

What is CERN of Howard County?

CERN (Community Emergency Response Network) of Howard County, Maryland, is a community readiness network that plans and provides resources to build a strong community that can survive and recover quickly from an emergency or disaster. CERN is composed of County government agencies, nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and first responders, including medical and other trained professionals. CERN's Web site is **www.cern.us**.

CERN was formed because Howard County is located in the Greater Baltimore-Washington area, and residents in Howard County could be affected by a natural disaster or a terrorist strike.

CERN's 68 members meet monthly. CERN also plans and hosts an annual retreat focusing on coordinating countywide emergency preparedness and communication plans, emergency sheltering, plans for individuals with disabilities, public information, and volunteering.

CERN has received national recognition by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for its community-wide model of emergency preparedness.

In 2004, CERN received an award from the National Association of Counties (NACO) for its community mobilization activities.

There are 3 ways you can become active and receive training on emergency preparedness:

- 1** Become an N2N Neighbor-To-Neighbor Contact for your neighborhood and organize families to prepare for a disaster. Contact the N2N Coordinators, Joan Driessen at **jrdriessen@msn.com**, or call 410-730-3286, or Becky Maerten at **beckymaerten@verizon.net**, or call 410-549-6477.
- 2** Contact the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County at **www.volunteerhoward.org**, or call 410-715-3179, and participate in Mobilization Training or Volunteer Orientation Training.
- 3** Take CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training to learn basic disaster response skills. Contact the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue at 410-313-CERT (2378).