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## Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Topic: Understanding Open Nets, Field Message Handling

Speaker: Jim Oberhofer KN6PE, EC Cupertino ARES

Date: Thursday, 3-October-2002, 19:30

Event: Cupertino ARES Meeting, Orientation Training

# Understanding Open Nets; Field Message Handling



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# Agenda

1. Review of Directed Nets
2. Introduction to Open Nets
3. How, Where Open Nets can be used
4. Field Message Handling
5. 2002 **S**imulated **E**mergency **T**est overview

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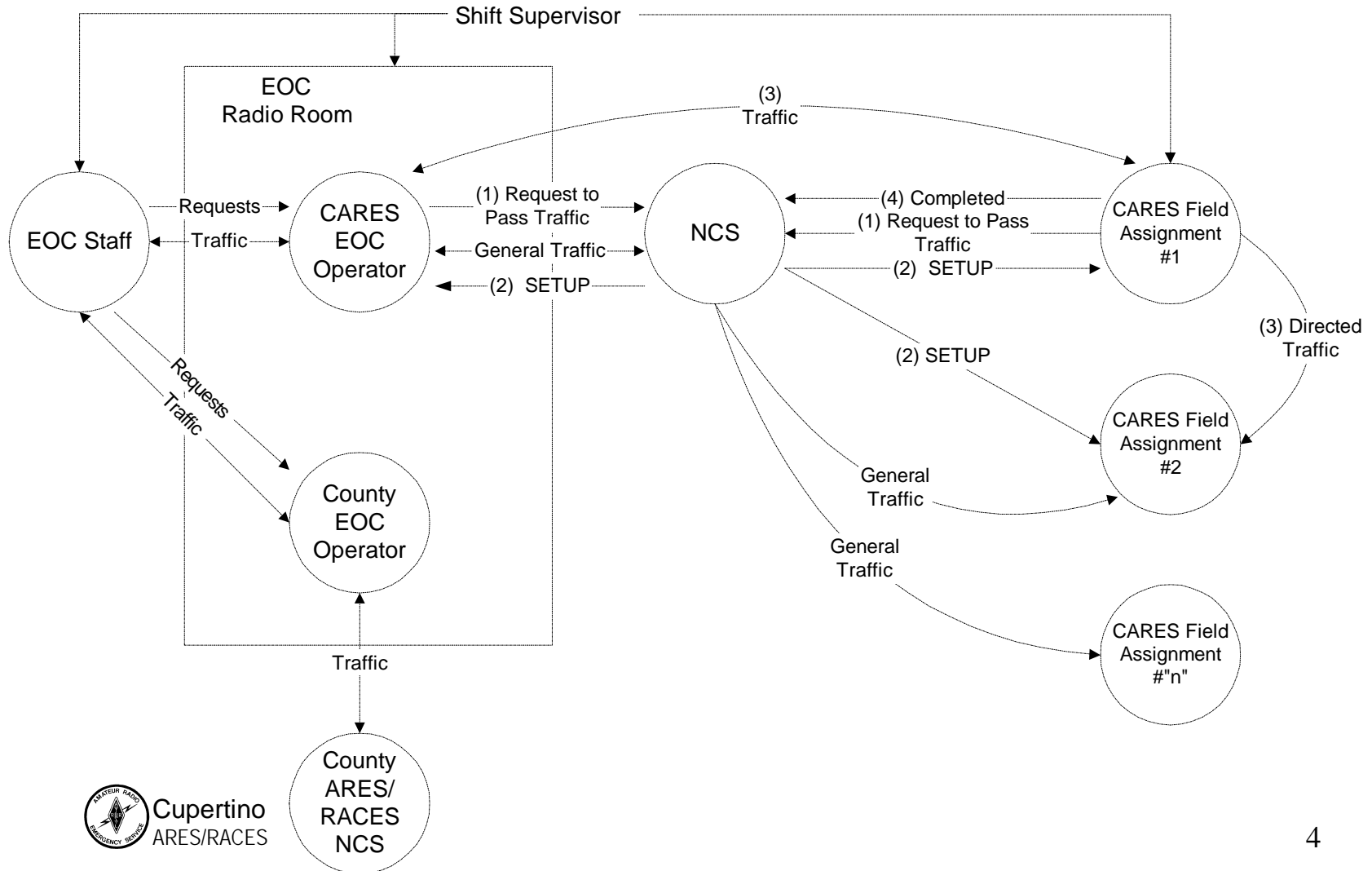
# Definition of a Net

