

NERT Position Description: Emergency Responder - Field Team Leader

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.

Field Team Leader

Team Leaders direct the team in completing assignments safely and successfully. The Team Leader reports to and receives direction from the Operations section, and then makes sure the team members understand the assignment, plan their response, solve problems, and work effectively with each other. While responding, the Team Leader may decide to direct the team to address an incident that is “on-viewed” providing the team has adequate resources, it is safe to do so, and it will not prevent them completing the original assignment.

The Team Leader should be an individual who has demonstrated through training, knowledge and experience that he/she is capable of leading the team before and during the stressful environment of a disaster. Team Leaders must be able to manage and seek advice from a diverse group. The Team Leader must possess knowledge of team functions, operations, and safety. Team functions:

- **Damage Assessment** - Damage assessment consists of three components, which happen sequentially: Big Picture, Quick, and Detailed Assessments. Generally, the Big Picture and Quick Assessments are conducted as quickly as possible after the disaster starts. The Detailed Assessment may be delayed, and is usually started under the direction of the Staging Area, after more urgent priorities have been addressed.
- **Search & Rescue** - If a structure is known to contain injured people or there may be people inside a hazardous structure, a Search & Rescue team may be sent to find and assess (triage) the people.
- **Triage & Treatment** - In a disaster, there are likely to be many people who have serious but not immediately life-threatening injuries. These people will typically not be able to move on their own. Their condition will need to be assessed and their injuries will need to be stabilized before they can be transported to more medical help. After performing triage, the team may set up a treatment area in a safe location and continues to treat victims and plan transport.
- **Extrication** - In a disaster, there are likely to be people trapped, heavy debris pinning them or blocking exits. An Extrication Team skilled in cribbing may be sent to free trapped people and help them to safety.
- **Fire Suppression & Utility Control** – A field team may be sent to investigate the smell of gas, or a confirmed gas leak. Only take action if it is safe to do so. Report all fires ASAP to the assigned Battalion Station.
- **Evacuation** - If a hazard is growing or spreading, a Field Team may be sent to evacuate people from specific areas or structures that may be threatened