



TSI CERT Training Program

Basic Disaster Academy / CERT Course



The Basic Disaster Academy / CERT Course is the basic training necessary for anyone wanting to become a CERT or become involved with disaster response work. There are no specific prerequisites to this course, but many programs require members to complete ICS 100, 200 and 700. Programs may also require that people formally join the CERT program before completing this training, while other programs conduct the training as a community service with people having the option of joining the CERT program after completing the training. The course is broken up into individual modules, and takes a minimum of 28 hours to complete and 32 hours to administer (typically divided into three 8 hour days, with the drill on a fourth 8 hour day. Each day features a 1 hour lunch break. The student portion of the drill takes 4 1/2 hours.) The training can take longer if modules are expanded to include issues related to local response, or optional modules such as communications or animals in disaster. The course combines both the 2012 and 2019 CERT basic course curriculums and is taught in the order of operations of a disaster response effort.

Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness (2 hrs). Topics include (in part) identifying local disaster threats, disaster impact, mitigation and preparedness concepts, and an overview of Citizen Corps and CERT. Hands on skills include team-building exercises (optional). (2012 Unit 1 / 2019 Unit 1)

Unit 2: CERT Organization (2 hrs). Students are introduced to several concepts from the Incident Command System, and local team organization and communication is explained. Hands-on skills include a table-top or field exercise focusing on incident command and control. (2012 Unit 6 / 2019 Unit 2)

Unit 3: Fire Safety & HAZMAT (3 hrs). Students learn about fire chemistry, mitigation practices, hazardous materials identification, suppression options, and are introduced to the concept of size-up. Hands-on skills include practicing shutting off utilities, using a fire extinguisher to suppress a live flame, and wearing basic protective gear. (2012 Unit 2 / 2019 Unit 6)

Unit 4: Disaster Medical Operations part 1 (3 hrs). Students learn to identify and treat certain life-threatening conditions in a disaster setting, as well as SALT triage. Hands-on skills include performing head-tilt/chin-lift, glove removal, practicing bleeding control techniques (optional), and performing triage as an exercise. (2012 Unit 3 / 2019 Unit 3)

Unit 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations (4 hrs). Size-up is expanded as students learn about assessing structural damage, marking structures that have been searched, search techniques, as well as rescue techniques and cribbing. Hands-on activities include lifting and cribbing an object, search and rescue with integrated triage, and practicing rescue carries. (2012 Unit 5 / 2019 Unit 7)

Unit 6: Disaster Medical Operations part 2 (3 hrs). Topics cover mass casualty operations, public health, assessing patients, and treating injuries. Students practice patient assessment, and various treatment techniques. (2012 Unit 4 / 2019 Unit 4)

Unit 7: Disaster Psychology (1 hr). Responder well-being and dealing with victim trauma are the topics of this unit. (2012 Unit 7 / 2019 Unit 5)

Unit 8: Terrorism and CERT (1.5 hrs). Students learn how terrorists may choose targets, what weapons they may use, and identifying when chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive weapons may have been deployed. Students learn about CERT roles in preparing for and responding to terror attacks. (2012 Unit 8 / 2019 Unit 8)

Unit 9: Course Review, Exam, and Makeup (1.5 hrs) Review course material and discuss the drill. Students then take a written exam (Optional – program specific) as well as complete any makeup. (2012 Unit 9 / 2019 Unit 9)

Unit 10: Disaster Simulation (4.5 hrs). Students participate in a real-time practical disaster simulation where the different skill areas are put to the test. A critique follows the exercise where students and instructors have an opportunity to learn from mistakes and highlight exemplary actions. Students may be given a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the course. (2012 Unit 9 / 2019 Unit 9)

NOTE: Hour totals are average approximations based on groups of up to 20 students. Larger groups may take longer.

Class Format

TSI offers the Basic CERT course in two different formats depending on the needs of the CERT program. The two formats are specific to each module, and modules can be mixed and matched in order to create a custom course if so desired.

