

# After Action Report 2015 PSA Exercise



Cupertino  
ARES/RACES

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## 1. Overview

**Description:** 2015 Preliminary Safety Assessment Exercise  
**Event Date:** 24 January 2015  
**Report Date:** 13 February 2015  
**CARES Event:** CUP-15-10T  
**RACES Event:** CUP-15-10T  
**Control:** Cupertino ARES/RACES  
**Report Revision:** 1.0, **FINAL**  
**Submitted by:** Jim Oberhofer KN6PE

### Requirements for Reporting

Completing an After Action Report is part of the required SEMS reporting process. The Emergency Services Act, Section 8607 (f) mandates that the Office of Emergency Services (OES) in cooperation with involved state and local agencies complete an After Action Report within 120 days after each declared disaster. Section 2450 (a) of the SEMS Regulations states that, "Any city, city and county, or county declaring a local emergency for which the governor proclaims a state of emergency, and any state agency responding to that emergency shall complete and transmit an after action report to OES within ninety (90) days of the close of the incident period as specified in the California Code of Regulations, section 2900(j)."

CARES will follow this requirement for reporting the results and recommendations for this Training Event.

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## i. Introduction and Background

### Terms

**CARES:** Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service, ARES/RACES organization supporting the City of Cupertino.

**CCC:** Cupertino Citizen Corp, the collection of volunteer response organizations made up of CARES, CERT, and MRC

**CERT:** Community Emergency Response Teams

**MRC:** Medical Reserves Corp

**NCO:** Net Control Operator, may be indicated by M-NCO (Message Net) or R-NCO (Resource Net)

**PSA:** Preliminary Safety Assessment, a home-based assessment that develops a quick snapshot of the state of the city based on the distribution of CARES members.

**RRO:** Radio Room Operator

## Introduction

The City of Cupertino supports testing the community emergency response plans and ongoing disaster preparedness training as an essential component to a successful community disaster response. One element of the CARES response is the Preliminary Safety Assessment (PSA).

During a major infrastructure-impacting incident, the first thing CARES will do is perform a Preliminary Safety Assessment (PSA) on behalf of the City. The intent is to provide the City EOC with an immediate snapshot of the state of the city of 5 specific categories of potential problems (injuries, structures, fire, utilities, and access). A reasonable early assessment is possible based on the geographic dispersion of CARES members.

The PSA Process is practiced each year. On 24 January 2015, the City of Cupertino authorized a training activation under the designation CUP-15-10T to conduct a PSA exercise. This report is a summary of this exercise.

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## ii. Type / Location of Event / Drill / Exercise

Event Type: City of Cupertino, CARES Training Activation  
Event Identifier: CUP-15-10T  
Event Name: 2015 PSA Exercise  
Location: City of Cupertino

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## iii. Description of Event / Drill / Exercise

The Goals of the drill were:

1. Practice the PSA data collection and reporting process by CARES members in the field.

The following CARES objectives were developed for this exercise.

1. Activate communications at all Ark and Neighborhood locations
2. Exercise the CARES Message and Resource Net concepts and procedures
3. Use standard ICS and/or Cupertino OES forms and documentation
4. Deploy to and operate Packet Radio at specific field locations

Event resources came from the following organizations:

1. Cupertino ARES/RACES: Responsible for checking into the CARES emergency net, performing the PSA process, rolling up the results, and delivering the results to the Cupertino EOC Staff. Fourteen (14) CARES members participated in the test.

| Name              | Call Sign | Assignment   |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Chris Capener     | AI6CC     | PSA reporter |
| Bob Cascone       | KJ6WBF    | PSA reporter |
| Gerd Goette       | KI6WEJ    | PSA reporter |
| Allan Gontang     | KD6QPP    | NCO          |
| Walt Gyger        | K6WGY     | PSA Reporter |
| Judy Halchin      | KK6EWQ    | PSA reporter |
| Steve Hill        | KK6PHI    | PSA reporter |
| Janet Motha       | KF6PUQ    | PSA Reporter |
| Jim Oberhofer     | KN6PE     | Packet Ops   |
| Darryl Presley    | KI6LDM    | PSA reporter |
| Sikdharth Rajaram | KJ6ZKU    | PSA reporter |
| Dick Sherman      | N6IK      | PSA reporter |
| Skip Stevens      | WA6VFD    | PSA reporter |
| Mary Tanner       | KI6GCX    | PSA reporter |

The drill was initiated as a pre-announced event with CARES members knowing to check into the CARES Emergency Net at the appointed time.

