

NERT Position Description: Emergency Responder – Team Member, Triage & Treatment

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 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.

Triage & Treatment Team - Minimum Team of Four (4)

Triage (START)

A Triage Team may be part of a Search and Rescue Team, but its primary focus is START: Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment. Using "30-2-Can Do", the Triage Team quickly assesses all victims found, determines their status, and initiates basic treatment. A Triage Team may set up a treatment area at or near the rescue scene in order to care for all victims found.

Treatment

A Treatment Team might be the same team members as the Search and Rescue Team, but it is performing a different function. A triage team must assess whether and where to establish a treatment area. It should be a safe area near the location that the victims are found and as convenient to transportation as possible.

When a treatment area is set up, the team may need to move the victims. Teams may use a blanket carry, chair carry or other methods. NERT volunteers should always use safe lifting practices.

A Treatment Team's focus is on thoroughness not rapidity. It operates in a safe environment and thoroughly assesses and treats each victim. Its objective is to make people as comfortable as possible and minimize the risk of their condition deteriorating over the next few hours. The team should identify all major injuries and stabilize them to avoid further aggravation of the injuries. The focus is

less on life threatening injuries, but rather the other injuries that could become life threatening if left unattended.

- Make sure the scene is safe; monitor for evolving hazards or other changes.
- Re-evaluate initial triage and continue to treat immediate threats to life.
- Prioritize victims.
- Perform a detailed assessment including Head-to-Toe exam and note significant medical history (signs, allergies, medicines, past issues, event).
- Treat serious injuries by bandaging and splinting.
- Monitor victims or guide a volunteer to monitor them.
- Communicate updates to the Staging Area.
- Work with Staging Area and team to coordinate transport as needed and possible.
- Document what was done and, if the victim was transported, where the victim was moved.
- After the task is complete, request to be reassigned or check out.
- Turn in Victim Treatment Forms and other documentation to the Staging Area.