



# CERT Activation



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## Activation

For trained CERT volunteers.

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Before we are a proper team we must master how we come together.



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# What is Activation?

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**Activation** is more than a phone tree or text message.

Activation is the progression of:

Notification, Arrival, Briefing and Organizing,  
to eventually, a mission



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# Activation Begins With Notification

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Which might also be called call-up or callout or alert.

We will use **Notification** for every reference about initiating the activation protocols from here on to avoid confusion.

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It is a member obligation to **monitor** the methods.



## Activation

situations come in three categories:

- Planned
- Unplanned
- Automatic



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# Situation One - Planned

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A planned or training event that is prescheduled and **expected**.

Volunteers will report at the scheduled place and time. Keep an eye on our website calendar.

May or may not have an Everbridge Notification as part of the event.



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## Situation Two - Unplanned

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**Unplanned** activation of a local or possibly regional event. Notification for an emergency that is specific and coherent in scope.

The incident may have some advanced warning (like a winter storm or distant tsunami) or not (like a landslide or a three-car pile-up).

Volunteers are to report as described by the text of the Notification or if that is not stated automatically report to their primary **Rally Point**, in the preplanned Standard Operating Procedures.



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## Situation Three - Automatic

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Automatic Mobilization...

A proscribed instruction for all Volunteers to self-mobilize after and only after that of any felt **earthquake, or significant event.**

Automatic mobilization events will require all trained volunteers to keep their wits about themselves and follow their training to the utmost.

Therefore we do all the preparation and planning.



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# Automatic Self-Deployment

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1. Members must stay safe until the event danger is past
2. Assure your family is **safe**
3. Evacuate as they need before considering CERT duty. Then, and only then
4. Report to your Assembly/Rally Point or nearest Cache Site.



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# Automatic Self-Deployment Continued

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If for any reason a member volunteer decided an incident other than an earthquake is severe enough to merit CERT action, they are to call 911 first and **report** the incident, or they may go directly to the Police station at City Hall and make a report there. (Safe rally point)

This does not include good Samaritan first aid, that is not a CERT action, that is a personal action.



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# Being Ready

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CERTs must be ready. We know anything could happen at any time. So, for all cases other than Cascadia, after you get the Notification, and before departure:

- Be sure to collect your **kit**
- Be sure to wear proper **attire**
- Ensure your family is safe and knows where you are going.
- Go directly to the specified location, or your assigned rally point.



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# Responding

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Between where you are and where you need to report too you become a **diligent** CERT member



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# Responding

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Do not stop to entertain a problem, **report in** first.

It is an imperative you **register** as an emergency volunteer before you do anything. (Exception: for dire first aid)

It is critical someone knows where you are and that you are under the disaster declaration and logged in the CERT Event documentation record.

It is important to form a designated Task Unit and work in the **Buddy system**

A very important part of being a CERT is to be **observant**.

While in route be aware and observe details for your



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# The DAF

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Damage Assessment Form (DAF) is the initial inventory of **facts** the EOC will need to formulate good plans from.

All members will be provided DAFs in their kits, these will describe details and locate problems.

We are the eyes and ears of the initial action.



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# Arrival

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Upon arrival at the designated CERT Home base or Operations Center a Member Volunteer will:

1. **Immediately sign in.**
2. Standby, it may take time to establish the direction and tasks that need doing. *Prepare yourself for an information flood. Avoid 'pregame' banter and get primed to listen. Leadership will have an action plan soon.*
3. Turn in DAF, if completed
4. Attend the situation briefing.



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# What If I Am The First Arrival?

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If you happen to be the First onsite arrival:

- You are the initial leader, until a known better qualified person becomes available.
- Follow your training.
- Your first task is to establish the sign-in process
- Collect the DAFs or assign a scribe for this duty.
- Your duty is not to be the king of it all, your duty is to develop the CERT team and pave the way for Team. Become prepared for the EOC to call upon CERT help.



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# The Briefing

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Will be given by the Leader on sight, it will be a succinct message before advancing any member off on a task.

Briefings will include:

- The situation; **time, place** and **manner**
- The **safety** message
- Documentation message
- Team organization and Unit delineations
- Equipment and supply needs and availabilities
- Communication procedures
- Schedules and other pertinent information

Let's go through these one by one...



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## Time Place & Manner

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Will describe the general known **facts** of the event. Time, when and how long to expect to be engaged.

Place, where the crisis is focused, as well as where the effort to face the crisis is staged from.

Manner is, as best as can be relayed, about current involvement and severity of the crisis.



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# Safety Message

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Modified to fit the situation, but essentially a message to be safe.

The Safety message will apprise Member volunteers of unique dangers and specialized circumstances involved.



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# Documentation Message

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Like safety, Documentation will become a habit we build.

In all cases every volunteer must document and track their time and situations in their personal notebook, with or without a form to follow.



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# Team and Unit Organizing

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CERT is its own organization. The day-to-day functions are managed by the CERT Executive Director, Executive Unit and Membership Coordinator.



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# Our Job

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During a crisis event CERT is guided by the Operations Section of the EOC.

The **Briefing** will explain the current operational cycle's lineage of communications, who is telling who what the plan is.



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# At the Briefing

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- CERT will be given assignments. Some tasks may fall under other sections\* for the duration of the assignment.
- CERT Home Base or a Central Operations will allocate those assignments from a big picture planning effort.
- Unit leaders will be assigned to the individual Task oriented units and face each mission objective with resolve.



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# Communications Plan

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In the briefing you will get a drift of the over all communication network, who talks to who and how.

Once Task Units begin to form, at each assignment a Unit will be given a call sign or tag name and to whom they are to pass information to.

(OSCAR, ECHO, TANGO, ALPHA)



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# Conclusion

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Activation is the progression of:

Notification, Arrival, Briefing, Organizing to Mission.

Even if the mission is a classroom study or Tabletop exercise.

