

*Are you ready?*

## Why Volunteer?

Volunteering provides:

- ◇ A chance to help your community during both “Blue Skies” and in the time of crisis
- ◇ Essential support to the Emergency Operation Center
- ◇ An opportunity to use your own talents and abilities for a common purpose
- ◇ The satisfaction of helping others
- ◇ An opportunity to broaden your social network
- ◇ A way to learn a new skill
- ◇ Interaction with others
- ◇ A sense of purpose
- ◇ An opportunity to create new relationships
- ◇ A means to work with others who share a common interest
- ◇ A chance to make a difference



## Volunteering in Ottawa County

Anyone can submit a volunteer application to Ottawa County Emergency Management. To apply, there is no special training needed. If your application is approved after a background check, we will provide opportunities for the training required for the individual team(s) that you become a part of.

Please contact us for more information on any of the volunteer groups or to sign up to be a part of those who make a difference.

*Ottawa County Volunteers are a specialized, dedicated group of individuals who seek to make a difference in their community by being prepared to assist local agencies when disaster strikes and to help educate others in the community on how to be prepared. .*

## OTTAWA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

12220 Fillmore Street  
West Olive, MI 49460

Phone: 616-738-4052

To volunteer contact:

[emvolunteer@miottawa.org](mailto:emvolunteer@miottawa.org)



# Volunteer!



# Ottawa County Volunteer Opportunities



## The Ottawa County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

helps to provide critical support during a disaster. The role of a CERT volunteer is to help others until trained emergency personnel arrive. They also help year-round with neighborhood exercises, preparedness outreach and more. CERT training educates citizens to help themselves and their families and neighbors in the event of a disaster. CERT Training requires an 8 week commitment (one night per week). Public classes are traditionally offered two-times per year, spring and fall. Contact: [occert.cc@gmail.com](mailto:occert.cc@gmail.com)



## Ottawa County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

volunteers include both medical professionals and others who want to donate their time and expertise to promote healthy living throughout the year and to prepare for and respond to emergencies. OC MRC volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources. Contact: [OttawaMRC@gmail.com](mailto:OttawaMRC@gmail.com)

*Both CERT and  
MRC are a part of the  
Citizen Corps Group*



## Ottawa County Amateur Radio Auxiliary (OCARA) members are

licensed amateur radio operators who volunteer their time, skill and equipment to serve the public by providing emergency communication during times of disaster, exercises, search and rescue operations, severe weather and special events.

**Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)** are members of OCARA who are solely authorized by Emergency Management to use amateur radio air waves for emergency communication when other means of radio communication are down.

Contact [emvolunteer@miottawa.org](mailto:emvolunteer@miottawa.org)



**SKYWARN** is a team of volunteers that are trained to observe, report and work with Ottawa County Emergency Management during severe weather.

Communication is achieved via amateur radio. Contact: [emvolunteer@miottawa.org](mailto:emvolunteer@miottawa.org)



The **Ottawa County Search and Rescue (SAR)** group consists of dedicated individuals ready to assist first responders with locating a missing person. These volunteers are highly trained in grid search techniques and field first aid enabling them to locate and assist someone until professional help arrives. Contact: [ocem.sar@gmail.com](mailto:ocem.sar@gmail.com)



## The Ottawa County Local Emergency Planning Committee

**(LEPC)** is a group established to ensure that appropriate plans are in place to increase the safety of the community. The LEPC works with industry and agriculture to help prevent chemical accidents from happening and to develop community plans for responding to chemical emergencies. They meet every other month and hold an annual conference which is open to the public .

Contact: [ocem@miottawa.org](mailto:ocem@miottawa.org)



## The Ottawa County Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Team

**(OCHMTRT)** consists of members who are cross-trained to respond to a variety of situations, from a hazardous materials release to a building collapse. Please contact our office for more information on how to join at (616)738-4051 or [ocem@miottawa.org](mailto:ocem@miottawa.org)