

North Carolina CERT Code of Conduct Agreement

The office of North Carolina CERT oversees all local CERT programs through support and funding. Throughout North Carolina, thousands of citizens have been trained and the program continues to be bolstered by committed and dedicated members. You, as members of your local CERT program, represent the CERT program to new members, to the public, and to those to whom we render our services. It is important to portray a positive image. ANY NONCOMPLIANCE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE REVOCATION OF YOUR RECOGNITION AS A CERT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.

As a trained CERT volunteer in North Carolina, you are expected to comply with the following:

1. Dial 911 for all emergencies, first.
2. Know you are not a professional first responder (i.e. firefighter, police officer, emergency medical technician). You are trained to function as an extension of the professional emergency responders, when such circumstances exist or when requested by emergency services officials. When disaster occurs, your first responsibility is to ensure your own safety and the safety of your family. Do not self-deploy, but wait for an official call-out.
3. Stay within the scope of your training. You have been trained under the curriculum of FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team program. Confine your actions to those guidelines and stay within the scope of your training.
4. Confine your actions to your physical and resource limitations when responding as a member of NC CERT. Such limitations may be determined by, but not limited to, equipment available, physical abilities, knowledge, authority, and hazards.
5. Conduct yourself with professionalism, dignity, and pride, and act appropriately and responsibly at all times while assisting others.
6. Treat fellow team members, other volunteer program participants, sponsoring agency, and property with respect and courtesy.
7. Be respectful of the diversity of team members and those we assist.
8. Partake of no alcohol while responding as CERT and do not report for duty while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
9. You are forbidden to carry guns, or other weapons (you can have multipurpose tools, pliers, screwdrivers, wrenches, etc.). You have been trained for immediate disaster response and there is no need, place or legal authorization for you to carry or use any of the above.
10. You shall not authorize the use of, or use for the benefit or advantage of any person, the name, emblem, endorsement, services or property of NC CERT.
11. 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 NC CERT Program.
12. You shall not use your participation in NC CERT to promote any partisan politics, religious matters or positions on any issue.
13. 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:
 - a. Offensive or profane language or gestures
 - b. Public criticism of an NC CERT team member, its leaders or the NC CERT Program
 - c. Jeopardizing another team member's safety.

I have read and understand the statements above, and, as a CERT volunteer in the state North Carolina, agree to comply with this Code of Conduct. I understand that if I fail to observe these rules, my recognition as an NC CERT member in good standing may be revoked.

Name/Date

CERT Program/Program Manager (print & sign)