

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT NERT MRC

Who Can Volunteer?

- EMT's, Paramedics and other First Responders.
- Fire Service Volunteers and Fire Academy students.
- Community members without medical training who can assist with administrative and other essential support functions.
- Private practice, retired, or otherwise employed medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, pharmacists, nurses' assistants, and others.

(Medical Professionals interested in working in Hospitals or Field Care sites in a clinical capacity will need to be associated with the Department of Public Health and adhere to their training and protocols. <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/default.asp>)

What Will Volunteers Do In San Francisco?

The responsibilities of MRC volunteers vary, depending on the nature of the needs in the community. MRC volunteers can assist during emergencies and assist with public initiatives and ongoing community health outreach and education efforts.

The goal is to assist professional responders in the event of a communitywide disaster. The unit's primary mission is to provide logistical support during disaster situations.

The San Francisco Fire Department has a vibrant and growing Neighborhood Emergency Response Program (NERT) which was established in 1990. The core skills for trained NERT volunteers, consistent with the National CERT Curriculum, include major elements of the MRC Core Competencies: triage and light treatment, personal preparedness, ICS, and terrorism awareness. Additional on-line training in psychological first aid and pandemic flu is required.

The San Francisco Fire Department will work to recruit volunteers through the NERT Program to support the efforts of the Public Health Department's Neighborhood HUBs. This will increase the City's overall surge capacity as the volunteers are trained to work with the Fire Department emergency response and the neighborhood HUB's. As the State and the Surgeon General's office develop protocols for MRC mutual aid, response roles can be expanded to assist outside San Francisco.

What Training Will Volunteers Need?

Emergency preparedness and response is a **highly coordinated effort** that allows communities to maximize their capabilities during times of extraordinary disorganization and stress.

You may already know how to perform some of the medical and health functions we so desperately need. In most cases, your training as an MRC volunteer will focus primarily on learning NERT response procedures, protocols and disaster communication to enhance your effectiveness as a volunteer.

Perhaps the most important part of your training will be learning to work as part of a team. An organized, well-trained unit will be familiar with its community's response plan, will know what materials are available for use, will know its response partners, and will know where its skills can be put to best use and in a coordinated manner.