

The San Francisco Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) program is an outstanding example of preparing civilians to respond to disasters. I asked Lt. Frank Lucier, NERT's Program Coordinator, to share San Francisco's drill guidelines and the tabletop exercise with you. These are from the NERT's [Program Coordinators Guidelines](#). Use them as a resource when developing refresher training for your teams.

Additionally, visit the NERT website through our link. Finally, view the Emergency Management Institute's Emergency Education Network (EENET) broadcast of October 10, 1996, called "Training Civilians for Disaster Response." This video features Frank and others sharing information about their civilian training programs. It is available through your State Training Officer for Emergency Management.

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NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

DRILL GUIDELINES



DISASTER MEDICINE EXERCISE

MATERIALS NEEDED: Moulage kit and 4 to 5 volunteers

SET UP:

- ◆ Prompt victims according to injuries
- ◆ Place victims in an area that is make to look damaged

ASSUMPTIONS:

- ◆ Information was received at the NERT command center that people have been reported injured in this building. NERT command has directed this team to search for victim.
- ◆ All NERT team members are equipped with the proper safety equipment.
- ◆ The team has already done an exterior search of the building and it was determined to have suffered Light Damage.
- ◆ A communications system with the command center has been established through the use of HAM radios or runners.
- ◆ In a real situation the team would be divided into an inside and outside team, but for the purpose of this exercise, all members will do the interior search.

BEFORE DISASTER MEDICINE:

- ◆ Team must select a leader.
- ◆ For the benefit of the group the team should verbalize all their actions.
- ◆ Ask the team “What is your primary concern as a team?”***Team safety.***
- ◆ This is a multi-causality incident so they will have to assess each victims condition using START triage. With each patient the team should remember to use A.B.C.D. (see student manual) to determine whether they are *immediate, delayed, or dead.*
- ◆ The team should gather as much information as possible from the victims.
- ◆ All medical actions should be taken....opening airways, shock position, bandaging, position of comfort, tagging, etc.

DISASTER MEDICINE:

- ◆ Team to treat and tag all victims.
- ◆ Make sure they feel the door for heat before entering the building.
- ◆ Allow team to operate until victims have been satisfactorily cared for.

CRITIQUE:

Be positive in all critiques. The team has very little experience with multi-causality incidents and they need to be positively reinforced. They are unsure of their abilities. We want them to succeed so that they can build confidence in their abilities and skills.

The following points should be reviewed in the critique:

- How were these people injured? Did they ask the victims? Did they establish a rapport with each victim?
- Was someone positioned to be the safety person to check for hazards that might affect the team?
- Did they try to sort out the minor injuries when they first entered the room? “Everyone who can, move to this area”...potential helpers.
- Address each victim separately. Ask the team member who treated the person to go through the steps they used to come to a final decision on how the victim should be categorized and what other actions they took.
- Keep the feedback simple and try to reinforce with the team members that if they follow the simple steps A.B.C.D. in a systematic way with everyone who is injured, they will be much more effective.
- Once all victims are tagged, immediates should be transported to a medical facility. Remember trained NERTs should not be messengers or mules. Use untrained volunteers to carry messages or to lift and transport victims.

After the victims have been transported to a medical facility, the team would document their findings and actions, then return to the command center for rest and reassignment.

Questions and answers

Good job.....

LIFTING EXERCISE

MATERIALS NEEDED: Lever... .5 long, 2x4
 Heavy timber
 Cribbing
 Assorted lengths of wood
 Dummy

SET UP:

- ◆ Dummy with legs trapped under heavy timbers.
- ◆ Area scattered with debris which can be used for cribbing, a fulcrum, and levers.
- ◆ Place some debris overhead if possible to create hazard.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- ◆ Information was received at the NERT command center area that someone is trapped by fallen debris at this location. NERT command has directed this team to locate the victim and extricate them if possible.
- ◆ All NERT team members are equipped with the proper safety equipment.
- ◆ A communications system with the command center has been established through the use of HAM radios or runners.

BEFORE LIFT:

- ◆ Team must select a leader.
- ◆ For the benefit of the group the team should verbalize their actions.
- ◆ Ask the team “What is your primary concern as a team?”... ***Team safety***
- ◆ Before the team enters the area they must all agree that it is safe to do so.
- ◆ Team leader must assign duties...medical, cribbing, lifting, and safety.
- ◆ The safety person should be positioned to see everything that is going on. This person’s job is to protect the team from hazards while they are working.

