



**CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

**SHERIFF**  
**MIKE PRENDERGAST**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CCSO graduates largest CERT class to date**

(Citrus County) The Citrus County Sheriff's Office welcomed 32 new volunteers this week who are trained and ready to go in times of disaster. These volunteers, who are a part of the largest graduating class at our agency, are now part of our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

These graduates completed a rigorous 9-week training course to become certified CERT members. CERT training is designed to prepare citizens in the event of severe weather events, large scale / catastrophic disaster, and other critical incidents that face our community. Classes teach individuals how to plan, train and respond to an emergency or disaster.

Because local emergency personnel may not be able to respond immediately in times of crisis, such as a hurricane, CERT members can make a difference by deploying quickly into their neighborhoods. "This training will make a huge difference in saving lives and property," adds Sheriff Mike Prendergast. "I'm proud of this dedicated group of volunteers that are empowered in making our community a better place to live, work and play."

The next CERT training begins September 2018. If you're interested in becoming a CERT member, please contact Bretlee Jordan at our Emergency Operations Center in Lecanto, Florida at 352-249-2704. To learn more about CERT and to fill out an application, visit [www.sheriffcitrus.org](http://www.sheriffcitrus.org) and click on the Emergency Management button at the top of the page.