



## **NIMS Credentialing Criteria for CERTs**

**The following criteria are effective as of August 17, 2015.  
Criteria will be reviewed regularly and revised as needed.**

To receive a PIV-I (Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable) card, CERT volunteers must . . .

1. Be a member of a CERT that is registered with FEMA.
2. Be registered with and accepted by Ohio Responds.
3. Sign a loyalty oath as prescribed by federal and state legislation.
4. Have a clear background check (see Appendix A).
5. Complete the following training and submit provider certificates:
  - a. CERT Basic Training, classroom version
  - b. IS-700 National Incident Management System An Introduction, any revision
  - c. IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System, any revision
  - d. IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, any revision
  - e. Radio Operation (see Appendix B)
6. Qualify for one of the following tasks (see Appendix B):
  - a. Damage Assessment
  - b. First Aid
  - c. Points of Dispensing (PODs)
  - d. Sheltering
  - e. Wide Area Search
7. Education: Must be able to understand and communicate in the English language with reasonable accommodation.
8. Experience: None
9. Certification/Licensure: None
10. Physical/Medical/Behavioral Fitness: Will be determined at time of deployment.



## **Appendix A – Background Check**

### **Instructions**

1. Secure written permission from the volunteer before conducting the background check. Your law department should provide and/or review the form. A sample form is available in the *CERT Liability Guide* at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/28051>.
2. Conduct the background check through a service that will provide national and state criminal history, from the age of 18, using fingerprinting (preferred) or Social Security Number.
3. If a report reveals a conviction, the Citizen Corps Council will determine if the volunteer may receive a PIV-I card.
4. Complete Sections B and C of the *Background Check Attestation*. Be sure that all written information is legible. Illegible forms cannot be accepted.
5. The Attestation should be signed by the Fire Chief or Police Chief of the volunteer's municipality.
6. Keep a copy and give original to the CERT member to include with his/her NIMS credentialing packet.



## Background Check Attestation

Section A	<p>Criteria for NIMS credentialing background check:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National and State Criminal History</li> <li>2. History from the Age of Majority (18)</li> <li>3. Fingerprinting or Social Security Number</li> <li>4. Repeat checks to be performed as needed</li> <li>5. Reviewed by law enforcement officer or legal counsel</li> </ol>
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Section B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of CERT Member _____</li> <li>2. Name of CERT _____</li> <li>3. Method Used           <input type="checkbox"/> WebCheck   <input type="checkbox"/> _____</li> <li>4. Date of Check           _____</li> </ol>
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Section C	<p>I attest that the background check for the above-named CERT member was conducted with the subject's permission, according to the criteria listed in Section A above, and was clear of convictions as of the date shown in Section B above.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Signature</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name Printed</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
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## Disqualifying Convictions

The following list will be used by the Citizen Corps Council to determine eligibility for a PIV-I card. Time elapsed since the conviction will be considered. The list is not all-inclusive.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unwillingness to submit to background check</li> <li>2. Failure to complete screening process</li> <li>3. Lying about criminal history</li> </ol> <p><u>Violent Crimes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Arson</li> <li>5. Assault</li> <li>6. Attempted murder</li> <li>7. Battery</li> <li>8. Burglary</li> <li>9. Carrying a concealed weapon w/o a permit</li> <li>10. Child abuse or neglect</li> <li>11. Domestic violence</li> <li>12. Harassment</li> <li>13. Homicide</li> <li>14. Kidnapping</li> <li>15. Manslaughter</li> <li>16. Menacing</li> <li>17. Murder</li> <li>18. Reckless endangerment</li> <li>19. Unlawful imprisonment</li> <li>20. Unlawful wounding</li> <li>21. Vehicular homicide/manslaughter</li> <li>22. Violation of a restraining order</li> </ol> <p><u>Sex Crimes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23. Child molestation</li> <li>24. Crimes against nature</li> <li>25. Indecent exposure</li> <li>26. Pornography</li> <li>27. Presence on a sex offender list or registry</li> <li>28. Prostitution</li> <li>29. Rape</li> <li>30. Selling/distributing child pornography</li> <li>31. Sexual assault</li> <li>32. Sexual exploitation</li> <li>33. Sexual misconduct</li> <li>34. Solicitation of prostitution</li> </ol>	<p><u>Financial Crimes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35. Access device fraud</li> <li>36. Burglary</li> <li>37. Embezzlement</li> <li>38. Extortion</li> <li>39. Financial exploitation</li> <li>40. Forgery</li> <li>41. Fraud</li> <li>42. Robbery</li> <li>43. Theft</li> <li>44. Worthless checks</li> </ol> <p><u>Drug or Alcohol Crimes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45. Manufacturing, delivering, possessing, and/or using a controlled substance</li> <li>46. Operating a vehicle while under the influence (OVI)</li> </ol> <p><u>Other Crimes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>47. Accessory or principal to a felony</li> <li>48. Animal cruelty</li> <li>49. Evading arrest/fleeing from an officer</li> <li>50. Impersonating an officer</li> <li>51. Obstruction of justice/obstruction of officers</li> <li>52. Perjury</li> <li>53. Tampering with utility meters</li> <li>54. Tampering with a witness</li> <li>55. Threatening telephone calls</li> <li>56. Any other misdemeanor that would be considered a potential danger or is directly related to the function(s) of that volunteer</li> </ol>
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## Appendix B – Training

Training requirements are subject to change.

<b>Training</b>	<b>Provider</b>
CERT Basic Training	CERT Programs/Teams
Damage Assessment	Ohio EMA
First Aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid</li> <li>• CPR</li> <li>• AED</li> <li>• Bloodborne Pathogens</li> </ul>	American Heart Association American Red Cross American Safety and Health Institute Emergency Care and Safety Institute Medic First Aid National Safety Council
IS-700 Introduction to NIMS IS-100 Incident Command System an Introduction IS-200 ICS for Single Resources/Initial Action Incidents	FEMA Independent Study
Radio Operation	<i>MURS Radio Basics</i> or equivalent  (Equivalency to be determined by the Citizen Corps Council)
Points of Dispensing	Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Sheltering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster Cycle Services Overview</li> <li>• Basic Food Safety</li> <li>• Serving People with Access and Functional Needs in Shelters</li> <li>• Safe and Well Linking Fundamentals</li> <li>• Shelter Fundamentals</li> <li>• Shelter Fundamentals Exercise</li> </ul>	American Red Cross
Wide Area Search	Cleveland Metroparks