LIFT:

- ◆ The team must evaluate the medical condition of the trapped person. If the victim is dead there is no rescue.
- ◆ The lift should be done slowly and systematically under the direction for the team leader.

CRITIQUE:

Be positive in all critiques.

The following points should be reviewed in the critique:

- All potential hazards should be identified before the lift can begin.
- If the victim is conscious, a rapport must be established to find out how he/she was trapped and the extent of the injuries.
- Have all lifting and cribbing materials ready before starting.
- Make sure the team and the victim are aware of the lifting plan before starting.
- Crib to the object being lifted before lift begins so that it will be stable and not fall and cause further injury to the victim.
- Lift timber the height of one piece of cribbing, crib, then lower to stabilize.
- Cribbing team should keep hand from under the timber being lifted.
- Repeat procedure until timber is high enough so that victim can be removed.
- The lifting procedure should be slow and systematic.
- Teams should know and not exceed their physical and mental limits...Don't become a victim.
- Teams should be creative with resources and use field expedience; use what is available to get the job done.
- Teams should rest as they go and drink fluids often to insure their well-being and ability to continue rescue efforts.

After the victim has been taken to a medical facility, the team would document their actions and findings, then return to the command center for rest and reassignment.

OTHER ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED:

- Using fulcrums in soft ground by using supports.
- Stabilizing round objects.
- Protective cribbing.
- The use of straps when there is not enough room to get lever under load.

Questions and answers.....

Good job.....

BLIND FOLD SEARCH CLASS

TIME: 15 Minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED: 2 inch gauze bandage for each participant

SET UP:

- ◆ Divide group into team of two and blind fold.
- ◆ Predetermine right or left handed search pattern.
- ◆ Remove as many obstacles as possible from the search route.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- ◆ Information was received at the NERT staging area that someone is trapped by fallen debris at this location. NERT command has directed this team to locate the victim and assess the situation.
- ◆ All NERT team members are equipped with the proper safety equipment.
- ◆ A communications system with the command center has been established through the use of HAM radios or runners.

BEFORE SEARCH:

- ◆ This exercise is designed to reinforce the importance of staying together while conducting a search and emphasizes the importance of staying along the walls.
- ◆ Remember you are the safety officer. Never let any of the people out of your site while they are blindfolded.
- ◆ Pay particular attention to the elderly and physically disabled.

SEARCH:

- ◆ Lead person begins with right or left hand on wall.
- ◆ The other hand is moving up and down in front of them from the top of their head to their waist.
- ◆ Teams should shuffle their feet as they move forward.
- ◆ Team members should describe what they find, passing the information 'down the line.'
- ◆ The rear person of each team is to have one hand on the wall and the other on the shoulder of their team mate in front of them.

- ◆ Reverse the position of the front and rear person halfway through the exercise so that both members get the feeling of being in the lead.

CRITIQUE:

Be positive in all critiques.

The following points should be reviewed in the critique:

- While searching, team members should always know the closest way out.
- The hand on the wall is their life line. To get out, all they have to do is reverse direction.
- Team members should always stay in physical contact with their partner.
- In poor visibility, the team should slide feet along floor while they search and maintain physical contact with their partner.
- When leaving the wall to search the interior of a room, put a flashlight at the spot on the wall for a point of reference.
- In a smoky situation (if they awaken and find their home on fire), this is all that they will see.
- It is important to have escape routes planned from every room of their home or in hotels while on vacation.
- Teams should know and not exceed their physical and mental limits... Don't become a victim.

After the search is completed, the team would document their finding and actions, then return to the command center for rest and reassignment.

Questions and answers.....

Good job.....

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND PERIMETER SEARCH

MATERIALS NEEDED: Gas shutoff and wrench
Exterior of a building

ASSUMPTIONS:

- ◆ Information was received at the NERT command center that someone has been reported missing in this building. NERT command has directed this team to search for victim.
- ◆ All NERT team members are equipped with the proper safety equipment.
- ◆ A communications system with the command center has been established through the use of HAM radios or runners.
- ◆ In a real situation the team would do the exterior search. Then, if the building was safe to enter, the team would be divide into an inside search team and an outside control team.

BEFORE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SEARCH: *Utility review.*

When do you shut off the gas?

- Smell of gas
- Wheels on meter spinning
- Heavy damaged building....only if safe to do so

How do you tell there is a gas leak?

