CARES

Cupertino
Amateur Radio Emergency Services

CARES Drill CUP-2001-03t
Final Report

April 29, 2001

Summary
This report covers the results of the CARES Drill #CD0103 on the NCS/EOC Traffic Handling Drill. Ten CARES members participated on April 21st. All feedback was collected and logged for action as appropriate.

1 Plan for the Drill

Background
While CARES has been practicing to perform activities associated with INITIAL RESPONSE OPERATIONS, it has not had a recent drill to practice actual field deployment and experience the dynamics of actual field-based operations. This drill is one in a series of drills to practice activities associated with EXTENDED RESPONSE OPERATIONS.

Goal
CARES members are confident with their abilities to pass traffic during the early states of an emergency.

Scenario
This is a Wild Fire Drill. CARES members will be dispatched to the Field as requested by the EOC to provide communications as necessary.

Objectives
- Practice the Field Operations Process
- Test the EOC and NCS Operations from different locations in City Hall

Schedule
Saturday, April 21, 2001
10:00am Drill begins
12:00pm Drill ends

General Drill Plan
1. At 10:00am, CARES members report to the City Hall.
2. The scenario will be read, and field assignments will be made.
3. At 10:15a, members drive to their assignments and act on the script.
4. The NCS Operator initiates the drill.
5. Field stations will report traffic per their script.
6. Around 11:15am, CARES members return to City Hall for a debrief.
7. We should be done by about 12:00pm

Drill Assumptions
- The event happened 2 hours prior to this drill.
- The weather is as it is that morning.
- The EOC is getting staffed, and the CARES EOC radio operator is at the EOC.

References
CARES Standard Operating Procedures

Exercise control
The exercise will be controlled by the sequence of events outlined in the individual scripts.

Evaluation
The drill will be evaluated immediately afterwards.

2 Preparation

Orientation
No orientation was held prior to this drill. However, NCS/EOC logistics discussed in March will be applied.

Drill Material
Drill material will be prepared in the form of individual scenarios to be given to participating CARES members. In all cases, the information contained in the scenario required a transmission of information or a request to the EOC.

Logistics
NCS and EOC stations were be implemented in separate locations for the drill.

3 Results

Participants
The following members participated in the Drill:

Al	K6AB
Ken	KR6CO
Greg	WD6EHB
Jack	W6MGL
Jim	KN6PE
Stuart	KF6RZR
Vince	K6TEN
Bill	KD6TQJ
Skip	WA6VFD
Bob	KD6US

What worked
During the debrief, the following comments were made on what went well.
1. Good use of tactical Call signs.
2. The EOC Operator asked for repeats of the information.
3. We passed over 36 messages in less than 1 hour.
4. Separation of NCS and EOC worked well.
5. For a 1 hour drill, 8 to 10 message per field station was about right.
6. Traffic sounded realistic.

What didn't work / needs improvement
During the debrief, the following comments were made on areas that didn't work or need improvement.

1. The operator at the PG&E substation could not hear the Monta Vista Fire Station pass traffic.
2. Tactical Call Signs were inconsistent. We used:
   Cupertino Medical Center
   Monta Vista Fire Station
   Seven Springs Fire Station
   Cupertino Fire Station
   Quinlan
   PG&E
   Stevens Creek Dam
3. For those responding to the Fire Stations, most responders didn't use the local antenna or have supplies to connect to them.
4. One operator had to explain to fire station shift personnel what we were doing.
5. We did not practice field-to-field communications… all traffic went to the EOC.
6. The power supply for the NCS portable station was under rated when the radio was operated at high power. Need at least a 10A supply.
7. Classification of traffic priority was not clear or consistent.

Conclusions / Recommendations
1. NCS needs to release the frequency for the next traffic.
2. Develop the Responder checklists and Material for the Fire Stations, Cupertino Medical Centers, and Quinlan Center.
3. Get on the Local Fire Station training rotation for CARES orientation.
4. Need to produce name badges for the most active members to help create the CARES identity.
5. FUTURE DRILLS: practice field-to-field traffic passing.
6. Tape record future drills as a means for critiquing the traffic handling as well as for demonstration.
7. Need to review the antenna drops at Cupertino Medical Center and Quinlan to verify the optimal position.
8. Complete the MOU with Cupertino Medical Center.
9. Need to reiterate the message priority scheme.
10. Need to determine what traffic we would hand off to the CARES TAC-2 frequency (ie: Cupertino Medical Center to Red Cross?)
11. When we get the second frequency, we need to think through monitoring 2 channels… could use scanners.

END OF REPORT