

## Community Emergency Response Team Program Charter

### Mission

The purpose of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is to train and organize the Colleges of the Fenway (COF) community to be a response asset in an emergency or disaster, and to be an extension of first responder services until professional responders arrive. Those who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their community and campus and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves and those around them.

### Deliverables

The CERT training will cover the basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. With training and practice, and by working as a team, CERT members will be able to protect themselves and maximize capability to help for the greatest number of people after a disaster. The course will cover disaster preparedness, CERT organization, disaster medical operations, disaster psychology, fire safety and utility controls, light search and rescue operations, and active shooter.

### Members

Those who are involved in the CERT program will be made up of students, staff, and faculty from all institutions of the Colleges of the Fenway (MCPHS University, Emmanuel College, MassArt, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Simmons University). These members will work closely with their respected public safety departments along with the COF emergency management. Members may be called upon during an emergency to support operations, including traffic redirection, reunification, or resource distribution.



## Benefits

The CERT program benefits individuals, each institution, and the broader COF community:

### STUDENTS, STAFF, and FACULTY

- Become CERT certified, which is a national certification that can be used for local, state, and corporately run CERT programs across the country
- Prepares members for emergency response activities, including fire safety, basic first aid, and severe weather preparedness
- Boost career prospects and future opportunities through skill development and servant leadership
- Meet members from across the COF who are also interested in community response
- This is a free training for all COF members

### INSTITUTION

- The program will distribute CERT kits to each institution at a centrally located area. These kits include emergency response items that can be safely used by members during a response without requiring activation
- Public safety offices will have a cadre of professionals and students who can be included in exercises and act as advocates for preparedness
- The course can be encouraged for resident assistants to build additional skills
- Staff and faculty training is an important part of retention, to which the CERT program offers an additional layer of training

### COF COMMUNITY

- CERT Members will learn how to be a valuable resource and assist in identification and anticipation of hazards
- In the event of an emergency, the COF will have a well-trained cadre of emergency management representatives that may provide support to others in crisis
- The CERT program is an additional opportunity to enhance collaboration for member institutions and build upon our consortium strengths
- By increasing awareness and decrease response times through education, we can build resilience for future events