- Smell
- Wheels turning
- Sound of gas flowing in pipes or at meter

Where do you shut the gas off?

- At the meter
- In the street
- At the appliance

Gas meter demonstration

- Point out the wheels that spin and let everyone get a close look

Where is the shutoff and is it on or off?

- Have everyone take a turn at shutting off the gas 1/8th of a turn to test the valve

When do you shut off the water?...When it is leaking.

- Heavily damaged building...weight of accumulated water can cause further collapse
- Water leaks can also reduce pressure in the water mains which will be used for fire fighting
- Only if safe to do so

When do you shut off the electricity?

- Heavily damaged building....only if safe to do so
- Smell of natural gas....shut off gas and ventilate building first
- Smell of burning insulation
- Electrical hazards....exposed wires

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

- ◆ Talk through exercise by asking the following questions:
- ◆ What is your primary concern as a team?....*Team safety.*

- ◆ What do you look for as you approach the building?
 - Every building has six sides
 - Top....hazards include electrical wires, falling debris
 - Bottom....hazards include water, debris, people, cracks and liquefaction
 - Four sides...look for signs of structural damage

- ◆ What are the signs of structural damage?
 - Building leaning or off foundation, horizontal and vertical lines, separation between the buildings, paint lines, liquefaction and cracks.

- ◆ How would you classify this building?

- Light, moderate, heavy damage.
- ◆ What are some of this buildings characteristics?
 - Entry and exits, number of units, height and depth, unusual characteristics
- ◆ How do you locate the possible site for utilities shutoffs inside the building?
 - Where they enter the building.
- ◆ Look for previous “X”.

CRITIQUE:

Be positive in all critiques.

The following points should be reviewed in the critique if not mentioned by team members.

- ◆ Damage assessment:
 - When approaching the building, start from the top down when doing a damage assessment.
 - Water can be a hazard. It can be energized by electricity, cover hazards such as sharp objects or holes, or contain hazardous liquids.
 - If accessible, examine all four sides of the building for signs of structural damage. Also examine the adjacent buildings.
 - Look for cracking around doors and the foundation of the building (mud sill).
 - The perimeter of heavily damaged buildings should be checked for victims if safe to do so. Otherwise, secure the perimeter and stay away. Shut off the utilities only if safe.
 - In looking at horizontal and vertical lines, start at the top of the building and work down. Look at doors and windows and compare the building to the one next door.
 - Was the separation between the buildings there before and is it consistent all the way up?
 - When looking at paint lines, determine which building has moved.
- ◆

◆ Building characteristics:

- Entry/exits can be any door or window. All entry/exit points should be identified before entering.
- Metal gates are easily pried open with a crow bar or tire iron. Use two people. One person pries the door from the jam about ½ inch, then the other person pulls the door open.
- Check the fire escapes in relationship to the windows. This is an indication of where the hallway is.
- Mail boxes and door bells give an indication of how many units are in the building.
- Height and depth of the building lets you know how much area you will have to search.

◆ Building classification:

- Light damage....no apparent structural damage, can take time doing search. If an aftershock happens while searching, exit the building and re-evaluate it for structural damage.
- Moderate damage....no apparent structural damage but major cracking. Be cautious, do search as quickly as possible and get out.
- Heavy damage....don't go in.

After the building has been classified as light or moderate the team will divided itself into an outside control team and an inside search team and begin to search for the missing person.

Questions.....

Good Job.....

INTERIOR SEARCH CLASS

TIME: 15 Minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED: Dummy
Electrical wire for hazard
Paper, tape and pens for marking building

SET UP:

- ◆ Place dummy in darkened room with overturned furniture
- ◆ Set up electrical hazards - broken wire hanging down from ceiling
- ◆ Darken room as much as possible

ASSUMPTIONS:

- ◆ Information was received at the NERT command center that someone has been reported missing in this building. NERT command has directed this team to search for a victim.
- ◆ The team has already done an exterior search of the building and it was determined to have suffered Light Damage.
- ◆ All NERT team members are equipped with the proper safety equipment.
- ◆ A communications system with the command center has been established through the use of HAM radios or runners.

