

CERT Kit / Backpack: What to Carry

Category	Minimum Items	Additional / Optional Items
Clothing, Gloves, and Shoes	• High visibility vest or CERT vest • Helmet (not hard hats or baseball caps; proper safety/impact protection) • Long pants, long-sleeve shirt, durable boots, work gloves	• Extra pair of gloves (insulated, heavy-duty) • Rain gear or waterproof shell • Thermal / cold weather layers or sun protection clothing • Extra socks
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	• Dust mask or respirator • Safety goggles or eye protection • Ear protection	• Full face shield • Knee pads / elbow pads • Respirator cartridges or extra masks • High-visibility rain gear or reflective strips
Tools & Equipment	• Flashlight (hands-free or headlamp plus spare batteries) • Multi-tool (pliers, knife, etc.) • Small pry tools, example: window punch / seatbelt cutter	• Extra batteries (for all electronic / flashlight items) • Portable radio or communication device (if authorized) • Chainsaw “buddy” tools or hand saws (depending on specialized training) • Duct tape, rope or paracord, zip ties • Shovel, small folding shovel or entrenching tool
Medical & First Aid	• First aid kit (bandages, adhesive tape, antiseptic wipes, gauze pads, etc.) • Trauma supplies if trained (tourniquet) • Disposable gloves • CPR mask or barrier device • Splint materials • Thermal blanket	• Eye wash, medication for known allergies (EpiPen), blister pads, insect sting treatment • Ice packs, etc. • Larger dressings; CPR backup accessories • Water purification tablets or filter
Communication & Lighting	• Pen / pencil & waterproof notebook or paper • Map(s) of area, or printed maps plus compass • Marker / sharpie	• Portable two-way radio or FRS/GMRS/ham radio if trained • Signal mirror • Extra batteries or solar charger • Emergency beacon or whistle

Category	Minimum Items	Additional / Optional Items
	• Portable power bank / backup battery • Whistle (dual-use for signaling) • Glow sticks or LED safety lights	• Rain protection for electronics (dry bags, zip lock or better)
Shelter, Hydration, Energy	• Water: minimum 1 quart or liter per person for at least several hours; more is highly recommended • Energy snacks or non-perishable food (high calorie bars, etc.) • Extra clothes / jacket • Sun protection (sunscreen, sunglasses, hat)	• Emergency shelter: tarp, space blanket, bivy sack • Heating source • Cooking utensils or mess kit • Insect repellent
Miscellaneous	• CERT participant manual • CERT deployment team policies (COMING SOON) • Personal hygiene items (hand sanitizer, hand wipes, etc.) • Personal medications (in labelled container) • Trash bags	• Hair ties • Tools specific to your local hazards (wildfire tools, marine, earthquake, cold, etc.) • Spare footwear • Cash (small bills)