



Prairie State CERT Challenge 2015 Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to participate in the Prairie State CERT Challenge (PSCC)?

All State of Illinois CERT programs who are currently part of a Citizen Corps Council in Active Status standing (enrolled at www.citizencorps.gov and have their Semi-Annual Programmatic Report due July 15, 2015 submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency) can participate in the PSCC to be held at the College of DuPage Homeland Security Education Center on Saturday, October 3, 2015.

All participants, volunteers and staff on the event property MUST have a properly executed and notarized copy of the ESDA Oath on file with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).

How many teams will be in the challenge?

There is capacity for 12 teams of a minimum of 8 people each. We must have all team members' forms as well as the team registration sheet no later than August 14, 2015.

To field a team, a minimum of 8 team members is required. A maximum of 14 people may participate on a team. No partial teams will be allowed. Each station will require all team members to participate in some regard. No full or part time paid staff members of a jurisdiction may be included as part of the team composition, but are welcome to attend as a team sponsor.

How many teams can a jurisdiction have?

Each CERT program may send one team of 8-14 participants to the Challenge.

Can we have more than one team?

Each jurisdiction will be allowed to register more than one team. However, the jurisdiction must label the primary team as that team will be guaranteed. After the registration deadline of August 14th, the planning group will evaluate the amount of teams and notify the point of contact if the secondary team will be accepted sometime shortly thereafter.

Where do I sign my team up?

The Program Coordinator (the person who manages the CERT program locally) should go to the Illinois Citizen Corps website (<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/LocalEMA/CitizenCorps/Pages/default.aspx>) The team registration form as well as all required participant forms (participant release and oath form for each team member) on the website must be submitted to IEMA by e-mail at citizen.corps@illinois.gov or by fax at

217-558-1335. College of DuPage also has forms on our website that must be submitted with the package. Final forms must be received by the end of the business day on Friday, August 14. **All forms for all team members** must be submitted by that time as forms will not be accepted at the event.

What will team members be doing?

There are 10 distinct stations as part of testing CERT skills. Each station will be completed generally within a half hour and teams will move directly on to the next assigned station. The stations are as follows:

- Team Building
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated based on their ability to work together. The purpose of team building is to share common goals, expectations, and tasks. This helps to test CERT teams ability to work as a cohesive unit.
- Triage
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated based on their proper use of Triage techniques as they determine which category victims would be placed in: Immediate, Delayed, Minor, Dead. This exercise will require knowledge of CERT triage protocols and the various triage classifications.
- Treatment
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated on their proper use of Treatment techniques as they provide disaster medical services to victims. This exercise will require knowledge of CERT treatment/disaster medical aid protocols.
- Transport
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated based on their proper use of Transport techniques as they determine the transportation needs of victims from an incident location to a designated treatment area. This will require knowledge of CERT transport protocols, including proper lifting and movement techniques.
- Indoor Search
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated on their proper use of Search and Rescue techniques in an indoor setting as they navigate various hazards within a set period of time to complete the task. This exercise will also require knowledge of CERT safety protocols, communications, teamwork and proper documentation.
- Utilities/Fire/Hazards
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated on their proper use of Fire Safety and Utility Controls. This exercise will require knowledge of CERT Fire size up, suppression safety, hazardous materials, and utility shut off information.
- Disaster Psychology
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated on proper application of Disaster Psychology phases as they are faced with a situation where they have to handle their own stress, their team's stress, as well as that of disaster survivors. This exercise will require knowledge of CERT disaster psychology phases, listening techniques, and working with survivors' trauma.
- Documentation
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated on their proper use of Documentation forms. This exercise will require knowledge of CERT documentation forms, purposes, and flow.
- Exterior Search
 - CERT Teams will be evaluated on their proper use of Search and Rescue techniques in an outdoor setting as they navigate various hazards within a set period of time to complete the task. This exercise will also require knowledge of CERT safety protocols, communications, teamwork and proper documentation.
- Networking

- CERT Teams will be given the opportunity to network with the other teams at the Challenge. This interactive station is designed for teams to share with one another to exchange operational & equipment information, establish local unit contacts, and increase the potential of operating interactively in the future.

Do I have to be with a recognized CERT program to be on a team?

Yes, all participants must be members of State recognized CERT programs (www.citizencorps.gov/CERT). In order to ensure that the challenge is equal for all participants, each player must have supervisory sign-off that the 20.5 hour CERT course was completed, a signed ESDA Oath for each member submitted with the team application, and a local CERT ID has been issued.

What if I want to volunteer to work at the drill?

We will be utilizing volunteers to various capacities. If you want to be part of the exercise, registration forms and additional information for volunteers will be available soon. Those that wish to evaluate a station must have taken the CERT train-the-trainer course. Potential evaluators should contact citizen.corps@illinois.gov.

What equipment do we need?

Each team member will be responsible for their own safety equipment. No one will be allowed to participate without the appropriate clothing and gear. Boots, long pants, appropriate shirt, gloves, mask, goggles, and hard hat are mandatory. All items necessary to participate at each station will be provided.

What is the schedule for the day?

The gates will likely open at 7:30 am for teams to bring equipment into the site and begin setup and organization. The event will likely start with opening ceremony at 8:15am and an Operational Briefing at 8:30am, of which the team leader must participate. The station events will likely run all day in half hour segments until at least 4:00pm. Each team will receive their assignment instructions through the Staging station.

Will we be fed?

A boxed lunch will again be provided. Should you require specific items of any kind, you should bring them with you to the event.

Who is staying at the event hotel?

More information will be available regarding lodging after team registration deadline of August 14, 2015. We will work to obtain government rate lodging for those team members who wish to be close to the event location, but we will not pay for it. Evaluators will once again be provided lodging on Friday, October 2 overnight stay for those who LIVE more than 50 miles from the VENUE address. If you are unsure, you can map your address to 425 Fawell Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Where do we park?

Participants will be allowed at the event site at parking lot Fawell E. This is also where the base camps for each team will be located. For space considerations, please consider carpooling. In addition, please identify on team registration forms if your team has any specialized equipment that you will be bringing (tents, generators, etc.) so that your team may be most appropriately placed in the base camp. For more information about the site, please see the College map at http://www.cod.edu/about/maps_and_directions/pdf/full_campus.pdf

Who are the contacts for additional information?

Team Registration: Michelle Hanneken or Abby Damm (217) 558-1334 or citizen.corps@illinois.gov.