

CERT Meeting Reminder - September 23, 2024 6:30p



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## Meeting Reminder

Greetings! This is a meeting reminder for our upcoming meeting...

### **CERT Traffic & Crowd Control**

Mon, September 23, 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Atoka City Hall

[See the CERT Calendar](#)

# Coming Up

**Munford Celebrate** - there's a need to schedule volunteers for this day. Under the leadership of Doug Justice, we have the booth to conduct the promotion the team wants to do. A strong showing by our team is essential to ensure our desires are fulfilled.

Training - the training schedule is always at the Constable website, CERT, Calendar

## The Importance of Safety Equipment

The importance of safety equipment during traffic control activities cannot be overstated. Traffic control personnel, such as police officers, construction workers, or flaggers, operate in high-risk environments where fast-moving vehicles, hazardous conditions, and distractions can pose significant dangers. The use of safety equipment helps mitigate these risks and enhances both worker and public safety. Here's a detailed explanation of why safety equipment is critical:

### 1. Visibility

- **Why It's Important:** Traffic control workers often operate near or on roadways with fast-moving vehicles. In these situations, being visible to drivers is crucial to prevent accidents, especially in low-light conditions such as nighttime, fog, or bad weather.
- **Key Equipment:** High-visibility clothing (e.g., reflective vests, jackets, and pants) helps ensure that traffic control workers are easily seen from a distance, reducing the likelihood of being struck by vehicles.

### 2. Protection from Impact

- **Why It's Important:** Workers on roadways face the risk of being hit by vehicles, construction equipment, or debris. Safety equipment provides a barrier to minimize injuries in case of collisions or accidents.
- **Key Equipment:** Hard hats protect the head from falling objects, debris, or impacts, while steel-toed boots protect feet from heavy objects or equipment. Protective eyewear shields the eyes from dust, debris, or wind-borne particles.

### 3. Communication and Coordination

- **Why It's Important:** Effective communication is critical during traffic control to ensure that workers, pedestrians, and drivers understand what actions to take. Clear signals and coordination are essential to maintaining the flow of traffic while protecting workers and road users.
- **Key Equipment:** Stop/slow paddles, whistles, two-way radios, and hand signals help control and direct traffic. Lighted wands or flags can be used for signaling in low-visibility conditions.

### 4. Traffic Warning and Guidance

- **Why It's Important:** Motorists need early warnings about ongoing traffic control activities to slow down, reroute, or stop safely. Safety equipment plays a vital role in providing this guidance, preventing last-minute reactions that could cause accidents.

- Key Equipment: Traffic cones, barricades, warning signs, and flashing lights help mark hazardous areas, guide drivers, and provide clear visual cues about lane closures or detours. Portable signs can inform drivers about speed limits, lane changes, or upcoming roadwork zones.

## **5. Protection from Environmental Hazards**

- Why It's Important: Traffic control activities often take place in harsh weather conditions, such as extreme heat, rain, or snow. Workers must be protected not only from vehicle-related hazards but also from environmental factors that could impair their ability to perform their duties safely.
- Key Equipment: Weather-appropriate gear, such as rainproof jackets, insulated gloves, or cooling vests, help protect workers from environmental exposure. Sunscreen and hats may also be essential for outdoor work in direct sunlight.

## **6. Noise Protection**

- Why It's Important: In high-traffic or construction areas, noise levels can become dangerously high, leading to hearing loss or communication difficulties, both of which can increase the risk of accidents.
- Key Equipment: Earplugs or earmuffs protect workers from prolonged exposure to loud noise, while still allowing them to hear critical warnings or instructions.

## **7. Compliance with Regulations**

- Why It's Important: Occupational safety regulations, such as those from OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) or local transportation authorities, mandate the use of safety equipment for traffic control workers. Compliance ensures the protection of workers and reduces liability for employers.
- Key Equipment: Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as helmets, gloves, and high-visibility clothing, is required to meet safety standards and reduce the risk of penalties or violations.

## **8. Emergency Preparedness**

- Why It's Important: Traffic control personnel must be prepared to respond quickly to emergencies, such as accidents or dangerous conditions, to protect themselves and others.
- Key Equipment: First aid kits, emergency response kits, and fire extinguishers allow workers to respond to injuries or hazardous situations promptly. Additionally, personal alarms or panic buttons can be used to signal for help if needed.

