

NERT Position Description: Emergency Responder - Communications

Communications

The Logistics section is responsible for providing the means of communications but the Communications operator is often placed in the Planning Section to more easily facilitate the passing of information from the section responsible for tracking all information, sending relevant information to the assigned Battalion Station and maintaining the situation status.

Ham Radio

Amateur (ham) radio is used to communicate from the Staging Area to the assigned Battalion Station on pre-determined frequencies. Field Teams and Block Captains may use ham radios, FRS, or GRMS radios to communicate with the Staging Area using the pre-determined tactical frequencies. Only FCC-licensed hams can legally operate the ham radio and only NERT Communications Team members (FCC-licensed hams who are registered DSWs with the SFFD) are legally allowed to be in radio contact with the assigned Battalion station during a declared emergency.

Field Team Operator

Field teams may communicate with the Staging Area using the ham radio assigned tactical channel. Teams may also choose to use FRS or GMRS radios for this purpose.

NET Control

The Net Control is the central node of communications in the Staging Area. Ham and FRS/GMRS operation may be split if two qualified operators are available.

Runner

If radio communication with the assigned Battalion Station is limited or not possible, written information must be brought to the Station by runners. Runners get to the Battalion Station using any means available; e.g. if the roads are passable, the "runner" can drive or bike. Runners report to the Communications lead for assignment and instruction.