

CARES Meeting Notes

Event: Cupertino Organized Neighborhood Comms Meeting
Date: March 9, 2000
Author: Jim Oberhofer KN6PE

On March 9th, CARES had the opportunity to participate in a discussion on communications with leaders and members from 9 organized Cupertino neighborhoods. While the primary topic was on information roll-ups, it was clear that the concerns you all have expressed during our preliminary damage assessment drills on information sharing were reiterated during this session.

All participants clearly understand that they are on their own for the first 72 or more hours immediately after a disaster strikes. Because of this, they are ready to make decisions to ensure the health and welfare of their neighborhood, and take all appropriate actions as necessary. To to make the best decisions possible, their need for general and specific information on the state of the city, access, and emergency services is critical. Their specific question: "how does information flow back down to the neighborhoods if commercial means are not available?" The implication is if we are there only communications link out, how do we support this need? CARES will review this problem with the City.

Additionally, a review of our Preliminary Damage Assessment reporting methods was also held. Several good suggestions came up, particularly around our process to collect, compile, and pass information we receive from the neighborhoods up to the city for reporting to the County. CARES needs to review our approach and tune it in light of the feedback received. As these changes are identified, we'll review them with the membership.