

NERT Position Description: Emergency Responder Overview

NERT Responder – Emergency

All NERT Responders

Before the Disaster

The primary responsibility of NERTs before the disaster occurs is to be ready to respond. Before the disaster:

- Be sure you have your NERT ID card and it is current. NOTE: All NERTs must recertify every two years.
- Complete additional training to prepare for assuming any of the roles described here.
- Participate in NERT program or neighborhood activities to become more familiar with other NERTs in your area and become familiar with hazards and resources in the neighborhood.
- It takes the collective effort of NERT graduates in a neighborhood to plan meetings and activities.
- Learn about communications methods in NERT response.
- Participate in neighborhood and citywide practice drills.
- Keep a “Go-Kit” prepared for the post-disaster block assessment. At least, this should include:
 - Protective gear: sturdy shoes, pants, long-sleeved shirt; hardhat, work gloves, vest
 - Other personal protective equipment: goggles, masks; weatherproof clothing
 - Personal First Aid Kit
 - Whistle
 - Flashlight and batteries
 - Caution tape
 - A clipboard
 - Pens, pencils, note pads, duct or painters tape
 - Damage Assessment Form and Damage Assessment Form Usage Instructions (PDF)
- Depending upon your skills and training, you might also include:
 - [Triage Guides: Triage Guide small version (PDF) | Triage Guide large version (PDF)]
 - Any tools that might help you perform response duties – crescent wrench, fire extinguisher

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After the Disaster

Call-up

NERT is working on acquiring a call-up system. Currently the Program Coordinator will send an email when activation is needed in a less than catastrophic event.

Self-Activation

Self-activation is to the pre-designated NERT staging areas to establish the Staging Area Command Center is the guideline for NERT response.

All NERT Members

- Make sure you, your family, and your home are safe.

- Start damage assessment on your block.
- After the damage assessment is complete, go to the Staging Area to check in and become part of the response, as a member of the Command Staff or on a Field Team.
 - While heading to the Staging Area, exercise extreme caution at all times. Keep safe by practicing safety awareness and staying within your scope of training and your assigned role when aiding others and addressing hazards.
 - On the way, continue to note serious damage or hazards you observe, noting them on the Damage Assessment Form.

[For more details: [Damage Assessment Form](#) and [Damage Assessment Form Usage Instructions \(PDF\)](#)]

- Remember that your primary responsibility is to get to the Staging Area to report and be assigned to a response role. Do not become delayed helping others, as they may not be the highest priority needs.
- You will be assigned a role based upon your capabilities and the team's response needs.
- Remember that you are a volunteer and are responsible for looking after your own needs as well as others. If at any time you wish to stop because of physical limitations, emotional reasons, other duties, or any other personal reason, you may do so. **However, you must notify your team leader and Logistics to check out.** If you do not officially check out, it will cause the Staging Area to send a rescue team to find you.