

# 2010 Governor's Hurricane Conference May 23-28

## Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

### The CERT Building Block

**VOLCANO** **TORNADO** **DROUGHT** **SOLAR FLARE** **ECONOMIC COLLAPSE** **WAR** **EARTHQUAKE** **TERRORISM** **WILDFIRE** **FLOOD** **HURRICANE**

**CERT**  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE TEAM

Presented by: Eric K. Black, Bi-lingual CERT Trainer



# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

- Part I: What is **CERT**?
- Part II: How can **CERT** be utilized in the Rural Immigrant Community?
- Part III: How to form and maintain a **CERT**.

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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

Can trained volunteers be put to use to alleviate victim suffering and reduce the burden on professional emergency responders?

*“We will ask State and local officials to create a new and modern civil defense service, similar to local volunteer fire departments, to respond to local emergencies when the manpower of government is stretched thin...”*  
*President Bush (Nov. 8, 2001)*

# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Citizen Corps (DHS)



Areas of emphasis for volunteer efforts:

- Crime
- Natural Disasters
- Terrorism



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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## What is **CERT**?

**C**ommunity **E**mergency **R**esponse **T**eam

- 1985 – LAFD
- 1987 – Whittier Narrows, California, earthquake
- 1994 – FEMA expands CERT
- 2003 – President asks for increased volunteerism.





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## CERT Training

The **CERT** training includes:

- Fire safety.
- Disaster medical operations.
- Light search and rescue.
- Incident Command System / CERT Organization.
- Disaster psychology.
- Terrorism Awareness.



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## CERT Home Preparedness

- Structural and nonstructural hazard mitigation
- Individual preparedness:
  - Assemble disaster supplies.
  - Develop a disaster plan.
  - Develop a safe room.





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## **CERT** in a Disaster Setting

- Initially assume many of the same functions as response personnel when necessary, until help arrives:
- Assist first responders when requested
- Can work as an extra set of eyes and ears for response professionals

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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Initial Response To a Disaster CERTs respond by:

- **Ensure that all participants are safe.**





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## Secondary Response To a Disaster

**CERTs** respond by:

- Door-to-door visits handing out recovery information
- Answering rumor hotlines
- Staffing information booth
- Assisting in aid distribution (PODs)