BEFORE SEARCH:

- ◆ Meet group in front of the room or building to be searched and introduce yourself.
- ◆ Ask the team “What is your primary concern as a team?”.....***Team safety.***
- ◆ Team must select a leader.
- ◆ Team must decide on emergency signals before entering.
- ◆ Decide on type of search pattern...right or left-handed.
- ◆ Where would they place the initial marking before entering?
 - On the side of the door away from the hinges so that the door will not obstruct the marking if open, or on another part of the building that is easily visible.
 -

- Why do they make this initial marking?
- To let others know that the building is being searched.
- ◆ Have team leader take charge and begin the search, starting on the outside of the building or room.

SEARCH:

- ◆ Team must make initial slash on building before entering.
- ◆ Team must feel the top of the door for heat before entering. If the door is hot they are NOT to enter.
- ◆ Once door is open and before entering the building, smell for natural gas or smoke. If present, leave immediately and report condition to command center.
- ◆ If these conditions do not exist, the search may start. Stop just inside the door and identify yourself and call out, “This is a NERT team. We are here to help you. Can anyone hear us?” Then listen for a response.
- ◆ Begin search pattern and continue to call as you progress through the building and take out time to stop and listen.
- ◆ After concluding the search, the team must complete the X and fill in the four quadrants correctly and completely.

CRITIQUE:

Be positive in all critiques.

The following points should be reviewed in the critique:

- Search in teams of at least two people. Stay together and along the walls to minimize potential injuries from falling debris in an aftershock.
- Always know where at least two exits are (stairs, fire escape, windows, roof, through interior wall).
- *Each room* should be marked with an “/” when entering and an “X” when exiting.
- In a multi-story building, conduct the search from the *top down*. At each stair landing stop, look, smell for hazards; call out and listen.
- Team should search under tables and beds, in closets, cabinets, showers etc.; anywhere a person can hide.
-

- Once victim is found, the team must evaluate medical and physical condition before doing anything else.
- If the victim is conscious, a rapport must be established to find out how the person was injured and the extent of the injuries.
- If victim is not breathing and attempts to open airway are unsuccessful, make a note of location and continue search.
- Teams should continually review “*size-up*” as they are searching to minimize risk to themselves.
- The team should be aware of the electrical hazards in the room and assume that all wires are energized.
- In poor visibility, team should slide feet along floor as they search and stay in physical contact with their partner.
- Teams should know and not exceed their physical and mental limits...Don’t become a victim.
- Teams should be creative with resources and use field expedience; use what is available to get the job done.
- Teams should rest as they go and drink fluids often to insure their well-being and ability to continue rescue efforts.
- All quadrants of the “X” should be completed and all relevant information should be written in the correct quadrant.

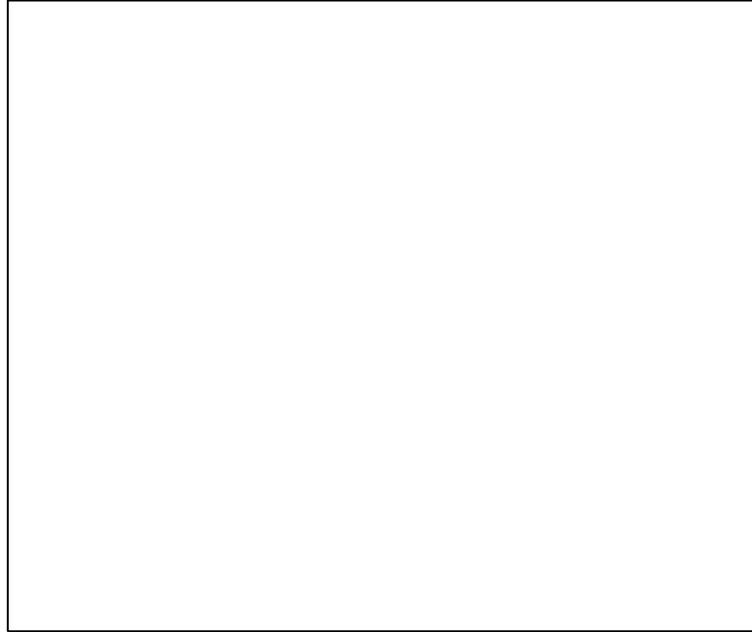
After the search is completed, the team would document their finding and actions, then return to the command center for rest and reassignment.

Questions and answers....

Good job....

NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

TABLETOP DRILL



PURPOSE OF THE TABLETOP DRILL

The purpose of this drill is to give NERTs an opportunity to experience how their skills can be used in response to a disaster. It emphasizes working as an individual with untrained volunteers, or together as a team, assessing an appropriate leadership structure and making choices that do the most good for the most people. It also serves to demonstrate how a staging area is used and can assist in a subsequent exercise to choose a staging area.

Remember, disasters are not democracies, they are disastrous. It is important to use this drill as an exercise on how to think as a NERT and how to make decisions by arriving at a consensus of opinion with your team. NERTs don't vote; they discuss all of their options and make choices based on what resources are available to them at any given time.

Not everyone may agree with the final choices made, but they should be able to see how the decisions were reached. Allowing the team to vote on priorities only fragments the group and encourages dissension. As NERTs, our objective is to work together as a team and make choices that **DO THE MOST GOOD FOR THE MOST PEOPLE.**

ASSUMPTIONS:

Every NERT must know and practice these three points:

- ◆ **You can't take care of anyone else until you take care of yourself** first. This means if you are tired, you rest; hungry, you eat, and you drink *before* you're thirsty. If you have trouble with the sight of blood or suffering, find a job that does not deal directly with injured victims. If you don't feel safe around a building, don't go near it. Electricity and natural gas present special hazards; if you don't have knowledge or experience with them, stay away and look for someone who does.
- ◆ **Utilize your NERT training, always working as a team or with volunteers.** NERTs never work alone. Assess your surroundings for the safety of the team and also with an eye for possible resources and volunteers to assist you in response efforts.
- ◆

- ◆ **ALWAYS make choices that do the most good for the most people.** Look for the largest number of people that you can safely access and respond to them first. The idea of having trained NERTs in the community is an attempt to reduce significantly the number of casualties in the initial 12-72 hours following a major disaster.

Facilitators: Your instructions and information will be shown in italics, in brackets. Repeat the bolded assumptions named above repeatedly throughout the drill. Follow them with “As NERTs, what else can we do?” This can also be used to answer “What if...” questions.

DISASTER SCENARIO

[Read the following out loud]

Today is Saturday. An earthquake of the magnitude 7.8 on the Richter scale struck at 9:45 this morning. The quake was on the Hayward fault and was centered somewhere in the East Bay. It lasted for 53 seconds. The present time is 10:30 am. Family and immediate neighbors are safe and in an open area with their 72-hour supply kit.

The City has widespread damage. Fire, police, and paramedics are overwhelmed by thousands of calls. The freeway system and both bridges have been severely damaged. All transportation routes in and out of the City are either blocked with debris or gridlock because of vehicle accidents. Help from the outside will be days in coming. Telephone communications are inoperative and there is no power in San Francisco except for those facilities that have backup generators.

NERT personnel are assembling in predesignated staging areas with appropriate safety gear, tools, and supplies. The objective is to set up a command structure for the team and to prioritize incidents. Team members will be dispatched to handle various incidents and all actions taken will be documented.

Your goal is to do the most good for the most people.

You are now on your way to your NERT staging area with your NERT kit. You are writing down incidents that you observe with as much detail as possible: the scope of the incident, number of possible victims, addresses, a brief physical description, possible hazards and the time of observation. This is the basic information shown on the sample NERT form in the student manual.

[Refer to Building Damage Assessment form in the NERT Manual.]

As you arrive at the staging area, what's the first thing you're going to look for?

[Incident Triage]

What happens if you arrive at the staging area and there is no Incident Triage?

[You become Incident Triage]

What does Incident Triage do with these reports?

[Collects and verifies information and passes it along to Command/Policy]

[Read these instructions aloud]

INSTRUCTIONS:

For the purpose of this drill, we will be using the Marina street map and the list of damage assessments from the back of the NERT Training Manual. We will not be using any reference to the number of NERTs available to you, and we will not take into consideration how many of NERTs are here now.