## **9. Mitigation of Fatigue and Stress**

- Why It's Important: Traffic control work can be physically and mentally demanding, particularly during long shifts. Safety equipment that reduces fatigue can improve performance and alertness, reducing the risk of accidents caused by human error.
- Key Equipment: Ergonomic gear, such as cushioned footwear and supportive gloves, can reduce fatigue, while hydration systems help workers stay hydrated during physically demanding tasks.

## **Conclusion**

Safety equipment is essential during traffic control activities for:

- Enhancing visibility to prevent vehicle-worker collisions.
- Providing physical protection from impacts and environmental hazards.
- Ensuring effective communication between workers and drivers.
- Offering guidance and warning to motorists about work zones.
- Complying with legal safety regulations and preparing for emergencies.

Properly equipped workers are safer, more efficient, and better able to protect themselves, the public, and their fellow workers.

## Let's Connect...

[Constable's Facebook Page](#)

[CERT Facebook Page](#)

## Unplanned Events: What does CERT do?

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members can assist with various tasks during emergencies, including traffic and crowd control. While they are not first responders, CERT members play a vital role in managing unplanned events when professional emergency services are overwhelmed. Here are some examples of unplanned events in which CERT members may be called upon to assist with traffic or crowd control:

### 1. Natural Disasters (e.g., Earthquakes, Floods, Tornadoes)

- Scenario: After a natural disaster, roads may be blocked by debris, and people may need to be evacuated or directed to safe areas. Traffic may become congested, and the local population may be disoriented or panicked.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may direct traffic away from dangerous areas, such as collapsed buildings or flooded streets, helping to clear the way for emergency vehicles. They may also manage crowd movement at evacuation shelters or distribution points for aid, ensuring orderly behavior and preventing bottlenecks.

### 2. Large-Scale Power Outages

- Scenario: A major power outage can lead to traffic light failures, causing chaos at intersections. People may rush to stores to buy emergency supplies, leading to crowded conditions and potential safety risks.
- Role of CERT: In the absence of functioning traffic signals, CERT members may help direct traffic at busy intersections to prevent accidents. They might also assist with crowd control at supply distribution points, ensuring that people remain calm and orderly while waiting for resources.

### 3. Mass Casualty Incidents (e.g., Terrorist Attacks, Industrial Accidents)

- Scenario: A mass casualty incident, such as a terrorist attack or a major industrial accident, may overwhelm local law enforcement and emergency services. Large crowds

may gather at the scene, either out of curiosity or in search of missing loved ones, leading to congestion and confusion.

- Role of CERT: CERT members can help cordon off the area and direct crowds away from danger zones. They can also assist in organizing people at family reunification centers or in managing access to the scene, allowing emergency personnel to do their jobs without interference.

#### **4. Public Health Emergencies (e.g., Disease Outbreaks, Pandemic-Related Events)**

- Scenario: During a public health emergency, such as a contagious disease outbreak or pandemic, large crowds may gather at hospitals, testing sites, or vaccination centers, creating a potential for chaos or overcrowding.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may be tasked with organizing people at testing or vaccination centers, helping to maintain social distancing, manage lines, and ensure that people are processed in an orderly manner. They may also control traffic flow to and from medical facilities, ensuring that ambulances and other critical vehicles have access.

#### **5. Severe Weather Events (e.g., Hurricanes, Snowstorms, Flash Floods)**

- Scenario: Severe weather can cause sudden road closures, flooding, or hazardous driving conditions. Evacuations may be necessary, or people may become stranded in their vehicles.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may help direct traffic away from flood-prone areas, road closures, or other hazardous conditions. They might also assist with crowd control at emergency shelters, ensuring that people are guided safely to shelter and that order is maintained within the facility.

#### **6. Fires (e.g., Wildfires, Urban Fires)**

- Scenario: In the case of a large wildfire or urban fire, evacuations may be necessary, and roads may become congested as people attempt to flee the area. Emergency services may need clear access to fight the fire or rescue people.
- Role of CERT: CERT members can assist in directing traffic during evacuations, ensuring that people are moving safely and efficiently out of danger. They may also help manage crowds at evacuation centers, providing information, organizing evacuees, and preventing panic.

#### **7. Public Disturbances (e.g., Protests, Riots)**

- Scenario: A public disturbance, such as a protest or riot, can lead to road closures, crowd control issues, and potential violence. Law enforcement may need assistance in managing the crowd to prevent escalation.
- Role of CERT: CERT members can assist in guiding people away from conflict zones, helping maintain order at gathering points, and ensuring that traffic does not become blocked by crowds. Their presence can help ensure that the situation remains peaceful and that people are able to exit the area safely if necessary.