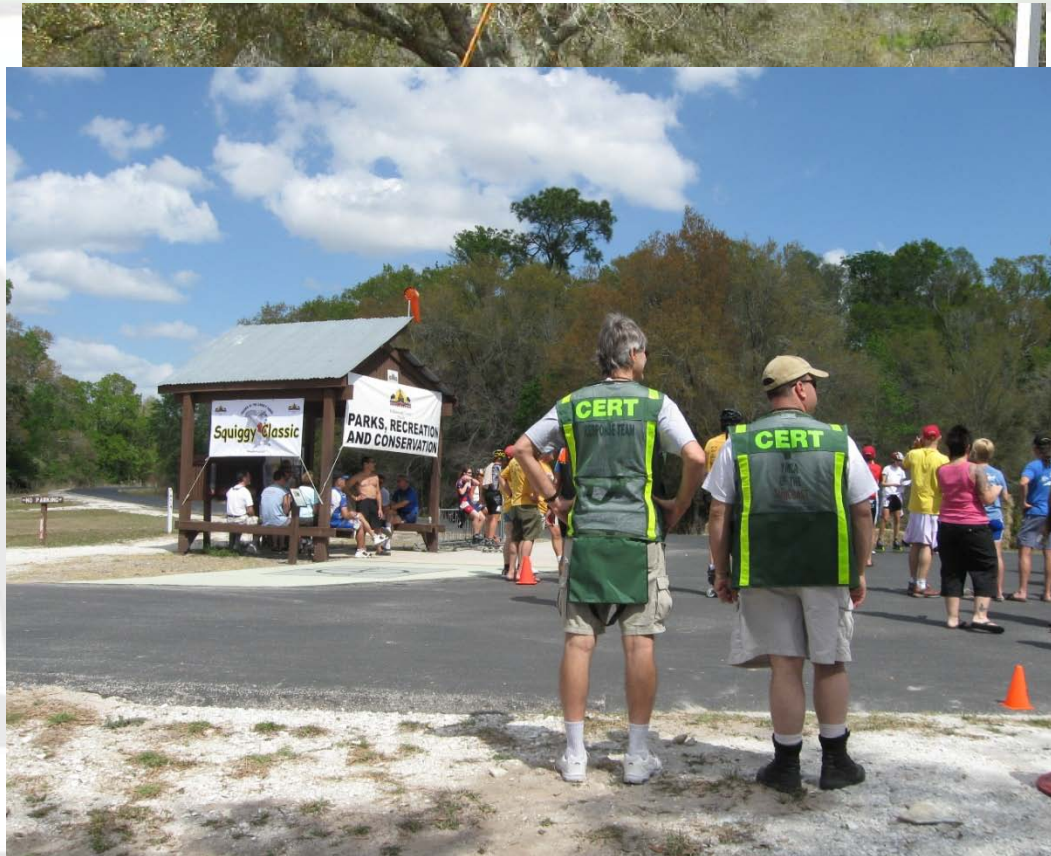




# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Non-disaster CERT Roles

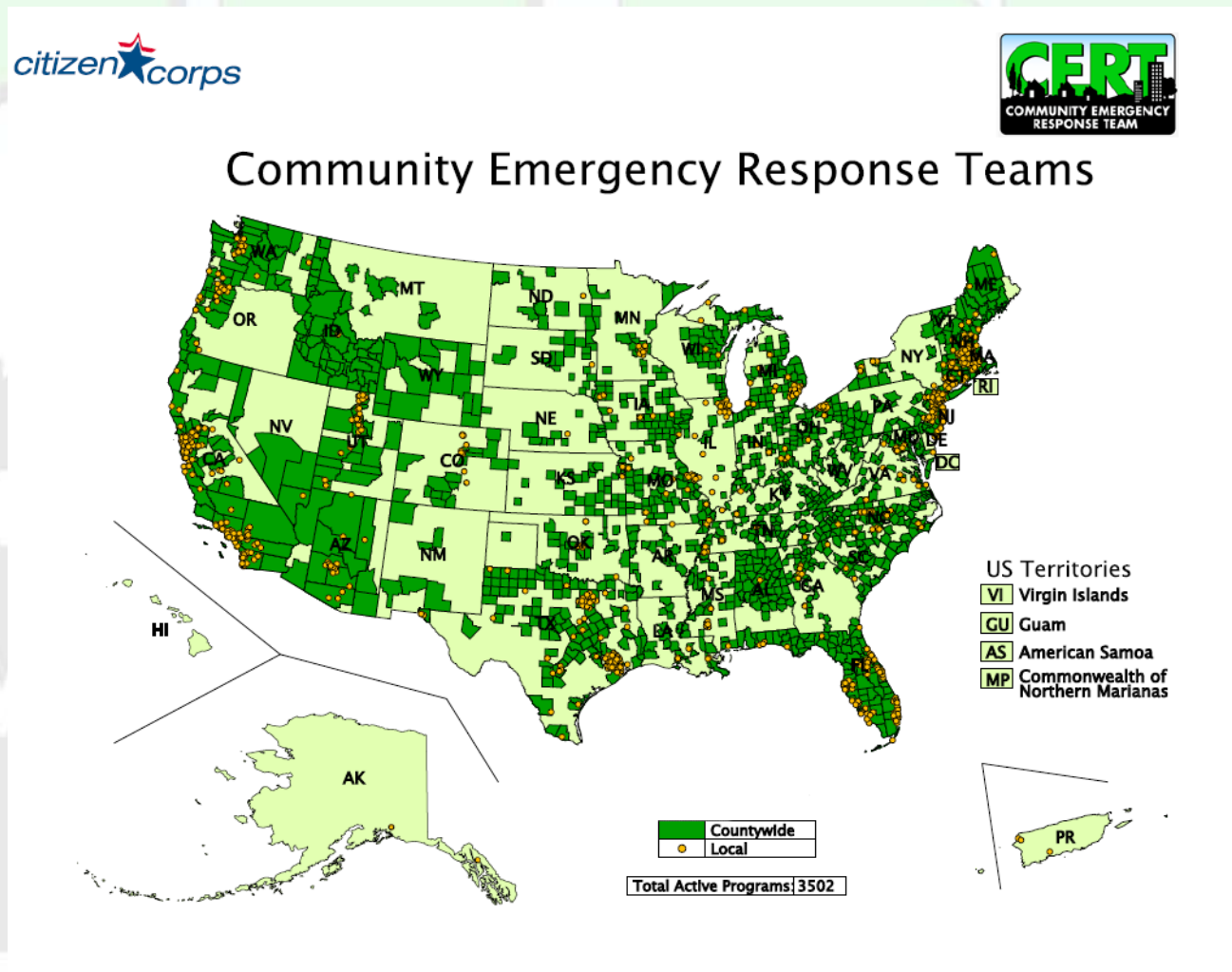
- Assist in a preparedness and disaster events





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Where is CERT?