## ***Directed Net***

1. Established when the amount of stations on the frequency who wish to talk, or the amount of traffic to be handled, cannot be accomplished on a first come-first served basis.
2. NCS determines who will use the frequency at a given time.
3. NCS acknowledges those stations first that may have incident related traffic in priority order.
4. Conversations between stations are kept at a minimum.
5. Tactical call signs are assigned to support efficient traffic handling.
6. This net is considered formal in nature, and stations having non-incident related traffic may be asked to move to another frequency.

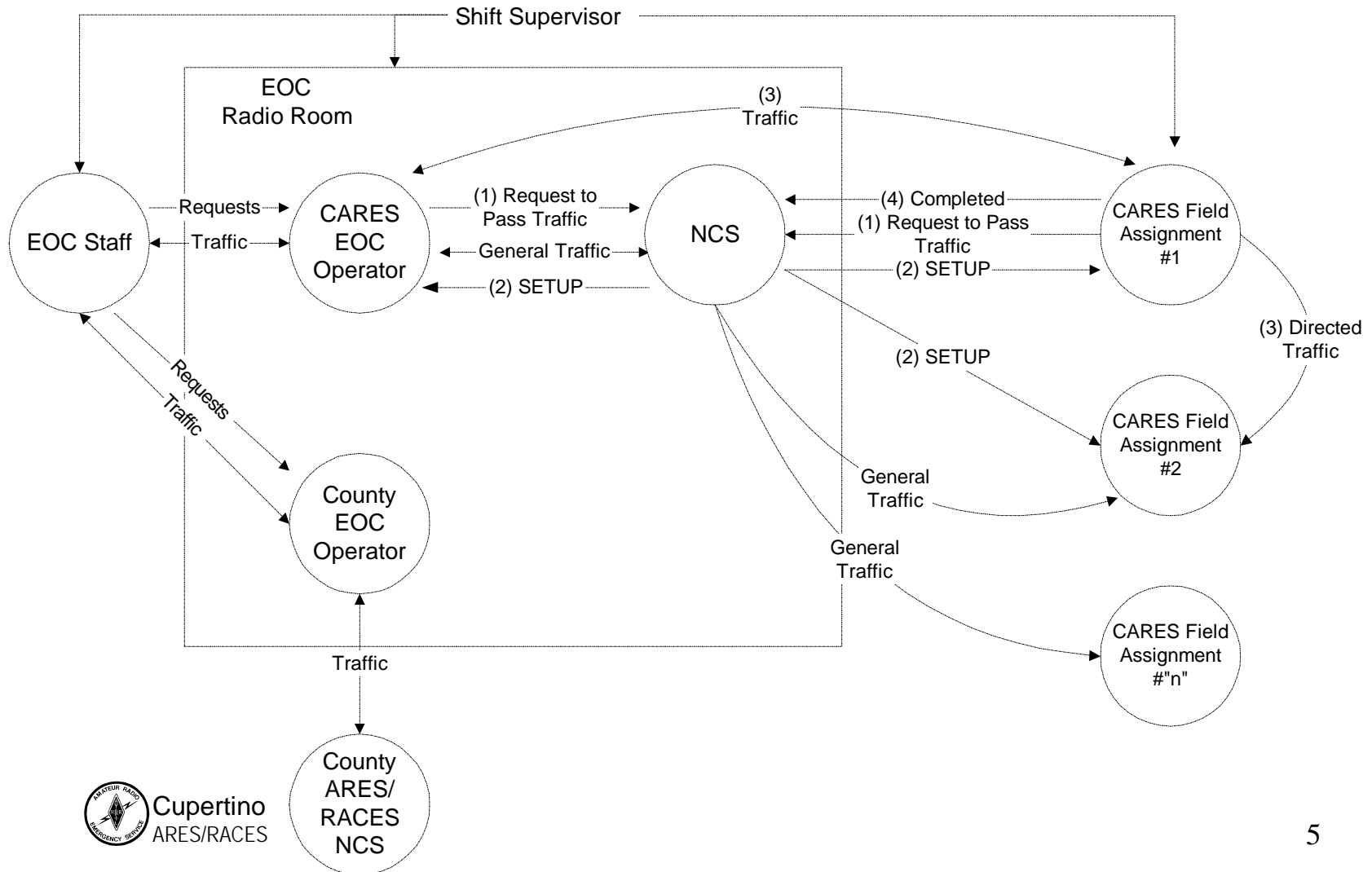
# Directed Net

## Initial Response Operations (SOP 8.2)



# Directed Net

## Extended Response Operations, High Traffic (SOP 8.3)



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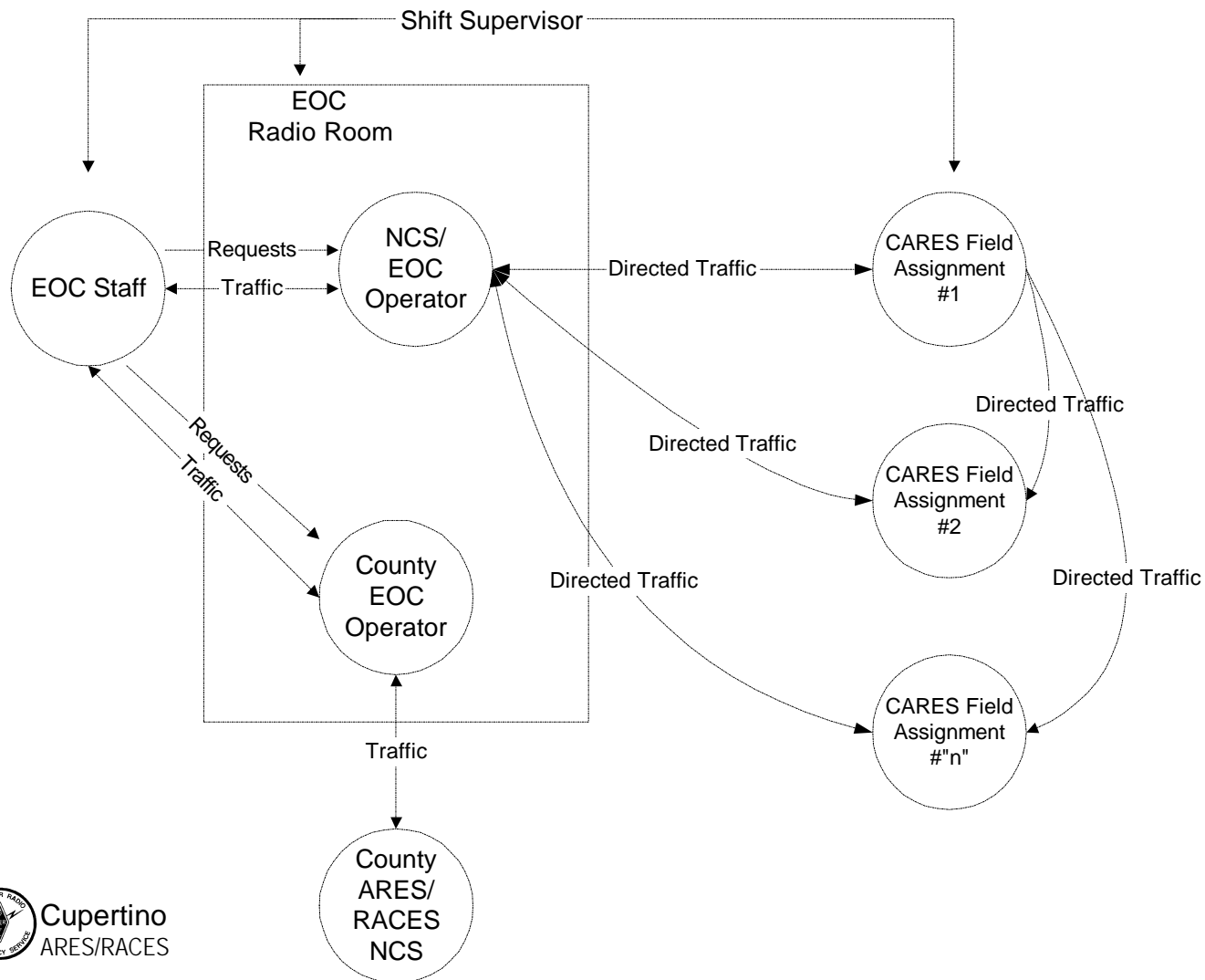
# Definitions of a Net

