

Charter (Draft)

Avon Community Emergency Response Team

Identity -

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the Avon, CT, is a function of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) of the town of Avon, CT., as part of its civil preparedness forces, and as such have taken the loyalty oath required by Conn. Gen. Stat. 28-12.

The CERT is made up of a group of volunteers who have been trained in emergency response techniques by an instructor certified by the Federal Department of Homeland Security or the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). Once trained and sworn, CERT members serve as members of the President's Citizens Corps., and the Emergency Management System of the town.

Purpose -

The CERT is intended to assist community first responders in preparing for , and responding to, disaster relief situations at all levels. Should those primary agencies be out of contact or unavailable, the CERT will render assistance, within the scope of its training, to the citizens of Avon. The particular focus of this CERT, when called on to do so, is the operation and management of the emergency shelter(s) established by the town as part of its Emergency Management Plan.

Definition of Disaster -

A disaster is, but is not limited to, an occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, volcanic eruption, drought, blizzard, pestilence, famine, fire, explosion, building collapse, transportation accident, environmental or other situation that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

Organization -

The CERT is headed by a Team Leader, an Assistant Team Leader and a Secretary, chosen annually by the active members of the CERT from among the active team members. A list of active team members will be maintained and provided, at least annually, to the Avon OEM. To maintain active status, a member must attend at least 50% of CERT meetings, activities and/or exercises in any twelve month period.

Operations -

Whenever the CERT is activated either for training or in the case of an actual emergency, the OEM shall be informed of the date and anticipated times of the activation, the names of the CERT members involved, and the reason for the activation or training request, including details of the proposed activities to be taken, especially in a training situation. The team members who are involved must have received appropriate training under the Local Citizens Corps organization, and have been sworn in under Conn. Gen. Stat. 28-12, or be in training to be sworn in under that section.

When there is a disaster requiring the use of the CERT, the Avon OEM can mobilize the CERT by contacting the Team Leader or his/her designee.

The CERT's assistance may include those actions specified by the Citizens Corps, including but not limited to, alerting and mobilization of CERT volunteer emergency communications, traffic control, crowd control, identification of priority areas for first responders, identification and shut off of utilities, location of fire hydrants, shelter information and evacuation assistance (door to door resident notification and assistance). Once an emergency shelter has been activated, this CERT will forgo other assistance and take responsibility for the activation and management of the emergency shelter(s) with all due dispatch.

When the CERT is activated, the cognizant first responder(s) on the scene, acting as the Incident Commander, will determine which activities CERT will undertake. Where no first responders are present, the Team Leader or his designee, acting as Incident Commander, will direct the activities of the CERT.

The CERT, and where ever possible community first responders, will engage in training, training exercises and drills to develop necessary skills and operational capabilities, will endeavor to make the residents of Avon aware of the existence and purposes of the CERT, and will seek to enlist additional members as needed.

Records will be maintained, and made available to any appropriate authority, stating the activities of the CERT and its members, and the dates thereof, including training, exercises and/or disaster service, the members involved, and the nature of their service.

Membership -

While it is anticipated that the members of the CERT will be residents of Avon, such residency is not a requirement for membership. Members need only be persons eighteen years of age or older in reasonably good health and fitness and willing to make a commitment to train and respond as needed.

To maintain membership, in addition to being CERT trained and attending meetings and

activities as provided above, members need to strive to gain competence in shelter operation and management as well as traffic control, crowd control, the use of our radio system, first-aid, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, medical triaging, the use of a compass and map reading and a knowledge of Avon's emergency response capabilities and organization.

Records will be maintained of each member's training and attendance. There will be an annual assessment of each member's commitment and capabilities, and those found to be lacking will be offered an opportunity to train and/or change prior to relinquishment of membership.

Jwb 12 February 2007