

Frequently Asked Questions – Search and Rescue (SAR) - Missing Person Training Class

1. What does the class teach? This class provides training on how to participate in a missing person search. This typically involves a missing child or older adult. It is not a class on rescuing people from accidents. The class includes a field exercise to demonstrate various techniques.
2. Are there any requirements before attending the class? No. No previous training or experience is required.
3. How long is the class? The class is 16 hours broken up into two 8 hour days. We will break for a one hour lunch each day.
4. How much does the class cost? If you are a member of Navarro County CERT, the training is free. If not, the cost of the class is \$50.00 per person plus \$30.00 if you want certification.
5. What is certification? This class will cover the material in the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) SAR Technician III certification. At the end of the class you can take the certification test and once passed, a NASAR certificate and card will be sent to you showing that you are certified by a nationally recognized organization. Navarro County CERT only requires this certification if you are participating in a missing person search.
6. Can I join CERT and get the class fee waived? Yes. We will be glad to sign up anyone at the beginning of the class who wants to join Navarro County CERT. There is no fee to join CERT.
7. What is CERT? The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a volunteer organization under the federal Citizens Corp program which is under FEMA. It is organized in local chapters to serve the local and surrounding communities. CERT provides public education on preparing for emergencies and disasters. CERT members can also be requested to assist in disaster response. Our CERT group participates in several local events like Derick Days and the Corsicana Airshow to provide first aid and other services.
8. If I join CERT, what is expected of me? All our CERT group are volunteers. We meet monthly for about one hour. We ask that members attend as many monthly meetings as possible but at least one every three months to stay current. If we are mobilized, if you are available to respond, please respond. If you aren't available at that time, that's OK. We are all volunteers and have other commitments. You are NOT REQUIRED to respond if you aren't able.
9. Are there any physical requirements to be a member of CERT? No. CERT has a job for everyone, including people who may have physical restrictions. We need people to answer the phone, fill out forms, and check in people as well as people to actively respond in the field. We provide all the training, so you are comfortable with the job.
10. What is required to be a CERT member? There are no special qualifications or previous training required to join CERT. We provide all the training and equipment you need including a CERT shirt. You must complete the CERT Basic Training within one year of joining. This is separate from the SAR training being provided. Basic Training is about 20 hours of class, usually provided nights and weekends but we're flexible in scheduling. Once you complete the CERT basic training, we provide a backpack and ID card with the basic tools you need to respond to an emergency. All CERT members must agree to and pass a criminal background check.
11. Do I have to get SAR certified to be a member of Navarro County CERT? No. Search and Rescue is just one of the activities of CERT. You can join CERT to participate in other CERT activities like those mentioned above including training on disaster preparedness, public education. first aid, and emergency response.