## *Open Net*

1. A net may be declared OPEN if the incident has little incident related traffic, or if there is little need to direct individual stations with a Net Control Station.
2. An NCS may or may not be required.
3. Stations do not need to contact the NCS before making a directed call to another station.
4. Incident related traffic may be handled on a point to point basis.
5. Most any type of traffic and communications is permitted.
6. Conversations are permitted on the frequency, provided that they break every so often to allow incident related traffic to pass.

# Open Net

## Extended Response Operations, Low Traffic (SOP 8.4)



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# Recent Examples of Open Nets

1. Croy Fire Activation, 26-Sep-02, XSC-02-08
  - County EOC Operated a **Resource Net** on 146.115+ soliciting volunteers
  - Red Cross operated the **Red Cross Net** on 146.760- to coordinate between HQ, Base Camp, and 2-3 ERVs
  - Traffic was light, informal; H&W checks, responded to inquiries from ERVs to help survivors
  - County EOC monitored; SVECS staffed the Red Cross Net
2. Cupertino Decon Drill, 28-Sep-02, CUP-2002-06T
  - Only three stations were required to exchange traffic
  - Traffic was light; unofficial observations were made, some formal messages were sent.
3. Cupertino Art & Wine Festival, 13-July-02, Cup-2002-05E
  - Call for Member check-ins, radio and channel checks
  - Very informal



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# Other Potential Open Nets

1. Cupertino Sanitary District
  - CARES supports CuSD's efforts to ensure city pump stations remain operational
  - CARES operators ride with CuSD crews as shadows
  - CuSD or CARES operates an Open Net
  - Cupertino EOC monitors
  
2. County Fire Support
  - CARES supports County Fire with communication between various Fire command positions: Staging Areas, Fire Stations, Officer Shadows
  - Cupertino EOC monitors
  
3. Red Cross
  - Red Cross will establish their own net
  - Traffic is expected to be light
  - One CARES member is the liaison station to the CARES Net

