



## Camden County, MO CERT Code of Conduct

The Camden County, MO Community Emergency Response Team (CC MO CERT) program is continuing to strive to be one of the most respected CERT programs in the Midwest through the dedication and commitment of its members, who continually train to be a major resource to the Camden County community.

You represent the CC MO CERT program to new members, to the public, and to those to whom we render our services. It is important to portray a **positive and professional image**.

Before anyone becomes a CC MO CERT member they will have to have a background check performed. During the investigation, the individual may continue with all training required. Once the investigation is completed, the member may perform their CERT duties during an emergency.

As a volunteer with the CC, MO CERT program, you are expected to comply with the following:

1. Dial 911 for all emergencies, first and foremost.
2. Know you are not a firefighter or law enforcement officer. You are trained to function as an extension of the fire department or law enforcement office's response to CATASTROPHIC disasters, when such circumstances exist or when directed by emergency services officials. We only will act as an extension to assist where we are able to with our training.
3. When a disaster occurs, your first responsibility is to ensure your own safety and the safety of your family.
  - a. After, you can respond to your designated Incident Command (IC) location to join up with other CERT members.
  - b. You shall not respond to any large incidents without being deployed first.
  - c. Do not self-deploy to local events (fires, accidents, etc.). Only the CERT call-out teams that are requested by the CC MO CERT notification may respond. CCEMA alert messages (email, Twitter, radio, etc.) are not official instructions or authorization to take action.
4. Stay within the scope of your training. You have been trained under the curriculum of FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team program. Additional training by local fire and law enforcement departments has been added to assist them in areas they feel CC MO CERT would be vital to their departments. Confine your actions to those guidelines and stay within the scopes of your training and certification.
5. Bring CERT Pack and additional PPE; wear your personal safety equipment: helmet (no baseball hats), vest, dust mask, goggles, gloves (non-latex and leather), sturdy shoes, long pants, flashlight (with extra batteries), bottled water, non-perishable food, and a set of the CERT forms. Bring any other items you feel appropriate. **Absolutely no shorts, sandals, or open-toed shoes are allowed.**
6. Confine your actions to your physical and resource limitations when responding as a member of CERT. Such limitations may be determined by, but are not limited to, equipment available, physical abilities,

knowledge, authority, and hazards. When checking in at the IC, inform them of your limitations at that time.

7. Conduct yourself with professionalism, dignity, and pride, and act appropriately and responsibly at all times while assisting others.
8. Treat fellow team members, visitors, other volunteer program participants, guests, and property with respect and courtesy.
9. Be sensitive to the diversity of team members and those we assist.
10. Direct anyone who is looking for official statements to the Camden County, MO Emergency Management Agency at the 24/7 Duty Cell 573-836-0178 or office number 573-346-7108.
11. Respect the privacy of persons served by CC MO CERT and hold in confidence all sensitive, private, and personal information.
12. Keep CC MO CERT leadership informed of any progress, concerns, or problems with tasks you have been assigned.
13. Partake of no alcohol or drugs while responding as CERT and do not report for duty while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
14. You are forbidden to carry guns or other weapons. (You can have multi-purpose tools, pliers, screwdrivers, wrenches, etc.) You have been trained for immediate disaster response and there is no need, place, or legal authorization for you to carry or use weapons.
15. You shall not authorize the use of, or the use for the benefit or advantage of any person, the name, emblem, endorsement, services, or property of the CC MO CERT program, without the approval of the CC MO CERT Coordinator or Camden County, MO EMA Director/Deputy Director.
16. You shall not accept, or seek on behalf of any other person, any money or gifts offered as a result of your affiliation with the CC MO CERT program.
17. You shall not use your participation in CC MO CERT to promote any partisan politics, religious matters, or positions on any issue.
18. You shall avoid inappropriate conduct, both on- and off-duty, that would jeopardize program effectiveness. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. Offensive or profane language and gestures.
  - b. Public criticism of a CERT member, its leaders, or the CERT program.
  - c. Jeopardizing another team member's safety.

The Camden County, MO CERT is committed to a policy of fair representation and will not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, age, disability, gender, color, religion, sexual orientation, geography, or group affiliations. Volunteers will adhere to these same standards in the course of their duties.