



## **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life-saving and life sustaining needs. CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

### **Our (Your) CERT Program**

- In 2004, under the auspices of the Milton Township Citizens Corps Council, Milton Township commenced its CERT training, graduating our first team on July 8th of that year. Since then, Milton Township has trained and equipped over 1,200 citizen volunteers. We have partnered with our fellow DuPage County Townships, cities, park districts and the College of DuPage Homeland Security Institute.
- CERT training is offered free of charge to residents of Milton and our DuPage partner Townships and consists of a 21 hour, 7 week course of classroom and hands-on training. Graduates are provided with a valuable pack of disaster equipment which is theirs to keep so long as they volunteer to avail themselves to CERT when called upon.
- Our goal is to prepare the residents of our community to be ready to help themselves, their families and local first responders in case of a disaster.
- Classes are scheduled year-round, and you can click the CERT Calendar tab on the Milton Township website: [www.miltontownship.net](http://www.miltontownship.net).
- After completing CERT training, we will keep you involved by periodically offering further and more specialized preparedness training so that both your skills and interest will be heightened.
- Information and an online application can be found on the CERT tab on [www.miltontownship.net](http://www.miltontownship.net).