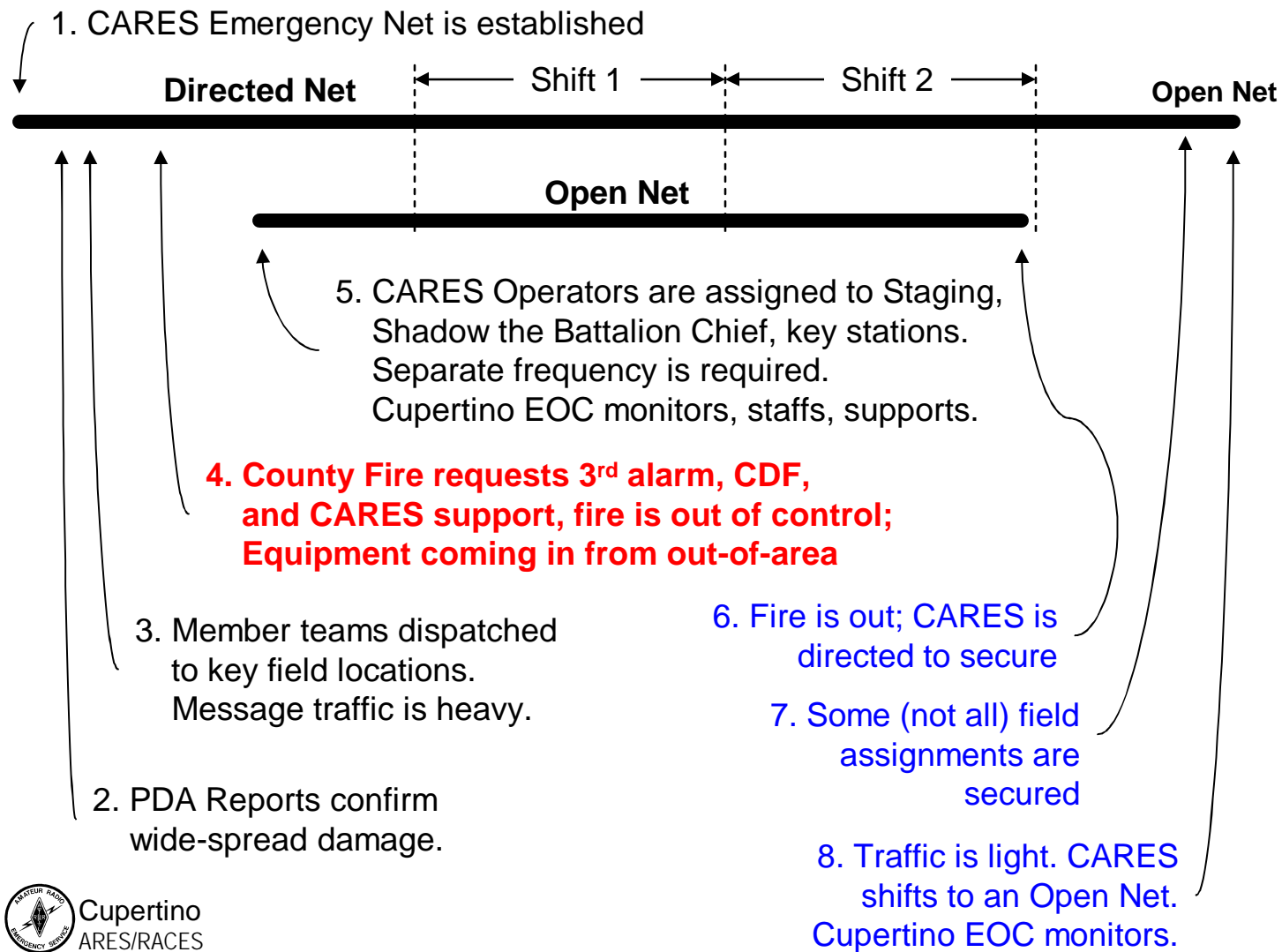
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# How Nets support an Event

## *Situation*

- October, clear skies, winds are out of the west at 15 to 25 miles per hour
- The Bay Area just had a 7.5 earthquake
- 40% of all residential dwelling will be uninhabitable
- One house catches on fire, and the fire spreads into an adjacent canyon fanned by moderate winds

# How Nets support an Event



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# Comparing Direct & Open Nets

|                            | <b>Directed Net</b>                  | <b>Open Net</b>         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| NCS                        | Required<br>Controls access and flow | Optional; Participant   |
| EOC                        | Participant in the net               | Optional, Participant   |
| Field Responders           | Requests permission to pass traffic  | Self-originates traffic |
| Traffic Volume             | High                                 | Low                     |
| # Stations                 | High                                 | Low                     |
| Non-participating Stations | asked to stand by                    | OK to use the frequency |

# Field Message Handling

## What the EOC needs

**0400F CARES EOC Message Form**  
ANS R GRAM 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Put Message Priority here

Use instead..

