 of these dedicated volunteers are active members that continue to attend quarterly training sessions and participate in various community fairs and PR opportunities. Over the last year, we have trained and organized sub groups of active members to assist in operating community emergency evacuation shelters (if needed) and to help with disaster communications by planning a Ham radio network to be use by active CERT members. We are also planning to reach out to support “partner agencies” like TriCity Hospital, the Oceanside Unified School District, the Vista Unified School District, and The North County Humane Society to get their employees and volunteers trained in CERT to be better prepared.

Our community goal is to provide 2 classes per year to continue to increase our volunteer membership. The hope is to have a CERT volunteer in every neighborhood in our City who can help promote the preparedness message, set a good example of a community volunteer and to come out to help their neighbors in the event of a large scale disaster. We encourage everyone to get their family and friends prepared and trained to help themselves in a disaster.

**Interested in more OSERT disaster preparation training?  
(OSERT) Oceana Senior Emergency Response Team  
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