



**Manalapan
Township**

medical
reserve
corps



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Free Disaster Preparedness (CERT) Training

Manalapan, NJ - Following major emergency events, first responders who provide fire, medical and community safety services will have to prioritize the use of their response resources. Individual preparedness, as well as the ability to safely and effectively assist others, allows members of the community to care for themselves until more help arrives. The federal government began promoting the nationwide use of organized Medical Reserve Corps (MRCs) and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) – in 1992 as two means to connect the professional response community with the people they serve.

The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical (emergency first aid) operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, persons trained in CERT can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT trained persons also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The Manalapan MRC-CERT is offering its annual 20-hour CERT training program starting on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Manalapan Senior Center starting at 7:00 pm. Enrollment and materials are free of charge and open to individuals 16 years of age or older. Youth aged 16 and 17 years old may participate with a signed permission slip and waiver from their parents. Upon completion of the course, participants will be invited to join the Manalapan MRC-CERT team, although doing so is not a requirement.

Persons interested in the training should contact the Manalapan Health Department at 732-446-8345 or health@mtnj.org by January 5, 2017.

The Manalapan MRC-CERT team currently consists of over 300 volunteer members. The Manalapan team combines the missions of both federal Medical Reserve Corps and the Community Emergency Response Team models. Thus the MRC-CERT team is attractive to persons with or without medical background. The team meets frequently through the year for refresher training and drills, and also supports municipal sponsored events, including Manalapan Day and National Night Out. The team has been activated to help staff shelters, ice distribution and cell phone charging stations and 24 hour information lines during storms such as Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy and has assisted in searches for missing persons and large scale vaccination clinics. More information about this training and the Manalapan MRC-CERT team please contact the Health Department.