- Emergency
- Urgent
- Priority
- Routine

|            |                                 |                               |                                   |
|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. FROM    | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent | <input type="checkbox"/> ASAP | <input type="checkbox"/> No Reply |
|            | 3.                              |                               |                                   |
| 4. TO      | 5. DATE:                        |                               |                                   |
|            | 6. ATTENTION OF:                |                               |                                   |
|            | 7. SUBJECT:                     |                               |                                   |
| 8. MESSAGE |                                 |                               |                                   |
| Signed     |                                 |                               |                                   |
| 9. REPLY   |                                 |                               |                                   |
| Signed     |                                 |                               |                                   |

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# Field Message Handling

*What message fields are required?*

|   |                 | <b>Directed Net</b>    | <b>Open Net</b>        |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Message Number: | From NCS               | Optional               |
| 2 | From:           | <b><i>Required</i></b> | <b><i>Required</i></b> |
| 3 | Priority:       | <b><i>Required</i></b> | Optional               |
| 4 | To:             | <b><i>Required</i></b> | <b><i>Required</i></b> |
| 5 | Date/Time:      | <b><i>Required</i></b> | <b><i>Required</i></b> |
| 6 | Attention To:   | Optional               | Optional               |
| 7 | Subject:        | <b><i>Required</i></b> | Optional               |
| 8 | Message:        | <b><i>Required</i></b> | <b><i>Required</i></b> |
| 9 | Reply:          | Optional               | Depends                |

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# Field Message Handling

## *The Field Message Handling Reality*

1. Ideally, we carry pads of pre-printed Message Forms
2. Or, minimum things we need to have:
  - Pencils, Clipboard or folder, and any one of these...
    - Spiral note pad
    - Index Cards
    - Pad of Paper
    - other
3. How to create your own message forms:
  - One message per page / card / sheet / etc.
  - Quick format each form (next page)
4. Creating a message
  - FROM: Know who is giving you the message
  - TO: Know who needs to get it
  - MESSAGE: If detailed or technical, verify you have it correct

# Field Message Handling

## Improvising a Field Message Form

### Note Pad

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <i>From</i>   | <i>Date/Time</i> |
| <i>To</i>   | <i>Priority</i>  |
|   | <i>Msg #</i>     |
| <u><i>Message:</i></u>  |                  |
| <i>This is the message that needs to be written down. Watch the details</i>                                       |                  |
| <br>  |                  |
| <br>  |                  |
| <u><i>Reply</i></u>   |                  |
| <i>Write down the reply on the back of the card. If it is going back to the originator, deliver it to him/her</i> |                  |
| <br>  |                  |
| <br>  |                  |

### Index Card Method

|   |   |                  |
|---|---|------------------|
| <b>Front Side</b>   | <i>From</i>   | <i>Date/Time</i> |
|   | <i>To</i>   | <i>Priority</i>  |
|   |   | <i>Msg #</i>     |
| <u><i>Message:</i></u>  |   |                  |
| <i>This is the message that needs to be written down. Watch the details</i> |   |                  |
| <br>  |   |                  |
| <br>  |   |                  |
| <b>Back Side</b>  | <u><i>Reply</i></u>   |                  |
|   | <i>Write down the reply on the back of the card. If it is going back to the originator, deliver it to him/her</i> |                  |



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# Field Message Handling

| <b>What is said</b>                        | <b>What should happen</b>   |
|--|---|
| "K6KKK, this is W6WWW with formal traffic" | W6WWW should be sure to write the message down verbatim   |
| "Channel Check"                            | NCS or other station should respond with status of the net:<br>"Net is Open/Directed"<br>"Stand By" |