

**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
EMERGENCY SERVICES**

## CERT TRAINING FOR SALARY POINT CREDIT

Over 14 years ago, on January 17, 1994, the Northridge Earthquake struck at 4:30 a.m. That event killed 57 people, injured over 8,700 and did over 25 billion dollars worth of damage. As another anniversary of this tragic incident approaches, we all need to reassess our ability to respond to another major earthquake. Additionally, every year we see tremendous wildfires and other natural disasters kill and injure hundreds and destroy homes and property throughout California. Once again we need to ask, "How will we respond?"

Los Angeles Unified School District employees, like all public employees need to remember that the law requires them to become Disaster Service Workers and therefore remain at work after a major event. As Disaster Service Workers they will be expected to assist others, especially the students in their care, during an emergency (Section 3100 of the California Government Code).

Some schools think, "We will call the Fire Department; they will come and help us." The fact is that there are roughly 110 fire stations in Los Angeles and over 1,000 schools. In a major disaster, your local fire station may not be able to respond to the schools. The schools will need to be self-sufficient.

History has shown that the best way to survive a disaster, either natural or man-made, is to invest the time and energy in being trained and prepared.

One of the best sources of training for disaster response is the Los Angeles City Fire Department's free CERT class.

CERT stands for **C**ommunity **E**mergency **R**esponse **T**eam and the class teaches such skills as Earthquake Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Search and Rescue, First Aid and Disaster Management.

The classes are taught during the day and evening. If a school or office has 25 interested people, they will bring the class to you. The class is dynamic, "hands-on" instruction where skills are practiced. Students are given confidence through practice.

To find and enroll in a class near you or to schedule your own class you can use the CERT web site:

**www.cert-la.com or call (818) 756-9674**

For additional information and salary point information, call LAUSD Office of Emergency Services at (213) 241-3949.