#### **8. Traffic Accidents**

- Scenario: A major traffic accident may block roads, leading to congestion, and people may gather at the scene to offer help or out of curiosity. Emergency vehicles may have difficulty accessing the area.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may assist in directing traffic around the accident scene, ensuring that emergency vehicles can reach those in need. They can also help manage

bystanders and prevent crowding near the scene, allowing first responders to work more efficiently.

## **9. Community Events (e.g., Parades, Sporting Events, Concerts)**

- Scenario: Although these events may be planned, unplanned situations such as unexpected crowd surges, accidents, or disturbances can occur, requiring quick response for crowd and traffic management.
- Role of CERT: CERT members can assist with crowd control, ensuring that people are directed to safe areas and that emergency exits are clear. They may also assist in managing traffic flow around the event, ensuring that attendees enter and leave the area safely.

## **10. Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Incidents**

- Scenario: A hazardous material spill or leak, such as a chemical spill from a truck, can lead to road closures and evacuations. People may inadvertently enter dangerous areas.
- Role of CERT: CERT members can help block off access to hazardous areas, ensuring that drivers and pedestrians do not enter contaminated zones. They can also assist in managing crowds during evacuations, guiding people to safe zones and ensuring orderly movement.

## **Conclusion**

CERT members play a critical role in traffic and crowd control during unplanned events by helping to ensure safety, reduce confusion, and allow emergency responders to perform their duties efficiently. Their ability to manage traffic and crowds provides essential support during emergencies when professional services may be overstretched.

## **Stay Informed & Get Connected**

For the latest updates on community safety, crime prevention tips, and local events, we encourage you to visit the Tipton Constables Facebook page. Stay informed about the efforts of our dedicated law enforcement officers as they work tirelessly to keep our community safe. By following the page, you'll gain access to valuable information, timely alerts, and opportunities to engage with your local constables. Join the Tipton Constables Facebook community today and be an active participant in fostering a safer, more connected neighborhood. Your involvement makes a difference!

[Constable's Blog](#)

[CERT Team Website](#)

## **Planned Events: What does CERT do?**

During planned events, CERT members may also play a key role in managing traffic and crowds to ensure public safety and the smooth execution of the event. Planned events typically involve large gatherings and can include everything from public celebrations to sporting events, parades,

and concerts. Here's how CERT members may assist with traffic and crowd control during such planned events:

### **1. Parades**

- Scenario: Parades attract large crowds and often result in road closures. Managing the flow of people and vehicles around the parade route is essential for safety.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may be responsible for managing road closures, guiding pedestrians to safe viewing areas, and preventing people from crossing into the parade route. They may also help control the flow of foot traffic to and from the event, ensuring that emergency vehicles can access the area if needed.

### **2. Sporting Events**

- Scenario: Large sporting events, such as marathons, football games, or races, often draw thousands of attendees. Managing the traffic around the venue and ensuring crowd safety is crucial.
- Role of CERT: CERT members can assist with directing traffic to parking areas, ensuring that vehicles are parked safely and access roads remain clear. They may also manage crowd flow into and out of the venue, providing directions to attendees and ensuring that exits are not blocked in case of an emergency.

### **3. Festivals and Fairs**

- Scenario: Festivals and fairs often take place over several days and can attract large crowds. There may be multiple points of entry, stages, and vendor areas, which require efficient crowd control.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may help manage crowd density, ensuring that large groups do not gather in high-risk areas like near stages or food vendors. They can also assist in controlling the flow of people between different parts of the event and provide traffic control support, especially in areas where roads have been closed or rerouted for the event.

### **4. Concerts**

- Scenario: Large concerts can create safety risks related to crowd surges, congested entrances and exits, and traffic around the venue.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may direct attendees to designated entry points, help with crowd control near the stage to prevent overcrowding, and ensure that exits are clear. They can also assist in managing the flow of vehicles entering and leaving the venue, reducing the risk of traffic congestion or accidents.

### **5. Public Ceremonies and Commemorative Events**

- Scenario: Public ceremonies, such as memorials, national celebrations, or political rallies, often involve large numbers of participants and spectators, which can lead to road closures and require crowd management.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may assist in organizing the flow of attendees, ensuring that people are directed to appropriate areas and that emergency access is maintained. They can also help with traffic control, directing vehicles to parking areas and ensuring that roads remain clear for emergency services if needed.

### **6. Holiday Events (e.g., Fireworks Displays, New Year's Eve Celebrations)**

- Scenario: Holiday events, particularly those with fireworks or large public gatherings, attract large numbers of people and can lead to congestion in public spaces and on roads.

