

# Cambria CSD Fire Department

## CERT - Standard Operating Guideline

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**Title:** General Code of Conduct

**Date Issued:** April 24, 2012

**Date Last Revised:**

**Revision Number:**

**SOG #01-2012**

**Total Pages:** 2

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**Purpose:** To provide general conduct standards or guidance for all members.

**Scope:** This applies to all members of CERT.

**General:** In order to provide expectations of conduct that reflects the highest standards of professionalism for members operating in the community.

As a volunteer with the Cambria CERT program, you are expected to comply with the following:

1. Dial 911 for all emergencies, first.
2. Know that you are not a firefighter. You are trained to function as an extension of the fire department's response to emergencies & disasters, when such circumstances exist or when directed by emergency services officials.
  - When disaster occurs, your first responsibility is to ensure your own safety & that of your family.
  - After, you can respond to incidents with other CERT members as directed.
3. Do not generally self- deploy to local events (fires, accidents, etc.). Only deploy after CERT call-out or notification or per CERT guidelines.
4. Stay within the scope of your training.
5. Bring or wear your personal safety equipment: Helmet, safety vest, goggles, gloves, etc. Bring your CERT forms and bottled water. Bring other items you feel appropriate.
6. Confine your actions to your physical & resource limitations when responding or participating as a CERT member. Such limitations may be determined by, but not limited to, equipment available, physical abilities, knowledge, authority & hazards.
7. Conduct yourself with professionalism, dignity & pride, and act appropriately and responsibly at all times while assisting others or performing duties.
8. Treat fellow team members, fire & police personnel, other volunteers, and property with courtesy & respect.
9. Be sensitive to the diversity of the team members and those we assist.
10. Direct anyone who is looking for official statements to the Cambria Fire Department or other agency in charge of the incident.
11. Respect the privacy of persons served by the Cambria CERT and hold in confidence all sensitive, private, and personal information.
12. Keep the Cambria CERT leadership informed of any progress, concerns, or problems with tasks you have been assigned.

13. You are not to partake in consumption of alcohol while responding as a CERT member and you may not report for any CERT duties while under the influence of any amount of alcohol or drugs (except prescription drugs).
14. You are forbidden to carry any firearms, knives or other weapons (you can carry multipurpose tools, pliers, screwdrivers, etc.).
15. You shall not authorize the use of, the name, emblem, endorsement, services or property of Cambria CERT or Cambria CSD Fire Department, without proper approval of the CERT Coordinator or Cambria CSD Fire Department.
16. You shall not accept or seek any money or gifts offered as a result of your affiliation with Cambria CERT (unless part of official fund raising efforts for the program).
17. You shall not use your participation in CERT to promote any partisan politics, religious matters or positions on any issue.
18. You shall avoid inappropriate conduct, both on-duty & off-duty, that would jeopardize the program effectiveness. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to the following: Offensive or profane language or gestures; public criticism of a CERT member or Cambria CSD Fire Department member; jeopardizing a team member's safety.