1. Established the Emergency Net for initial drill check-ins.
2. Member check-ins. CARES members checked into the CARES Emergency Net on TAC-1.
3. CARES members were directed to perform their PSA Survey.
4. A Packet Operator as PSA Data Recorder was named.
5. PSA traffic (counts only) were directed to the Packet Operator.
6. At the end of the drill, an on-air debrief was held.

**Performance against Objectives:**

1. Practice the PSA data collection and reporting process

Results: **SATISFACTORY**. All participating members were able to pass the traffic in the manner defined by the process.

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**iv. Chronological Summary of Event / Drill / Exercise**

All events took place on Saturday, 24 January 2015. All times listed here are in local time. This summary is a compilation of submitted ICS-214s, net control logs, and other logs.

| <b>Time</b> | <b>Description, Note, Comment</b>   |
|-------------|---|
| 0800        | CARES Emergency Net was activated, KD6QPP assumed NCS.                                  |
| 0805        | 14 CARES Members checked in, all directed to start their PSA survey.                    |
| 0805        | Identified the PSA Recorder, Tactical Call is Packet Ops.                               |
| 0808        | Start receiving PSA Reports.  |
| 0828        | All reports received. Secured the Drill, on-air round-table on what worked, didn't work |
| 0845        | Secured the CARES Emergency Net   |

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**v. Response at SEMS Levels (as appropriate):**

Include a summary, conclusions, the field response, and other local, operational area, regional, state or federal response.

Per the process, all participating CARES members performed the PSA Survey from where ever they were at the time of the event. This aspect of the process allows for general coverage of the city based on the random nature of where CARES members are in the city at any given time.

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**vi. Interacting Systems, Agencies, and Programs:**

Include mutual aid systems (law enforcement, fire/rescue, medical, etc.); cooperating entities (utilities, American Red Cross, Sheriffs Office, City Departments, etc.); telecommunications and media interactions.

**PSA Process**

An off-line review of the PSA process was recommended to the membership at the January 015 CARES General Meeting. The key success factors for this drill were:

1. CARES members collected and reported their local PSA data. The transmission of the PSA report is based on providing counts for specific topics called out in the PSA form, including:
  - a. Injuries (4 categories)
  - b. Structural Damage (3 categories)
  - c. Fire (1 category)
  - d. Hazards (4 categories)
  - e. Access problems (1 category)
  - f. Survey size; number of homes or structured surveyed
  - g. Map grid location; county GIS map standard as adopted by Cupertino OES
2. We confirmed that, when a member is familiar with the PSA data delivery process, a single PSA message can be delivered in less than 1 minute.

## **Communications Systems**

CARES used the W6TDM repeater and linked it to TAC1. This significantly improved our coverage and eliminated the need for relays.

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### **vii. Improvements, Conclusions, Recommendations:**

As applicable, include a description of actions taken, assignments, associated costs or budget, timetable for completion or correction, and follow-up responsibility.

The following is a summary of the key Improvements, Conclusions, and Recommendations.

#### **What worked?**

- All reported the drill went well.
- Use of the COES105 form helped guide the data collection event.
- Traffic was passed efficiently.
- Process was straight forward.

#### **What didn't work / needs improvement?**

- None reported.

#### **Recommendation**

##### Reporting building vs units

Some CARES members live in apartments or condos that do not cleanly fit the definition of a "unit" (free-standing single family unit).

1. Work with Cupertino OES and CCC to develop a better definition or method for dealing with this.

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### **viii. Logs, attachments:**

As applicable, include a description of actions taken, assignments, associated costs or budget, timetable for completion or correction, and follow-up responsibility.

No attachments are included

1. COES106 PSA Rollup, Spreadsheet version
2. ICS211B Check-in List

End of Report.