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural Immigrant Community

Where is CERT in Florida?

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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Part II: **CERT** in the Limited English Proficiency Community (LEP-CERT)

By teaching people how to help, we avoid them becoming people who hinder in a disaster situation.



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- As per the FEMA definition in the National Response Framework, the LEP community is considered Special Needs





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Pros of an **LEP-CERT**

### **PROS:**

- Disaster Preparedness training (reduce post disaster suffering)
- Increased relations with immigrant/LEP community
- Cultural sharing (both directions)
- Improved trust in government
- English
- Victim/Survivor Aids
- Experienced volunteers with language abilities other than English

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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Cons of an **LEP-CERT**

### **CONS:**

- Duplicated trainings (\$ and time)
- Duplicated materials
- Increased demand on staff
- Inability to cover all populations in a county (i.e. some people may feel left out; hurts relations)

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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## How to Best Use an **LEP-CERT** During a Disaster

- Language barrier issues in the LEP community
  - Promote disaster preparedness
  - Communicate disaster response/recovery information
- Rumor control operators
- POD staffing
- Shelter staffing
- First Aid booths
- Comforting victims





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Part III: Forming an **LEP-CERT** and Keeping It Alive

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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## How to Form a **CERT**

- Step 1: Assessing the needs
- Step 2: Identifying Resources
- Step 3: Gaining support and recruiting
- Step 4: Acquiring Training Materials
- Step 5: Tailoring Training
- Step 6: Establishing a Training Cadre
- Step 7: Delivering Training

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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Step 1: Assessing the needs

- Community assessment
  - Languages represented
  - Current level of preparedness
- Agency / local government assessment
  - Where can the CERT “plug-in” to current operations
  - Existence of a current community/county CERT





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Step 2: Identifying Resources

- Funds
  - Budget line item
  - Faith based organizations
  - Grant from FEMA
  - Grant from Citizens Corps
  - Grants from various immigrant assistance organizations
- Personnel
  - Administrative personnel to assist you in program development
  - Training Cadre (Train the Trainer)



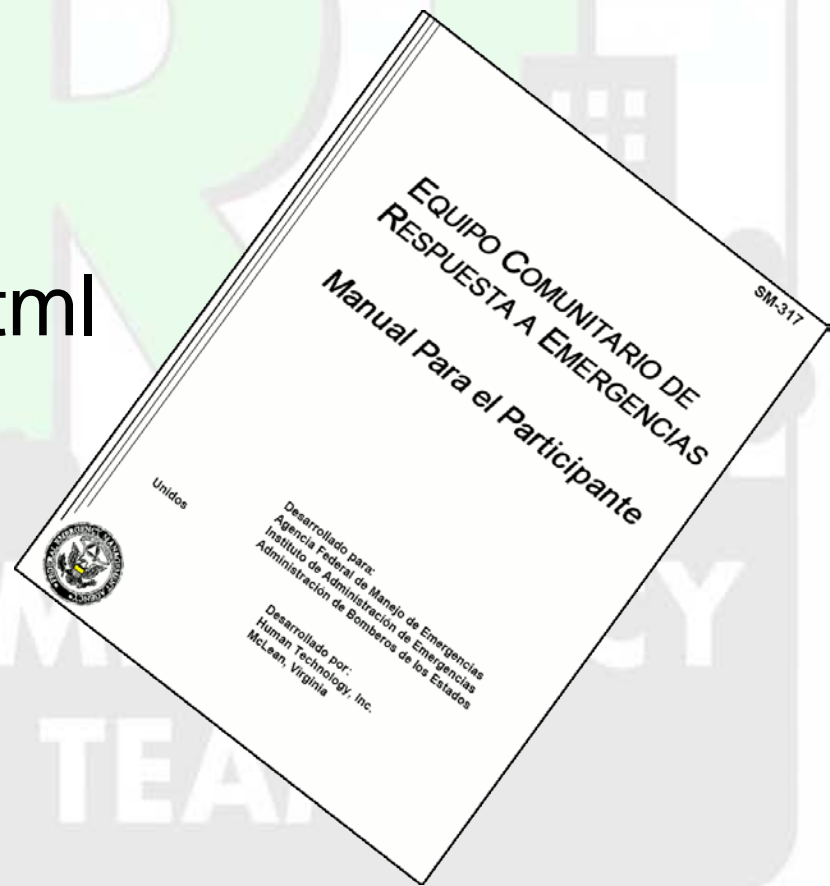
# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## Step 3: Gaining support