Enhanced Format

Although TSI is capable of offering both the 2012 and 2019 FEMA CERT curriculums alone in their original formats (and virtually), we prefer to offer the training in the combined Basic Disaster Academy / CERT format in a classroom setting because it is the most comprehensive. The original FEMA curriculums were designed to be general overviews, with the intention that local programs would add additional information pertinent to their specific program to the curriculum. After many years of offering the stock FEMA curriculums we realized that by changing the order of the modules to match the order of operations during an actual emergency response, adding in additional key information, and combining the two curriculums together; students had better retention and came away from the course more competent with more confidence in their skills. Please contact us if you would like to request a stock 2012 or 2019 Basic CERT course, or any of these courses in a virtual or hybrid format.

Because the hands-on exercises are extremely critical to student learning, we offer this course in-person as our standard format.

Course Materials

Both Basic Disaster Academy and FEMA CERT courses use the same core curriculum, including powerpoints and student guides (available for free download directly from FEMA). Our enhanced course features additional material, and we include copies of these slides with each class we teach to

ensure programs can continue to teach to the same standard. We update these slides every 2 to 4 years, or whenever a new FEMA update occurs.

Class Schedule

Basic Disaster Academy / CERT can be organized in a variety of different ways to fit specific scheduling needs. The most common and one of the most effective is breaking it up into 4 full days. A sample schedule for this format is listed below: **(NOTE: Standard Format Shown)**

Day 1	
Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness	10:00 - 12:00
Lunch Break	12:00 - 1:00
Unit 2: CERT Organization	1:00 - 3:00
Unit 3: Fire Safety	3:00 - 6:00
Day 2	
Unit 4 Disaster Medical Part 1	10:00 - 1:00
Lunch Break	1:00 - 2:00
Unit 5: Light Search & Rescue	2:00 - 6:00
Day 3	
Unit 5: Disaster Medical Part 2	10:00 - 1:00
Lunch Break	1:00 - 2:00
Unit 7: Disaster Psychology	2:00 - 3:00
Unit 8: Terrorism & CERT	3:00 - 4:30
Unit 9: Review, Exam, Makeup	4:30 - 6:00
Day 4	
Drill Setup (Drill Staff Only)	10:00 - 11:30
Lunch Break (Drill Staff Only)	11:30 - 12:30
Students Arrive & Briefing	12:30 - 1:00
Drill	1:00 - 4:00
Debrief and Award Certificates -Students Dismissed-	4:00 - 4:30
Drill Cleanup (Drill Staff Only)	4:30 - 6:00
Notes	
-Depending on time, 5-10 minute breaks will be provided hourly on Days 1-3.	
-Students must provide their own lunch.	
-Drill times vary based on specific drill needs of the program. Above times are based on our most common drill format.	

Equipment & Training Aids

This course requires the use of equipment and training aids to properly complete the exercises in each module. Below is a detailed list of the equipment required for the exercises in each module.

TSI can bring all the equipment and supplies necessary to conduct the course if a program does not have access to them (NOTE: Courses where TSI provides all equipment and supplies are more costly due to the extra expense and logistics). However, it is highly recommended that programs provide their own training equipment and supplies so that students train on the actual equipment that the program will be using. This is especially true for programs that plan on conducting their own Basic CERT courses in the future.

NOTE: If the class is being sponsored by a program that requires our instructors to fly, and the program is not providing the course materials, equipment, or supplies; then the program must cover cost to ship them.

Unit	Required Materials
Unit 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Student workbooks (print or digital) -Heavy duty construction paper and pens to make "table tent" nametags. -Printer type paper and tape for team-building exercise (Exercise is optional) -Basic CERT gear kit (1 per student)
Unit 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Print outs of ICS forms from CERT ICS Forms packet. (Must be enough forms printed for each ICS role to do their job in the scene size-up exercise) -Tabletop models (optional-can be used in place of physical location for scene size-up exercise)
Unit 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gas main trainer (or equivalent utility trainer) for students to practice shutting off utilities. -Live fire extinguishers (1 for every 2 students)

