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What is NERT

- The San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is a disaster preparedness organization sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD).
- NERT is the ONLY organization in San Francisco offering **free**, hands-on emergency preparedness & response training to anyone who lives or works in the city.
- NERT takes residents from knowing nothing, to becoming an active participant in our City's response.
- Prior to an emergency, NERT is an organizing framework for teams in neighborhoods throughout San Francisco to plan for surviving emergency with their neighbors in an austere environment. Teams establish leadership at the neighborhood and block level.
- After a disaster, NERT teams set up a command post and initiate communications to the SFFD in coordination with the Battalion activation. They survey their neighborhoods and provide critical information to the SFFD. They may also conduct lifesaving activities using practical skills in light search and rescue and medical triage/treatment. NERT is a key piece in the City's Emergency Plan.
- NERTs are registered with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services as Disaster Service Worker Volunteers, providing limited coverage for volunteers acting within the scope of their training.

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. This includes taking measures to 'stay in place' and care for neighbors.
- Every hour a NERT volunteer spend in support of a disaster response has a monetary benefit for the City/County to meet the 25% match for any FEMA reimbursement after a declaration.
- Since its formation in 1990, NERT has trained over 29,620 citizens to assist the SFFD in the neighborhood after a severe earthquake or other emergency by taking care of themselves, their families, and their neighbors. Many more are needed to keep the cadre current in this transient City.
- 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 abilities.
- NERT classes are taught by professional first responders of the San Francisco Fire Department.
- For information on upcoming training, see the NERT website <http://www.sfgov.org/sfnert>
- Get NERT updates and tips on Social Media: Twitter ([@SFFDNERT](https://twitter.com/SFFDNERT)), Instagram (@SFFDNERT) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/sffdnert>)
- NERT is YOU!

More about the program

Who Joins NERT?

A typical NERT volunteer is not one type. The NERT volunteer is active and involved in the community--or wants to be. Together with their neighbors, team members and co-workers, they build a NERT network within their own community in partnership with the San Francisco Fire Department.

All residents can benefit from NERT training. NERT members are trained community first-responders who can help save lives.

Initiatives

- Basic Emergency Response Training
- Neighborhood Leadership and Team command
- Youth Team Building and Leadership Development
- Communications with Ham radio and new technology such as Twitter
- Disaster Mental Health
- Spontaneous Volunteer Coordination
- Firefighting Operations support
- ICS. With an understanding of chain of command and the ability to take direction, NERTs have assisted in other tasks as needed with proper just-in-time training and supervision.

Strong Partnerships

- SF SAFE, INC. (Safety Awareness for Everyone): Preparing Neighbors block by block
- SFPD: ALERT training
- SFPUC: Water treatment and distribution
- DPH: Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Disaster Mental Health & Point of Distribution training
- CaliforniaVolunteers: State run volunteer agency supporting Deployment of volunteers
- FEMA: NERT is a registered FEMA-compliant Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. This connects us to a network throughout the Country. In 2016 NERT received the National John D. Solomon Award for Whole Community Preparedness at the Whitehouse.



NERT Drill October 2018