

# NERT Position Description: Emergency Responder – Team Member, Evacuation Assistance

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## Field Teams

All volunteers participating in NERT response activities share these responsibilities:

- Carry out the tasks assigned safely. Be aware of the safety of those you supervise and help.
- Understand the tasks you are asked to perform. Be aware of your abilities and available resources.
- Acquire the tools and materials needed.
- Organize and brief team members.
- Use and follow scene size-up before taking action.
- Always record actions taken and report to the team or section leader after completing your tasks.

## Team Assignments

When activated for an emergency response, the team assignments will follow the guidelines below. Every field team will have a Team Leader and a Safety Officer. Depending on the assignment, you will need additional field team members.

### Evacuation - Minimum Team of Three (3)

An Evacuation Team may be sent to a specific portion of the neighborhood that is threatened by a growing hazard. The purpose is to notify and evacuate the residents in the area threatened by the hazard. The team leader must ensure that all houses in the assigned area have been notified.

- Make sure that you have a way to escape to safety at all times, should the hazard increase unexpectedly.
- Get to as many houses as possible, as quickly as possible.
- Pound on the door, tell the occupants about the threatening hazard, and encourage them to move to a safe location until the hazard has diminished.
- Note that some people may choose not to evacuate until the threat is imminent. The evacuation team's job is to inform residents of the hazard, not to force them to leave.
- If residents have mobility issues, you can assist them, provided it does not take too long. For example, you can help move someone into a wheel chair, or a wagon, or down some stairs, but you cannot take the time moving them several blocks because you must complete the evacuation assignment. Do your best to get them connected with neighbors for assistance.
- If a house has injured people, you cannot take the time to give care at this point. Inform the Staging Area about the additional needs (Triage Team or Extrication Team) and continue notifying residents in your evacuation area.
- After you have notified the houses in the assigned area, you may request a new assignment or request to check out. If the Staging Area does not have an immediate assignment for you, you may go back and assist anyone you found who needs assistance, while waiting for an assignment. Remember that the Staging Area has the big picture and will assign you to what it considers the highest priority as soon as it identifies the need.