Unit 3 (Cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fire pan (Propane or similar) -Way to ignite fire pan (Road flare duct-taped to a stick works well and allows opportunity to train students how to light a road flare)
Unit 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Nitrile gloves (variety of sizes) -Shave cream (For glove removal exercise) -CPR dummy or manikin to demonstrate opening airway (optional) -Tourniquet trainers (For optional bleeding control exercise – Check program guidelines to ensure tourniquets are authorized for your program) -Triage cards/tags and victim cards for triage exercise (optional)
Unit 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2 to 3 2x4 inch or 4x4 inch boards, 8 feet in length (used as levers for cribbing) -10+ 2x4 inch and 4x4 inch boards, cut 1 or 2 feet in length (used for building cribs in cribbing exercise. Commercial cribbing sets also available) -Manikin, training dummy, or equivalent (victim for cribbing, and carrying exercises) -Triage cards/tags and victim cards for search and rescue exercise (optional) -Portable stretcher, litter, or equivalent (can be made out of sticks and a blanket if purpose-built option isn't available)
Unit 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assorted first aid supplies for bandaging and splinting exercise (Suggested: Feminine hygiene pads, triangle bandages (or handkerchiefs), gauze pads (assorted sizes), ace wrap, cardboard boxes (for splinting), duct tape (for splinting), boxes of Saran Wrap (for splinting), athletic tape, etc.)
Unit 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No specific items needed for this unit.
Unit 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No specific items needed for this unit.
Unit 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Printouts of student exams (optional-program specific)

Final Drill (Support equipment for Drill primarily supplied by host group or agency)	<p>-Physical location to conduct drill</p> <p>-Briefing area (Should be separate but nearby to the drill site, this is where people arrive before the drill begins, and where the debrief occurs and certificates are awarded after the conclusion of the drill)</p> <p>-Moulage/Victim staging area (If possible, victims and survivors should be staged in a separate area from the CERT students before the drill to keep the drill more realistic and to avoid confusion during briefing)</p> <p>-Rubble, debris, and hazards to litter the drill site (Type and quantity dependent on scenario)</p> <p>-Personnel to act as victims and survivors (These people should be brought in for the drill if possible. They will be placed throughout the drill area in a realistic manner for the CERT's to interact with. They should all be given symptoms or injuries consistent with CERT training and the parameters of the drill scenario. If possible, moulage can be used to make the injuries to the victims and survivors more realistic)</p> <p>-Course Completion Certificates for each students (awarded after the debrief to each student that successfully completed the Basic CERT training)</p> <p>-Skill specific equipment (For the incorporation of specific skills into the overall drill exercise) Including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire extinguishers (1 for every 2 students) and a fire pan to practice putting out fires 2. Stretchers for transporting victims from the incident site to medical treatment area 3. Cribbing materials and trapped victims (NOTE: DO NOT USE LIVE VICTIMS FOR CRIBBING EXERCISES) 4. Triage Tarps (or equivalent) for medical treatment site+ 5. Medical treatment materials for medical treatment site (same as what is required for bandaging and splinting exercise in Unit 4, but in greater quantity) 6. ICS forms to implement the ICS system in the drill (optional-program specific) 7. Triage cards/tags and victim cards for managing victims and survivors 8. Any other specific equipment related skills that the CERT program would like to incorporate into the final disaster drill. <p>----Additional Optional Items----</p> <p>-ICS Ops Plan for the drill (Helpful for both running the drill and keeping things organized, as well as familiarization with the ICS structure)</p> <p>-Drill support personnel (Usually trainers or senior people within the CERT program whose job it is to help setup, manage, and cleanup the drill for the CERT students)</p> <p>-Refreshments (Coffee, drinks, and/or snacks provided in the briefing area for participants)</p>
<p>All course training materials are supplied by TSI for the Instructor + Equipment Package and Complete Package. Student emergency kits are only provided for the Complete Package.</p>	

Class Sizes

The optimal class arrangement is 20 students to ensure that students adequately learn the material. For larger groups, instructors can be added at an additional cost, or multiple classes can be done. We also require a minimum of 10 students per class because any less makes the exercises difficult and less effective.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not provide lunch for students taking the class.

Class Cost

Please contact us or visit our website for information on class cost.

For more information, or to request a class, please contact us

Email: TrainingSolutionsInternational@yahoo.com **Phone:** 541-321-0651