



NERT Neighborhood Coordinator Basics

Thank you for your interest in becoming a NERT Neighborhood Coordinator. The neighborhood coordinators are a wonderful group of people who are among the most spirited, dedicated, and conscientious in San Francisco NERT.

The following information provides some basics about the NERT program, and the responsibilities of a NERT Neighborhood Coordinator.

Program History

About NERT

- The San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is a disaster preparedness and response organization sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD). It was started in 1989 as a result of the Loma Prieta Earthquake response.
- NERT is the ONLY organization in San Francisco offering free, hands-on emergency preparedness training to anyone who lives or works in the city.
- NERT also provides an organizing framework for neighborhood teams in San Francisco.
- After a disaster, NERT teams survey their neighborhoods, provide information to the SFFD, conduct light search and rescue and medical triage, and help transport victims to medical facilities.
- NERTs are registered with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services as Disaster Service Worker Volunteers, providing worker's comp insurance for volunteers acting within the scope of their training during a response.

Keys to NERT:

- After a severe earthquake or other disaster, our first responders will be overwhelmed.
- The more San Franciscans know about how to take care of themselves in a disaster, the safer they will be, and the quicker our city will recover.
- NERT's primary focus is on training citizens to be self-sufficient after a disaster, so they are better able to care for themselves and each other at a time when our emergency response system will be overwhelmed.
- Since its formation in 1990, NERT has trained over 29,700 citizens to assist the SFFD after a severe earthquake or other emergency by taking care of themselves, their families, and their neighbors.
- NERT supports its graduates by offering free advanced training, preparedness events, and team leadership development.
- NERT teaches preparedness skills to people of all ages and physical conditions.
- Training is available at many locations throughout the year. For information on upcoming training, see the NERT website <http://www.sfgov.org/sfnert>
- NERT keeps its members updated with tips on Twitter ([@SFFDNERT](https://twitter.com/SFFDNERT)) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Francisco-Fire-Department-Neighborhood-Emergency-Response-Team-NERT/50445431987>)

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Responsibilities:

- Meet with your Neighborhood team outside of formal training at least twice a year
- Encourage team participation in classes and drills
- Engage in on-going recruitment efforts in your neighborhood
- Maintain current team information
- Provide the NERT Program Coordinator with periodic updates of your team roster including new members, deleted members, updated contact information and a list of team ham radio operators

Time Commitment:

Your availability and the number of active members in your neighborhood generally affect the time commitment needed. Though a central Coordinator or contact person can make it easier to organize a team, leadership belongs to the team collectively, and should be a shared responsibility. The Coordinator cannot do everything!!! Developing a core group of active and interested team members helps the team remain active and reduces the amount of work that might otherwise fall to the Coordinator.

In addition to active participation by your fellow team members, the following types of support are available to Neighborhood Coordinators:

- Written materials
 - NERT Student Manual
 - Neighborhood Coordinator Guidelines
 - "Getting Started as a Neighborhood Coordinator" handout
 - NERT Field Operations Guide (FOG)
 - Neighborhood outreach materials - preparedness checklists, flyers, brochures available from the NERT Office
 - "Drill in a Box" materials
- Advanced training classes offered by NERT
 - Leadership Training Class
 - ICS-100
 - Disaster Operations
 - NERT Communications Team (NCT) Radio Classes
 - Citywide drills, exercises
- People
 - Networking with other NERTs and Coordinators at the NERT quarterly meetings, Citywide NERT drills, continuing education NERT classes, drills, and workshops
 - NERT Program Coordinator
 - Advisory Board members
 - Other NERT Coordinators and/or former Coordinators
 - Mentors (upon request)

Next Steps:

Contact GaryPegueros@sbcglobal.net to confirm your interest in this position