



CHARLES CITY COUNTY *Virginia*

CHARLES CITY COUNTY CERT STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

You represent the CERT program to members, to the public, and to those to whom we serve. It is important to portray a positive image. When disaster occurs, your first responsibility is to ensure your own safety and the safety of your family.

As a volunteer with the Charles City County CERT program, you are expected to comply with the following:

- Exercise safety at all times
- Remember you are not a First Responder. You are trained as support to first responders when directed by officials.
- Do not self-deploy to events (fires, accidents, etc). If you have not been called and are available, call the CERT Coordinator.
- Stay within the scope of your training. Bring your personal safety equipment.
- Absolutely no shorts, sandals or open-toed shoes are allowed.
- Keep your actions to your physical and resource limitations when responding as a member of CERT. Such limitations may be determined by, but not limited to, equipment available, physical abilities, knowledge, authority and hazards.
- Conduct yourself and act appropriately and responsibly at all times while assisting others.
- Treat participants, guests, and property with respect and courtesy.
- Be sensitive to the diversity of team members and those we assist.
- Direct anyone who is looking for official statements to the Incident Commander on scene or the Emergency Coordinator.
- Respect the privacy of persons and keep in confidence all information.
- Keep CERT informed of any progress, concerns, or problems with tasks which you have been assigned.
- Communicate actions and information taken by myself and team members during emergencies to the local First Responders once they arrive on the scene.
- Do not report for duty while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Tobacco use while performing CERT responsibilities is prohibited.
- You are forbidden to carry guns, knives, sticks or other weapons. Multi-purpose tools, pliers, screwdrivers, wrenches, etc. are allowed.
- You are not authorized to use the name or emblem, nor to endorse the services or property of the Charles City County CERT program for the benefit or advantage of any person or organization without the approval of the Charles City County Emergency Management.
- 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 Charles City County CERT program.

- You shall not use your participation in CERT to promote any political, civil, or religious organization on any matters or positions on any issue.
- 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: Offensive or profane language or gestures, public criticism of a CERT team member, its leaders or the CERT program or jeopardizing another team member's safety.
- CERT I.D. cards, vests and hard hats will only be worn during official CERT activated activities.
- Full attendance of all eight (8) classes and the final exercise is required to complete the program.
- Understand that by participating in the Charles City County CERT program I am a volunteer and not a county employee.
- Understand that failure to comply with these Standards of Conduct shall result in termination from the Charles City County CERT program.
- Agree/Consent to the County conducting the necessary background checks.

I, _____, do hereby certify that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the above rules. I understand that failure on my part to comply with any of the rules could result in the termination of my volunteer service with the Charles City County CERT program. I further understand that if I am removed from service, it is my responsibility to return all issued equipment and materials that I have received from the Charles City County CERT program. If I fail or refuse to return the equipment or materials, I agree to pay the cost to replace any items not returned.

Member Signature

CERT Program Manager/Designee (witness)

Date