



Washington State CERT Standards

Denise Mack
Citizen Corps/
CERT Program Manager



Setting the Stage

This presentation has been modified from the January 26 discussion to include input from that conversation.

- ▶ Perception is reality
- ▶ CERT is only as valuable as its reputation
- ▶ Standards are meant to ensure quality reputation
- ▶ CERT is an investment in people, not just a program
- ▶ State's role to support local programs
- ▶ We are in this together



Background

- ▶ No Federal Train-the-Trainer (TtT) since 2003
- ▶ No State TtT since 2007; no Federal curriculum
- ▶ Since 2008 National CERT office developing TtT curriculum as a tool for standards
- ▶ State offices tasked with developing standards
- ▶ TtT released in December for standard and quality of instruction
- ▶ WA Standards developed with input from local programs



Standards Summary

- ▶ TtT certification = Basic CERT Instructor
- ▶ State office designates TtT Instructors
- ▶ ALL CERT Instructors need to be registered with State office
 - Send TtT certificate
 - Request review
 - Attend TtT
 - At EMI (E delivery)
 - By EMI locally (L delivery)
 - State-sponsored (G delivery)



Program Requirements

- ▶ Register and maintain CERT Program record
- ▶ Utilize registered instructors
- ▶ Ensure ALL modules are taught, including disaster exercise
- ▶ Conduct evaluations
- ▶ Regularly offer classes
- ▶ Report quarterly



Reporting

Jurisdiction Type:

Quarter:

Report Date:

Jurisdiction Name:

Whole Community Activities

Preparedness Activities

Outreach Activities

Volunteer Training Activities

Number of Volunteers who participated in program activities:

Total Volunteer Hours:

Types of Volunteers (e.g., CERT, MRC, VIPS, Neighborhood Watch, Ham, etc)

Current Challenges

Request for Assistance



Instructor Responsibilities

- ▶ State registration
- ▶ Instruct through registered program(s)
- ▶ Teach regularly



Benefits

- ▶ Pride in jurisdiction and program
- ▶ CERT has a common definition
- ▶ Ability for cross-jurisdictional training, exercises and support
- ▶ Better engagement and utilization of CERT volunteers
- ▶ Reportable



FAQ's

Q: Who is authorized to qualify my program's instructor?

A: The State CERT Office is responsible for establishing and maintaining standards. The authority is given by the National CERT Office.

Q: Why aren't instructors required to be professional first responders?

A: As a grassroots program it is up to each manager to coordinate their program in a way that is feasible and meets standards.



More FAQ's

Q: Why do professional first responders, with their backgrounds and experience, have to certified?

A: This process is to certify as CERT instructors, not as first responders. The skills are not the same.

Q: Where do I find a list of qualified instructors?

A: The list will be developed based on sent certificates, reviews, and TtT classes, and will be posted on www.citizencorps.wa.gov.



FAQ's cont

Q: I previously attended a TtT, do I need to attend again?

A: No, send a copy of your TtT certificate to the State Office for registration.

Q: I've been teaching for years, do I need to attend a TtT?

A: You may request to be observed instructing.

Q: Do firefighters need to attend a TtT?

A: All instructors must be registered by previously or currently attending a TtT, or observation.



More FAQ's

Q: Am I qualified to train instructors after attending a TtT?

A: Attending a TtT is the minimum to be a Basic Instructor.

Q: How do I register to go to EMI?

A: Apply through State Training Office with FEMA application.

Q: Where and when will TtT be offered in my area?

A: That is yet to be determined.



FAQ's cont.

Q: Can I continue to train my own instructors?

A: Instructors trained by State TtT Instructors will be recognized.

Q: What happens if I don't follow these standards?

A: It will not be recognized as a CERT program.

Q: Is this training grant allowable?

A: Yes, for all HSGP funds.

Q: Will grants be impacted if I don't comply?

A: Reporting is grant requirement, CERT is not.



Program Manager Course

- ▶ Setting a Program Vision
- ▶ Promoting Your Program
- ▶ Working with Volunteers
- ▶ Working with Trainers
- ▶ Procuring and Managing Resources
- ▶ Training and Exercises
- ▶ Policies and Procedures
- ▶ Program Evaluation
- ▶ Keeping Your Program Going



Discussion

- ▶ There is a lot of interest by those who attended for a Program Manager course
- ▶ In an effort for increased attendance and information sharing, the goal will be to have one in Western WA and one in Eastern WA
- ▶ The target will be May/June timeframe for the Western meeting
- ▶ No participants from the East side participated; will follow-up



Another Question

Q: Is the Program Manager class required; how do I get certified as a Program Manager?

A: You are designated and hired by your employer to be a Program Manager, as am I. The Program Manager class is a tool that may help you to do your job, and provide opportunity to network with other Program Managers.



Next Steps

- ▶ **Instructors:** Send certificates to citizencorps@ofm.wa.gov
- ▶ **Instructors:** Request review when class is scheduled (see www.citizencorps.wa.gov for form)
- ▶ **Program Managers:** Notify State Office if interested in hosting a regional TtT delivery
- ▶ **Program Managers:** register program and update at www.citizencorps.gov
- ▶ **State Office:** will work with regions to schedule classes



Thank You!

Denise Mack

citizencorps@ofm.wa.gov

360-725-5290