- Role of CERT: CERT members may help manage pedestrian traffic, keeping people at a safe distance from fireworks or other hazards. They can also assist in controlling vehicle flow, ensuring that parking areas are used efficiently and that roads are not blocked by illegally parked cars.

## **7. Charity Runs or Marathons**

- Scenario: Charity runs and marathons often require significant road closures and involve large numbers of participants and spectators. Ensuring the safety of both runners and bystanders is critical.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may manage road closures, direct runners along the correct route, and ensure that spectators remain at a safe distance. They may also assist in rerouting traffic around the event and providing directions to participants and spectators.

## **8. Political or Cultural Rallies**

- Scenario: Political or cultural rallies often involve large crowds and can result in road closures and high security needs. Managing these crowds safely is a priority, especially in politically charged or emotionally intense environments.
- Role of CERT: CERT members can help direct the flow of foot traffic, ensuring that crowds do not block key access points or cause bottlenecks. They may also assist with guiding participants to designated areas and controlling traffic around the rally to keep access roads clear for emergency vehicles.

## **9. Religious Gatherings**

- Scenario: Large religious gatherings, such as pilgrimages, festivals, or celebrations, often attract large crowds and require careful planning to ensure safety and accessibility.
- Role of CERT: CERT members may assist with crowd control around religious sites, ensuring that people move through the area safely and that emergency access routes remain open. They can also provide traffic control support, helping to manage parking and ensuring that vehicles do not block critical areas.

## **10. Public Safety Drills or Emergency Preparedness Exercises**

- Scenario: Public safety drills or emergency preparedness exercises may involve large groups of participants, requiring traffic and crowd control to ensure the drill runs smoothly and that real-life disruptions are minimized.
- Role of CERT: During these drills, CERT members may manage traffic flow around the exercise area and direct participants to the correct locations. They may also assist with crowd control, ensuring that onlookers do not interfere with the exercise.

## **11. Political Elections and Voting Locations**

- Scenario: Elections can bring large numbers of people to voting stations, creating potential for crowding and traffic congestion, especially at high-traffic polling locations.
- Role of CERT: CERT members can help manage the flow of people entering and exiting polling stations, ensuring that social distancing or other safety measures are followed. They may also direct traffic to and from polling locations, ensuring that access roads remain clear and that people park in designated areas.

## **Conclusion**

During planned events, CERT members play a key role in traffic and crowd control by:



- Directing pedestrian and vehicle traffic to ensure smooth movement.
- Managing crowds to prevent congestion and ensure that emergency exits and access points remain clear.
- Providing logistical support by guiding people to safe areas and assisting in the event of an emergency.
- Ensuring public safety by helping maintain order and reducing risks associated with large gatherings.

By working alongside law enforcement and other emergency services, CERT members ensure that planned events run safely and efficiently, minimizing risks and enhancing the overall safety of the community.

## CERT Scene Size-Up

The CERT size-up steps are a systematic process used by Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members to assess a situation before taking action. This is especially important in crowd control or traffic control situations, where safety and order must be maintained, and decisions must be made based on a clear understanding of the environment. CERT size-up helps volunteers prioritize tasks, minimize risks, and ensure effective response. Here's a detailed explanation of the steps involved and how they apply to crowd or traffic control:

### 1. Gather Facts

- **Description:** The first step in size-up is to collect as much information as possible about the situation. This includes understanding the nature of the event, the hazards involved, the number of people affected, and the resources available.
- **Application to Crowd/Traffic Control:** CERT members assess the type and size of the crowd, potential hazards (such as heavy traffic, environmental factors, or the possibility of unrest), and whether there are any ongoing safety concerns (e.g., accidents or blocked routes). Key facts include the presence of law enforcement, emergency services, and the availability of necessary equipment (e.g., barriers, signage).

### 2. Assess Situation or Damage

- **Description:** This step involves evaluating the extent of physical damage or disruptions caused by the event. CERT members look for obvious hazards, such as debris, damaged infrastructure, or blocked roads, that may impede movement or safety.
- **Application to Crowd/Traffic Control:** CERT members assess whether the physical environment has been compromised, such as damaged barriers, malfunctioning traffic signals, or areas of congestion. They determine whether the existing infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, or gathering spaces) can support the crowd and if any changes need to be made to improve safety or traffic flow.

