



CERT CONNECTION



SERVICE
TO STAFF AND COMMUNITY
INTEGRITY
IN ALL WE DO
RESPECT
FOR ALL PEOPLE

Contact

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Quick Links

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[Acadis Training Portal](#)

[The Hoosier Responder](#)

[IDHS Calendar of Events](#)

Get Prepared for Flooding

It's severe weather season, and that means there's an increased risk of flooding throughout the state. Preparing for a flood can help potentially mitigate major damages and save lives. Please help share these flood safety tips to keep your community safe.



- Make a plan for your household, including your pets, so that you and your family know what to do, where to go and what you will need to protect yourselves from flooding and COVID-19.
- Build a "Go Kit" with the supplies you will need if you have to quickly evacuate your home.
- Gather supplies, including non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies and water for several days, in case you must leave immediately or if services are cut off in your area.
- Sign up for your community's emergency warning system. The Emergency Alert System and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.

Grants Are Your Friend

Shari Harrington, Montgomery County EMA, has sustained a CERT program through several different grants throughout the years.

The first grant, the State Homeland Security Grant (SHSP) was for \$29,430 and allowed them to purchase an 18-foot enclosed CERT trailer. The money from the first grant also funded an animal disaster trailer which is equipped with everything they would need for an animal response.

An additional grant for \$49,740 allowed for the purchase of different equipment like utility vehicles and radios that enhanced the capabilities of their team. Following a call out to assist in a wide area search incident, the after action



Training Dates to Know

CERT Train the Trainer:

When: April 16-18

Where: Indianapolis

Register through [Acadis](#).

Virtual Damage Assessment Training:

When: April 20, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Virtual Flood Training:

May 11, 12 to 4 p.m.

*To attend the virtual trainings, please send a request to [Alethea Pascascio-Gordon](#).



[Read the latest issue of the Hoosier Responder.](#)

CERT Requirements and Expectations

Following the CERT requirements is essential to the integrity and benefit of the program in Indiana. As a refresher, below are the basic CERT program requirements.

Drills and exercises:

- Take part in a drill or exercise at least once per year.

CERT basic training:

- Deliver CERT basic training once per

review showed proof that this grant funding was needed to expand their capabilities.

A final grant for \$3,100, tied to the Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG), covered fees for multiple members to attend the national CERT conference. Harrington applied for this grant identifying the core capability of public information and warning.

Grants are a great way to fund CERT programs if no other local funding is available. Different grants can cover a variety of things, like mentioned above. CERT programs across Indiana are encouraged to explore the different opportunities that grants can provide.

"I hope this helps anyone who is interested in CERT teams and fortifying teams that are already out there," Harrington said. "Our CERT program is very invested in our community and we have 20-25 members. We meet and train monthly, but keeping them engaged is half the battle."

Keeping CERTs Engaged in the Community



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) should be engaged throughout the community by putting training and experience to use throughout the year.

By providing first aid support at various community events, practical experience is gained by members. CERT programs can provide various free-of-charge trainings to the community at large in areas of CPR, active shooter and disaster preparedness.

CERT can also distribute various educational pamphlets at various events. Certain CERT programs also are known to support fire departments, providing rest, rehydration, nourishment and medical evaluation to firefighters who are involved in extended or extreme incident scene operations.

Get your CERT teams engaged!

year, including a culminating exercise.

Programmatic

information: To remain a recognized CERT program in Indiana, each program must:

- Be approved by state coordinator.
- Have a sponsoring organization.
- Complete an annual questionnaire on the program once per year.
- Verify the program manager and sponsor information once per year.
- Update team registration information once per year in the FEMA portal.

To complete all the CERT programmatic requirements, login to the [FEMA CERT website](#).

How Can You Raise Funds for Your CERT Program?

501c3 is one of the most favorable ways to raise funds. In some communities, CERT programs have filed for 501(C)3 (non-profit organization) status, thus allowing them to do fund raising. A couple of counties who've accomplished this are:



- Putnam County CERT (David Costin)
- Montgomery County CERT (Shari Harrington)

In previous years, grants were also made available by the federal government to assist communities in their CERT programs.