

## CERT: Disaster Medical Operations

Written by

Monday, 25 August 2014 08:41 - Last Updated Monday, 25 August 2014 08:43

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A partnership between Fort Sill, Lawton/Comanche County Emergency Management, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Medical Emergency Resource Center, the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps and the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security is offering a FREE class on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 10 pm, Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to teach you how to deal with emergency situations. This class is called Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We are conducting this training for the benefit of increasing individual and family preparedness as a culmination of National Preparedness Month. Students must attend all sessions to complete the training and receive credit.

This week our focus is on disaster medical operations part 1. Have you ever been the first person to see an accident either in your neighborhood or on the street? Besides calling 911 which is always the correct thing to do, did you want to or know how to render any immediate assistance before first responders arrived? Have you or a family member ever been injured, by falling out of a tree, falling off of a bicycle, or cutting yourself severely on glass or metal? Did you know how to stop the bleeding or how to stabilize the injured area properly until help could arrive? Is this something that you would like to know how to do?

Did you know that history have proven that 40% of disaster victims can be saved with simple (rapid) medical care? Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START) is one of the many skills that you will learn during the CERT class. You will learn how to apply a simple triage or assessment process that can in fact save a life. The life you may save might be that of a family member or possibly a neighbor, powerful knowledge to help in an accident or emergency situation. We would like you to have that knowledge and skill to be able to render immediate aid until professional first responders arrive on scene.

Besides learning about triage in disaster medical operations part 1, in the CERT class you will learn about individual and family preparedness, fire and utility controls, additional medical and first aid skills, learn how to properly and safely search a structure for injured victims, learn how to live objects off of injured people by using cribbing and shoring materials. You will learn how to organize yourself, your family and your neighborhood to take care of each other until first responders arrive. There is also training on psychology in a disaster and terrorism situations. Just this week California suffered a severe earthquake. California has a very robust CERT program and everyday citizens like you are ready and there to help themselves, their families

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and their neighbors deal with the effects of a disaster. Remember the more you know prior to a disaster and the better you are able to deal with it, the discomfort you and your family will feel will certainly be decreased. There is a place for everyone with the knowledge and skills you learn in the CERT class. We hope to see you in class. To register for the class please use the following link: [http://www.ok.gov/homeland/courses/training\\_event\\_detail.php?event\\_id=990](http://www.ok.gov/homeland/courses/training_event_detail.php?event_id=990)