

NERT Position Description: Emergency Response Staging Area Command Post Overview

Staging Area Command Post

The NERT Staging Area Command Post is the central point for command and control of incidents. The Staging Area Command Post objectives include:

- Providing leadership and structure to the team response
- Identifying the scope of the incident
- Determining an overall strategy
- Deploying teams and resources
- Communicating neighborhood needs and overall status to the assigned SFFD Battalion Station
- Relaying updated and helpful information to area residents
- Documenting actions and results

NERT volunteers must establish Incident Command System (ICS) at the Staging Area Command Post to respond to the emergency.

ICS System

The Incident Command System (ICS) is the system used by first responder agencies to manage emergency operations. When a Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is activated for their neighborhood or workplace, they become part of that system. Here is how the SFFD NERT organization interrelates with the ICS:

- SFFD's ICS operates from the Fire Department Operations Center (FDOC) at the Fire Department Administrative headquarters located at 698 2nd Street. In a disaster situation, the department decentralizes operations and the nine Battalion areas report to their assigned two Division Chiefs. The Division Chiefs report to the FDOC. The NERT teams become Task Forces of their assigned Battalion Station.
- The NERT Staging Area Task Force Leader (TFL) initially reports in by communicating with the assigned Battalion via ham radio through the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) Net Control operator or via a runner.

This chart shows how the NERT Staging Area Command Post connects to the SFFD Incident Command System and then develops its own command structure.