### 3. Consider Probabilities

- **Description:** This step involves predicting how the situation might evolve. CERT members think about what could happen next, such as escalating risks or potential secondary hazards, and prepare accordingly.
- **Application to Crowd/Traffic Control:** CERT members consider potential developments, such as the crowd growing larger, road closures causing further traffic buildup, or potential disruptions like a protest turning violent. They also think about how weather,

time of day, or other external factors might affect crowd or traffic behavior. Planning for contingencies is crucial.

#### **4. Assess Your Situation**

- Description: CERT members evaluate their own capabilities and limitations. This involves considering the available personnel, equipment, and any additional resources that may be required to manage the situation.
- Application to Crowd/Traffic Control: CERT members assess whether they have enough trained personnel to handle the crowd or traffic effectively. They check their equipment (e.g., high-visibility vests, cones, signs) and communication tools (e.g., radios) to ensure they can safely control traffic or manage the crowd. If they are short-staffed or ill-equipped, they may request additional help or adjust their strategy.

#### **5. Establish Priorities**

- Description: After gathering information and assessing the situation, CERT members establish their priorities based on the most immediate risks and needs.
- Application to Crowd/Traffic Control: In crowd control, the top priority may be to ensure that emergency exits are clear and that people are safe from potential hazards. In traffic control, the priority could be preventing accidents by managing traffic flow around a hazard or event. CERT members prioritize actions such as rerouting traffic, setting up barriers, or guiding crowds away from high-risk areas.

#### **6. Make Decisions**

- Description: Based on the facts, damage assessment, and priorities, CERT members make decisions about how to proceed. This includes determining the best course of action to minimize risks and manage the situation.
- Application to Crowd/Traffic Control: CERT members decide on specific actions, such as directing people to safer areas, closing roads, or establishing pedestrian walkways. They may also decide to adjust the traffic signal timing, set up cones for lane closures, or guide emergency vehicles to needed locations. These decisions are made in coordination with other emergency personnel.

#### **7. Develop a Plan of Action**

- Description: A clear, actionable plan is developed, detailing how CERT members will address the situation. This includes specific tasks, responsibilities, and timelines.
- Application to Crowd/Traffic Control: CERT members create a plan for positioning personnel, placing barriers, and directing traffic or people. For example, they may assign specific team members to different intersections or crowd zones, establish communication protocols, and develop a strategy for managing emergency situations (e.g., medical emergencies or traffic accidents).

#### **8. Take Action**

- Description: After planning, CERT members implement the plan in a safe and organized manner. They continuously monitor the situation and adjust their actions as necessary.
- Application to Crowd/Traffic Control: CERT members execute the traffic or crowd control plan, guiding pedestrians, rerouting vehicles, or managing queues. They actively engage with the public to provide directions, maintain safety, and ensure compliance with traffic regulations or event guidelines. As the situation evolves, they adjust their actions, such as opening new lanes or redirecting people based on changing conditions.

## **9. Evaluate Progress**

- Description: Finally, CERT members continually assess how well their actions are working. This includes checking whether the plan is effective, if the situation is improving, and if any adjustments need to be made.
- Application to Crowd/Traffic Control: CERT members observe whether traffic is flowing smoothly or if the crowd is being managed effectively. If congestion persists or safety hazards emerge, they reassess the situation and modify their approach. Continuous evaluation ensures that actions remain aligned with the overall goal of maintaining order and safety.

### **Summary of the CERT Size-Up Steps:**

- Gather Facts: Understand the situation, including hazards, crowd size, and traffic conditions.
- Assess Situation or Damage: Identify any physical or infrastructure damage that may affect traffic or crowd control.
- Consider Probabilities: Predict how the situation may evolve and anticipate future challenges.
- Assess Your Situation: Evaluate available personnel, resources, and limitations.
- Establish Priorities: Prioritize actions based on the most immediate risks and needs.
- Make Decisions: Choose the best course of action to manage traffic or crowds effectively.
- Develop a Plan of Action: Create a detailed plan to manage the situation.
- Take Action: Implement the plan while monitoring the situation for changes.
- Evaluate Progress: Continuously assess the effectiveness of the actions and make necessary adjustments.

### **Importance in Crowd and Traffic Control:**

The CERT size-up process ensures that CERT members approach crowd or traffic control situations with a clear understanding of the risks, resources, and priorities. By systematically evaluating the situation and planning accordingly, CERT members can:

- Minimize risks to themselves and the public.
- Ensure the safety of pedestrians, drivers, and other participants.
- Support emergency responders by maintaining clear access to critical areas.
- Maintain order in potentially chaotic environments.

This methodical approach is essential for effectively managing both planned and unplanned events, ensuring that the public and CERT members stay safe.