As CERT trained members of Chattanooga Area Emergency Readiness, we are:

1. Expected to maintain the highest degree of professionalism in our conduct, bearing, and personal image; and to always remain lawful, truthful, and to never ever exceed the scope of our proper training.

2. Expected to remain within our mission of being disaster ready in our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods; to securing ourselves, families, and neighbors after a disaster in ways that are consistent with the scope of our training and normative CERT practice; and then to relinquish the scene and all documentation to arriving professional first responders.

3. To never present ourselves as Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, Search & Rescue Teams, or any other professional emergency responder; nor to engage in “grand-standing”, “hot-dogging”, or being a “cowboy”.

4. To never self-deploy to the site of an emergency or disaster without having first been in contact with Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency (HC EMA), or one of our partner organizations, and after confirming the need for our services, only then reporting to persons specified by HC EMA or one of our partner organizations.

5. To always operate within the constraints of our C.E.R.T. training and never in conflict with the official emergency management plan as maintained and presented by the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency, both as volunteers helping the County when CAER is written into the plan and otherwise.

6. To also work according to the standard operating procedures, mission statements, and written plans in which CAER is specified when volunteering to help one of our partner organizations.

7. To never be drawn into fractious conversations wherein Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency or a partner organization is demeaned, maligned, or denigrated.

8. If while volunteering for HC EMA or a partner organization, or after such service, we are approached by any member of the media, then we will never offer any information but rather immediately direct them to official media representatives for those organizations.

9. To remember that CAER holds itself to be completely accountable to the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency and as such we are to always represent they and our organization with propriety, as well as hold to a strict chain of responsibility which is: Tony Reavley, Director HC EMA or Winston Shields, Assistant Director → Greg Smith, Planner HC EMA and Liaison to CAER → President of CAER or Vice President of CAER → Director of CAER-CERT.

10. To never harass, demean, denigrate, nor discriminate against any fellow member of CAER, or fellow citizen, HC EMA or partner organization or their personnel for any reason; to take disputes directly to those with whom offense has been taken, and if not resolvable then to one’s own Chapter Director; and to remember that we will always work toward the betterment of this our Order and through this service ourselves, families, and whole community.

_________________            ________________________________
CAER-CERT Member    Date                                     CAER Officer      Date
_________________            ________________________________
printed                                                                  printed