

NERT Position Description: Emergency Responder – Team Member, Search & Rescue

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.

Team Members

Team members report to the Team Leader, adhere to NERT principles and stay within the scope of their training in order to effectively respond to a situation. Team members work under the direction of the Team Leader as a cohesive team. They help plan and carry out all team functions. Every team member is responsible for the actions of their team.

Team Assignments

When activated for an emergency response, the team assignments will follow the guidelines below. Every field team will have a Team Leader and a Safety Officer. Depending on the assignment, you will need additional field team members.

Search & Rescue Team - Minimum Team 4-6

A Search and Rescue Team's objective is to rapidly address immediate threats to life – making it possible for people to stay alive for a while. This consists of three tasks:

1. Find people in a damaged structure
2. Rapidly move people in unsafe locations to nearby safe locations
3. Quickly treat any immediate threats to life (shock, severe bleeding, and obstructed airway)

Search & Rescue Team Responsibilities:

- Pay attention to safety
 - Do a careful scene size-up before entering a structure.
 - Make sure that you have two clear escape routes at all times inside the structure.
 - Keep at least one team member outside, watching for evolving hazards, and keeping track of the locations of those inside and outside.
 - Mitigate any small hazards found – put out small fires, turn off electricity, gas, or water if needed, rope off downed wires or other hazards.
- Find and quickly assess victims (triage).
 - If a triage team is needed, notify the Staging Area.
- Plan next steps based on scene conditions and number and condition of victims.
- Move victims to safety if necessary.
- Reevaluate initial triage and treat immediate threats to life.

- Document what was done and what needs to happen.
- When the search is completed, inform the Staging Area. If there are victims that need to be monitored or transported, develop a plan with the Staging Area. If the assignment is complete, you may request to be reassigned or check out.
- In the Staging Area, turn in documentation to the appropriate ICS Section.

The following roles can be helpful in organizing the Search & Rescue Team.

LEAD RESCUER

- Direct other less trained rescuers in specific tasks to be done.
- Perform “hands-on” quick assessment of each victim.
- Plan next steps based on scene conditions, hazards, number and condition of victims, and available rescuers.
- Direct movement of victims to safety if necessary.
- Reevaluate initial triage and treat immediate threats to life.

SAFETY OFFICER

- Monitor potential changing conditions at the scene and alert Rescuers and Communicator about potential hazards if necessary.
- Monitor the condition and progress of the Rescuers and Scribe inside the structure.
- Manage bystanders and keep untrained people from entering or reentering the structure.
- Designate a safe treatment area for victims.

SCRIBE

- Follow Rescuers closely.
- Manage medical rescue packs and hand supplies to the Rescuers as needed, keeping packs clean and uncontaminated
- Document time, treatment, and condition of victims on the Victim Treatment Area Form

COMMUNICATOR

- Document the search and rescue “X” on the structure exterior.
- Communicate status and needs to the Staging Area.
- Manage incoming Staging Area calls.
- Direct victims with minor injuries to the treatment area
- Guide volunteers to treat minor injuries and comfort victims.