- ◆ We'll break up into teams and do the following: Each team will read through the entire list of damage assessment reports.
- ◆ If you could choose only one of these incidents to respond to as NERTs, using your NERT training, which one would it be, and why? This incident will be your first response priority.
- ◆ Next, go through the same process again and choose your second response priority, and why. Then choose your third response priority, and why.
- ◆ Make your choices by discussing all the incidents on the list and, working as a team, come to a consensus of opinion on your first, second, and third response priorities.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS:

- ◆ Light damage has been reported to the school at North Point and Divisadero Street, broken windows and fallen plaster.
- ◆ A building is fully involved by fire on Scott Street between Alhambra Street and Capra Way. People have been reported missing in the building.
- ◆ A smell of gas has been reported in an apartment building at the corner of Bay and Webster Streets.
- ◆ Thirty-five people are reported to be injured by glass and falling debris on Chestnut Street between Steiner and Pierce Streets.
- ◆ Muni overhead wires are broken and down on the street at the corner of Divisadero and Jefferson Streets.
- ◆ A small fire has been reported in the rear of 15 Cervantes Boulevard.
- ◆ Five buildings have suffered heavy damage on Toledo Way. Three of the buildings have collapsed and two are leaning out into the street. Six people are reported missing.
- ◆ Light smoke can be seen coming from a sailboat in Yacht Harbor
- ◆ Nine elderly people are reported trapped in their rooms by falling debris in the apartment building at the corner of Fillmore and Chestnut Streets. The building has suffered light damage.

Any questions? You have about 10 minutes to do this.

[After a period of seven to ten minutes, call everyone back and open discussion.]

DISCUSSION

Anyone should feel free to answer. Speak for your team, or speak for yourself, we want to hear from as many people as possible.

What were some of your first priorities, and why did you choose them?

[Without any criticism, ask why particular choices were made. Encourage everyone to participate and be sure that all teams have reported. DO NOT REFER TO THE CORRECT ANSWER NOW.]

What were some of your second priorities, and why?

[Without any criticism, ask why particular choices were made. Encourage everyone to participate and be sure that all teams have reported. DO NOT REFER TO THE CORRECT ANSWER NOW.]

[If all teams arrived at the correct answers, listed below, continue with PRIORITY #1 on the next

page. If not all teams arrived at these answers, try some of the following dialogue. It is important that they come to these conclusions by themselves so that they thoroughly understand the prioritizing process.]

Let's think about these choices for a moment.

As NERTs, we need to make choices that **DO THE MOST GOOD FOR THE MOST PEOPLE**. The whole idea behind NERT is to have trained volunteers who can react as first responders following a major disaster.

- ◆ Why are these first responders so important?
 - ... to save lives... to immediately administer disaster medicine... to significantly bring down the death toll... to help PEOPLE... etc...
- ◆ Let's think about the 35 people injured by glass and fallen debris. Who's going to know how to help them, how to stop their bleeding so that they don't go into shock?
- ◆ Will the strong smell of gas be a warning to most people about a dangerous situation?
- ◆ Will the smoke, fire, or heavy structural damage serve as a warning to keep most people away?
- ◆ If some of those 35 people were to go into shock, who would know what to do?
- ◆ What happens when a person goes into shock and doesn't receive medical attention?
- ◆ Let's go back over those three assumptions again:
 - You can't take care of anyone else until you take care of yourself first. Utilize your NERT training; always working as a team or with volunteers. ALWAYS make choices that do the most good for the most people.
- ◆ A NERT's first priority must always be people first. Go back to the Damage Assessment form and look down the "People" column for the highest number of people. Now check the other columns to see if it's safe for NERTs to respond. Check for structural damage and any hazards that may be a problem.
- ◆ Which of these incidents involves the highest number of people? Are there any hazards to prevent us from responding to this incident?

[After a discussion of the basic considerations for making choices, begin discussing the first and second priorities.]

Let's go back and talk about our choices for first and second priorities. Keeping in mind what we just talked about, what will be your first priority? Does everyone understand how we arrived at this conclusion? What would your second priority be? Why?

[Use the following suggested dialogue to encourage a discussion of what NERTs can do when responding to these incidents. Encourage the team to be imaginative and to consider all options and resources.]

PRIORITY #1

Thirty-five people are reported to be injured by glass and falling debris on Chestnut Street between Steiner and Pierce Streets.

- ◆ What's the first thing you're going to do when you arrive on the scene?
- ◆ What about volunteers: where would they come from and how would you use them?
- ◆ How would you set up triage for this incident?
- ◆ When you apply pressure to stop bleeding, what are you going to put between yourself and the blood? What materials would be readily available to you right on the street or from trash cans?
- ◆ What else could you do as trained NERTs?
- ◆ What would be the minimum number of NERTs you would send and why? What is the absolute minimum number of NERTs ever needed?

PRIORITY #2

Nine elderly people are reported trapped in their rooms by falling debris in the apartment building at the corner of Fillmore and Chestnut Streets. The building has suffered light damage.

