



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

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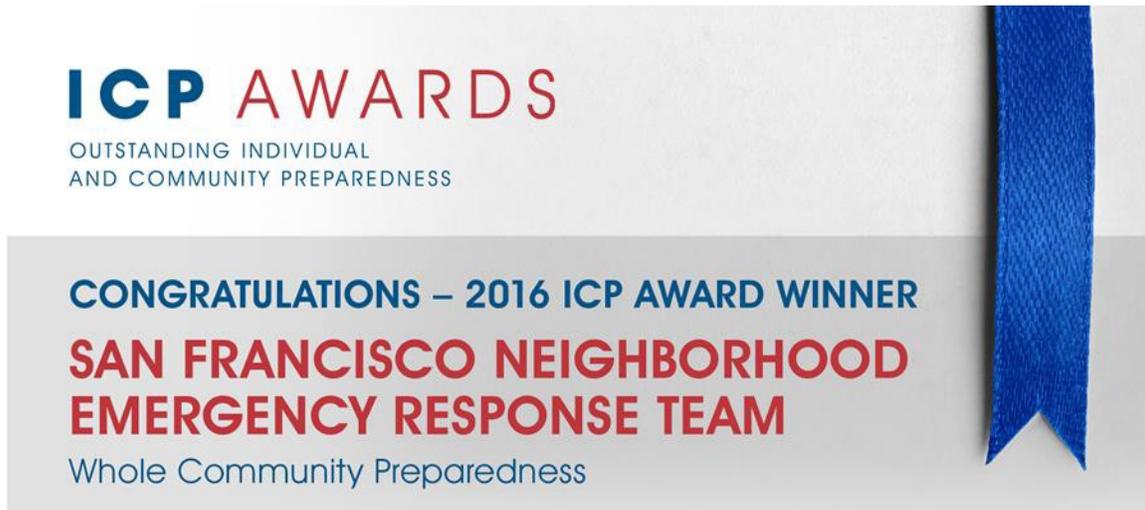
Press Release

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2016 Individual and Community Preparedness Award Winners Announced

*FEMA Honors San Francisco Fire Department's N.E.R.T. for Achievements in
Community Preparedness*



WASHINGTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today the winners of the 2016 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards, recognizing the outstanding efforts of individuals, programs, and organizations throughout the country working to prepare their communities for emergencies.

“We are more prepared for disasters when everyone in the community works together,” said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. “FEMA is proud to honor individuals and organizations

who are building communities that are more prepared for emergencies through creativity, innovation and collaboration.”

This year’s award recipient developed innovative practices and programs that contributed to making communities safer, better prepared, and more resilient.

The 11 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Award recipients will be recognized on September 13, 2016 in Washington, D.C. During the recognition ceremony, recipients will share their experiences, success stories, and lessons learned with fellow emergency management leaders.

San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (N.E.R.T.) is the Sixth Annual Recipient of the John D. Solomon Whole Community Preparedness Award:

“In our program, we involve residents of San Francisco in the cycle of preparedness, response and recovery through training and hands-on practice. Particular attention is given to encouraging participants to volunteer beyond basic training, including the areas of Disaster Mental Health, Neighborhood Leadership, and Communications with Ham radio as well as newer technology such as Twitter,” said Erica Arteseros, NERT coordinator.

“In 2010 we established a Disaster Corps cadre of deployable volunteers in coordination with California Volunteers. Through this initiative, the Department provides select volunteers with training in deployment, preparation, expectations and procedures within California. Focus is placed on training in activities that support the needs of government and survivors in the response and recovery phase. The impact of our recent deployments in Lake and Tulare Counties was significant. This real life experience is invaluable in preparing our team for a local disaster,” said Erica Arteseros.

“Day in and day out, our members do really great things in our community. The passion, dedication, and selfless attention to training our neighbors to help each other in the time of a disaster is an example of this,” said Chief Joanne Hayes-White. “The San Francisco Fire Department is proud of Lieutenant Arteseros for her leadership which led to the Departments NERT programs ability in achieving this well-deserved award.”

Visit www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards for more information on this year’s awards recipients and to see the honorable mentions.

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