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**Community Emergency Response Teams** (CERT) are **local volunteers** trained in basic disaster response who aid the efforts of first responders (firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical services) during an **emergency**.

**But** CERT is not limited to emergency response. CERT can help its **community** in all kinds of ways: distributing smoke alarms, cleaning firefighter equipment, staffing first aid booths, providing security at parades and fairs, participating in food drives and fundraisers; the list could go on. CERT is about working together for the **benefit and safety** of the community.

## Citizens trained to help citizens.