- ◆ What about a building search and triage: how would you go about doing this?
- ◆

- ◆ What if you arrive there and find there are 21 elderly people and who aren't trapped by debris, but who are, for the most part, not ambulatory. They are confined to wheelchairs, walkers, or even to their beds. What are you going to do?
- ◆ Do they need to be moved, or do you want to move them?
- ◆ As they eventually begin to realize that there is no water or electricity, some of them may WANT to leave: what can do you do about this?
- ◆ What are you going to do about any Delayeds? or Immediates?
- ◆ The regular help has left to go home to their own families, would you consider leaving someone behind to take care of them, and if so, who?
- ◆ Where might you look for willing volunteers?
- ◆ What else could you do as trained NERTs?

PRIORITY #3

What were some of your Priority #3's, and why?

As you can see there were lots of different answers and just as many different reasons. Once NERTs have dealt with people incidents, decisions about responding to other incidents will more than likely be based on whatever information or resources are available to you.

There can't be any absolute answers or solutions to a lot of these choices. You will just have to be alert to your surroundings and take advantage of whatever resources are available.

Let's go back and look at all the other incidents now. Remember the original assumptions:

You can't take care of anyone else until you take care of yourself first.

Utilize your NERT training, always working as a team, or with volunteers.

ALWAYS make choices that do the most good for the most people.

[Facilitators: Repeat these continually. Follow with "As NERTs, what else can we do?" This can also be used to answer "What if..." questions and to encourage further discussion.]

DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS—INDIVIDUAL REVIEW:

The following is suggested dialogue to encourage discussion:

- ◆ *Light damage has been reported to the school at North Point and Divisadero Street: broken windows and fallen plaster.*

As NERTs, what can we do?

- _ Even if it is a Saturday, does that necessarily mean there won't be anyone using the school?
- _ Who might be in the school?
- _ How might you be able to tell if anyone is inside? Who could you ask?

- ◆ *A building is fully involved by fire on Scott Street between Alhambra Street and Capra Way. People have been reported missing in the building.*

As NERTs, what can we do?

- _ What are some of the ways we can cordon off the area?
- _ Can we prevent people from going inside?
- _ NERTs are not firefighters or police officers; we're trained to be first responders and to help people. What are some of the ways we can do this here?

- ◆ *A smell of gas has been reported in an apartment building at the corner of Bay and Webster Streets.*

As NERTs, what can we do?

- _ What if we arrive at the scene and can't tell where the gas leak is?
- _ What if we arrive at the scene and know exactly where the gas is coming from but can't access the shutoff because of serious structural damage?
- _ What are some of the other things we can do as NERTs?

- ◆ *Muni overhead wires are broken and down on the street at the corner of Divisadero and Jefferson Streets.*

As NERTs, what can we do?

- _ Let's say the bus is stuck in an intersection, and it has been raining all night and the intersection is full of water. There are five people on the bus. As NERTs, what can we do?

- _ If you were on that bus and there had been a major disaster, would you want to stay on the bus?
- _ Using your NERT training, how are you going to get the five people off the bus? Is it safe to assume the electricity is off? Do you know enough about electricity to be sure?
- _ What about using your cribbing skills?
- _ What kind of materials would be available to you to build a bridge?

- ◆ *A small fire has been reported in the rear of 15 Cervantes Boulevard.*

As NERTs, what can we do?

- _ We saw how fast a fire can escalate, if it's still burning, what are you going to do?
- _ What are some of the other things we can do as NERTs?

- ◆ *Five buildings have suffered heavy damage on Toledo Way. Three of the buildings have collapsed and two are leaning out into the street. Six people are reported missing.*

As NERTs, what are some of the things we already talked about that can we do here?

- ◆ *Light smoke can be seen coming from a sailboat in Yacht Harbor.*

As NERTs, what *should* we do?

CONCLUSION:

Let everyone know they've done a good job!

Filename: neighbor.doc
Directory: C:\WINDOWS\Desktop\David Lane
Template: C:\MSOFFICE\Templates\NORMAL.DOT
Title: NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
Subject:
Author: BASM
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 08/11/97 6:01 PM
Revision Number: 3
Last Saved On: 08/25/97 4:36 PM
Last Saved By: BASM
Total Editing Time: 6 Minutes
Last Printed On: 08/25/97 4:39 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 26
Number of Words: 4,969 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 28,324 (approx.)