

# **Module 6: Summary**

## **Lesson 20: Course Summary**

### **Self-Study Guide**

**Overview**

This lesson provides a brief overview of the main concepts in the six topic areas covered in this course:

- CERT Basics
- Fire Safety
- Hazardous Materials
- Terrorist Incidents
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Search and Rescue

**Lesson Objectives**

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After completing this lesson, you will be ready to take the final test.

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**Contents**

This lesson includes the following sections:

- Lesson Overview
  - CERT Basics
  - Fire Safety
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Terrorist Incidents
  - Disaster Medical Operations
  - Search and Rescue
  - Reviewing the Lesson Summaries
  - Taking the Test
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**Review: CERT Basics**

- When disaster overwhelms emergency response resources, CERTs can extend the capabilities of response organizations through hazard mitigation and response activities.
- Before disaster strikes, you should mitigate potential hazards in the home and workplace, develop a family emergency plan, and assemble a disaster supply kit.
- Obtaining the maximum benefit from CERT response activities requires a carefully structured CERT organization. CERT decisionmaking is guided by the goal of protecting team members' safety while doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

**Sizeup**

The sizeup process includes the following steps:

1. Gather facts.
2. Assess and communicate the damage.
3. Consider probabilities.
4. Assess your own situation.
5. Establish priorities.
6. Make decisions.
7. Develop plans of action.
8. Take action.
9. Evaluate progress.

### Review: Fire Safety

- Fire requires heat, fuel, and oxygen. Take away any one element, and fire cannot be sustained.
- The type of fuel dictates both the class of fire (A, B, C, D) and the best methods and equipment for extinguishing a fire.
- A CERT member's fire safety role begins with mitigating fire hazards related to electricity, natural gas, and flammable liquids at home and at the workplace.
- Suppressing small fires is one of the CERT roles. The decision to extinguish a fire is based on personal safety and having the proper resources.

### Protect Your Safety

When suppressing fires, protect your safety by:

- Wearing protective equipment.
- Working as a team.
- Planning for safe entry and exit.
- Maintaining a safe distance and position.
- Suppressing only small fires using the proper equipment.
- Using the P.A.S.S. procedure to operate extinguishers.

### Review: Hazardous Materials

The best way to protect yourself from household chemical emergencies is to use the L.I.E.S. procedure:

- Limit the amount of hazardous materials in storage.
- Isolate products in approved containers, and protect them from sources of ignition.
- Eliminate products that are no longer necessary by disposing of them properly.
- Separate incompatible materials.

### NFPA 704 Diamond

- The NFPA 704 Diamond identifies hazardous materials stored at fixed facilities.
- The only action that CERT members should take when a facility is placarded with an NFPA 704 Diamond is to evacuate persons who are downwind to an uphill and upwind location.
- The DOT placard system is used to identify hazardous materials in transit in the United States.

### **Review: Terrorist Incidents**

- Terrorist incidents may involve conventional explosives, dirty bombs, nuclear blasts, chemical or biological materials, and other weapons.
- Safety for all CERT members and persons in the area of a terrorist incident is of first concern.
- Terrorist incident sites are crime scenes, and care must be taken to protect evidence. Leave all items alone unless moving something is absolutely necessary for life safety.

### **Stop Sign for CERT Members**

- Terrorist incidents are a "stop sign" for CERT members. If there are any indicators of a terrorist incident, do not proceed with the response. Move away from the object or area to an uphill and upwind location, and report it to authorities immediately.
- Do not use a cellular phone or two-way radio if you suspect an explosive device.
- Do not attempt to treat victims in a contaminated area. Tell people who are leaving the area to use basic decontamination procedures and to wait for responders to perform complete decontamination.

### Review: Disaster Medical Operations

- The conditions that always get first treatment priority include obstructed airway, excessive bleeding, and shock.
- Use the Head-Tilt/Chin-Lift method to open the airway.
- Use direct pressure, elevation, and pressure points, as needed, to control bleeding.
- Keep shock victims warm and quiet, with their feet elevated.

### When Conducting Triage:

1. Size up the situation.
2. Conduct voice triage.
3. Follow a systematic route to victims.
4. Evaluate and tag each victim, checking airway, bleeding/circulation, and mental status.
5. Treat "I" victims immediately.
6. Document triage results.

### Medical Treatment Areas

- Medical treatment areas should be close to and upwind and uphill from the hazard zone; accessible by transportation vehicles; expandable; and clearly marked.
- Public health measures should include proper hygiene, sanitation, and water purification.
- After all victims have been triaged, assess each victim from head to toe before beginning treatment.

### Your Role

- CERT teams provide basic treatment for common injuries, including burns, wounds, fractures/sprains, and hypothermia.
- To limit the effects of vicarious trauma on yourself, avoid overidentifying with survivors, monitor your own trauma symptoms, and use stress reducers that work for you.
- When working with survivors, your role is to stabilize the incident scene by stabilizing individuals.

### Review: Search and Rescue

- The goals of CERT search and rescue are to protect rescuer safety and to rescue as many victims as quickly as possible.
- During search and rescue, create a safe environment by:
  - Working within your limits.
  - Working as a team and putting rescuer safety first.
  - Using personal protective equipment.
  - Remaining alert to hazards.
  - Following all safety procedures.
  - Moving and stabilizing debris by leveraging and cribbing.
  - Using safe methods to remove victims.

### Search Methods

- Search should begin with a sizeup of the building interior.
- Effective search methods include calling out, using a systematic pattern, listening for victim sounds, triangulation, marking searched areas, and reporting results.
- Rescue objectives are to maintain rescuer safety, triage victims, and evacuate victims as quickly as possible while minimizing additional injury.

Each lesson in this course included a summary of key points covered in the lesson. You may wish to study those summaries before taking the final test.

To take the course exam and receive a completion certificate for this course, you must:

- Download and print a copy of the final exam in PDF format.
- Circle your answers on the printed exam to save time when you go online.
- Complete the online answer sheet.