- Create partnerships and Recruit
  - Local government/EOC/EMS
  - Immigrant coalitions on farms (worker unions)
  - Faith based organizations
  - Agencies who provide assistance to the LEP community
  - Schools for English as a Second Language (ESOL)

## Step 4: Acquiring Training Materials

- [www.citizencorps.gov/cert](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert)  
(English/Spanish)
- [www.cert-la.com/index.shtml](http://www.cert-la.com/index.shtml)  
(other languages)
- Translation services (\$\$\$)
- Community members and  
peer reviewed (time)



## Step 5: Tailoring Training

- Tailor the training for your community
  - Location
  - Class time
  - Topic emphasis





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

Step 6: Establishing a Training Cadre

Step 7: Delivering Training

- Select and train your trainers
  - CERT members, EMS, or FD personnel
- Train your participants



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# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## How to keep your **CERT** alive

- Monthly meetings with activities and or training.
  - Refresher trainings
  - Trivia nights
  - Disaster related movie night (have critical discussion afterwards)
  - Tabletop exercises
  - Rally Point meeting/Communications drills
  - Joint meetings/trainings with the others **CERTs** in the county
  - Joint meetings/trainings with **CERTs** from other counties (experience sharing)



# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

- Offer the CERT group to help out at local community events
  - First aid booths for marathons/runs/ceremonies (LEP presence at events)
  - Open-houses at the local firehouse
  - Holiday parades



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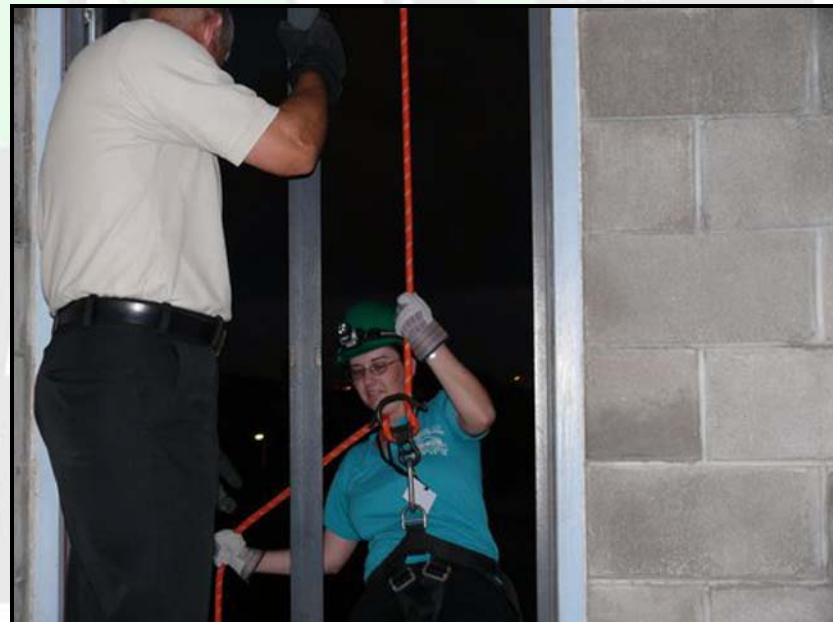
# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

- Public Safety Events
  - School disaster awareness fairs
  - Annual hurricane preparation fairs
  - Countywide disaster drills/exercises



# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

- Advanced Training
  - Ham radio communications
  - Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear Explosives (CBRNE) Terrorism Awareness Training (DHS)
  - Orienteering/Global Positioning Systems
  - Rappelling/Ropes Training
  - Disaster English





# Disaster Preparedness in the Rural and Immigrant Community

## For More Information

- Contact me:
  - Eric K. Black
  - (813) 600-9598
  - [mail@erickevinblack.com](mailto:mail@erickevinblack.com)
- Visit LA County, California CERT Website:
  - [www.cert-la.com/index.shtml](http://www.cert-la.com/index.shtml)
- Visit Citizen Corps Website:
  - [www.citizencorps.gov/cert](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert)
- Take the CERT independent study course
  - [www.citizencorps.gov/cert/IS317/](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/IS317/)

A photograph of a dog resting on a log in a garden. The dog is lying down with its head on the log, looking towards the camera. To the right of the dog, there are two chickens, one brown and one white. The background is filled with green foliage and a wooden structure. A blue cloth is hanging in the upper right corner. A metal can is visible on the left side of the log.

**Thank you for your attention!!!**

**Questions?**