Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Topic: Preliminary Safety Assessment Procedure

Speaker: Jim Oberhofer KN6PE, EC Cupertino ARES

Date: Thursday, 05-February-2004, 19:30

Event: Cupertino ARES meeting, Orientation Training

PSA Drill Preview

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Preliminary Safety Assessment
What is it?

Situation

- The Cupertino EOC needs a rapid assessment of the state of the city so that response resources can be assigned to have the maximum impact.

- During city-wide disasters, regular communications channels may be disrupted, leaving EOC decision-makers with little information to go on.

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Preliminary Safety Assessment
What is it?

Response

- CARES is chartered to provide Preliminary Safety Assessment information when a disaster occurs.

Definition

- A Preliminary Safety Assessment report occurs early during an emergency. While information will be fragmented and incomplete, it will provide the City with a a preliminary assessment of the damage so the EOC can determine the type of response that must be made to save lives and protect property.

- Early Safety Assessment reports should not be delayed by getting mired in detail in an effort to obtain more extensive Damage Assessment information.

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Preliminary Safety Assessment
When do we use it?

Self-evident Events

- Earthquakes… These events have the potential significant damage throughout the Bay Area.

Non-evident Events

- Flooding… May be localized to a specific area
- Man-made disasters…
- Others?

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

The PSA Process
1. Once the shaking stops…

Take care of yourself…

… your family…
- Determine the condition of your family; apply first aid if necessary.
- Determine the structural soundness of your home; evacuate if necessary.

… your neighborhood…
- Perform the Preliminary Safety Assessment…
  - What you do depends on your situation.
  - Do not put your personal safety at risk.
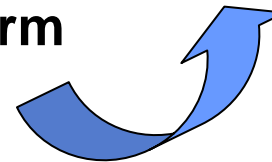 - Do not exceed your physical ability to perform the assessment.

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

The PSA Process
2. Collecting the data…

Collect information on…
- **Injuries**
- **Structure damage**
- **Hazards**
- **Access**

Using…
- **Preliminary Safety Assessment Form**

Assessment Date/Time:				Neighborhood/Street:
Performed by:				Map Coordinates:
				Number Units Surveyed:

Ref	Category	Subcategory	Count	Comments, Locations, Details
1.1	Injuries, Minor	Able to walk away from the incident		
1.2	Injuries, Delayed	Regular breathing, and Capillary refill <2 sec, and Answers questions, responds to commands		
1.3	Injuries, Immediate	Rapid Breathing >30/min, or capillary refill >2 sec, or Confused, disoriented		
1.4	Injuries, Presumed Dead	Unconscious, no respiration		
2.1	Structure, Light Damage	• Superficial Damage • Broken Windows • Cracked or fallen plaster • Main damage is to contents		
2.2	Structure, Moderate Damage	• Large amount of cracking on exterior • Small cracks around doors and foundations • No outward sign of structural damage		
2.3	Structure, Heavy Damage	• Partial or full collapse • Building is off foundation • Structural damage to the building		
3.1	Hazards	Fire: Any fire situation		
3.2	Hazards	Gas Leaks		
3.3	Hazards	Sewer Leaks		
3.4	Hazards	Water main breaks		
3.5	Hazards	Electrical Power; Lines down Power in neighborhood?		
4.1	Access	Roads Blocked Other Obstructions		

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Assessment Date/Time:		Neighborhood/Street:
Performed by:		Map Coordinates:
		Number Units Surveyed:

Ref	Category	Subcategory	Count	Comments, Locations, Details
1.1	Injuries, Minor	Able to walk away from the incident		
1.2	Injuries, Delayed	Regular breathing, and Capillary refill <2 sec, and Answers questions, responds to commands		
1.3	Injuries, Immediate	Rapid Breathing >30/min, or capillary refill >2 sec, or Confused, disoriented		
1.4	Injuries, Presumed Dead	Unconscious, no respiration		
2.1	Structure, Light Damage	• Superficial Damage • Broken Windows • Cracked or fallen plaster • Main damage is to contents		
2.2	Structure, Moderate Damage	• Large amount of cracking on exterior • Small cracks around doors and foundations • No outward sign of structural damage		
2.3	Structure, Heavy Damage	• Partial or full collapse • Building is off foundation • Structural damage to the building		
3.1	Hazards	Fire: Any fire situation		
3.2	Hazards	Gas Leaks		
3.3	Hazards	Sewer Leaks		
3.4	Hazards	Water main breaks		
3.5	Hazards	Electrical Power; Lines down Power in neighborhood?		
4.1	Access	Roads Blocked Other Obstructions		

The PSA Process
3. Check into the Net

- Turn on your radio and listen.
- If you are the first person on the frequency and have the capability to perform as an NCS Operator, establish the CARES Emergency Net.
- Check in to the net when check-ins are requested.

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

The PSA Process
4. Prepare your Message

- *Message ID* -- Assigned by the NCS Operator

- ***Precedence*** -- determines the urgency of the message (Emergency, Urgent, Priority, Routine)

- ***Destination*** -- If omitted, deliver to EOC Planning or Ops Section

- **Date/Time** -- Time the message was created. If omitted, receiving station enters the Date/Time the message was received.

- ***Subject*** -- Short Title

- ***The Message*** -- Description of the situation. Includes:

    » ***Report Status*** -- (initial, follow-up, final, correction)
    » ***Location*** -- Include the neighborhood or street name; Include major cross-street

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Message Handling
4a. Precedence (Urgency)

- **Emergency** -- Life-threatening: Situations, reports, and uPSAtes that might directly result in deploying or prioritizing resources for an incident involving life-saving efforts. When in doubt, DO NOT use this designation.

- **Urgent** -- Property threatening: Situations and reports of new threats, revised flood projections, wind direction changes in a major fire, and reports of additional damage from an earthquake aftershock suggesting additional rescue efforts or surveillance.

- **Priority** -- Includes information such as damage reports, correspondence between agency representatives, material and logistics messages, etc.

- **Routine** -- Includes all other information such as welfare inquiries, routine resource requests, shift planning, requests for relief, etc.

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Message Handling
4b. Precedence (Urgency)

Handling Mixed Urgency Messages

- If you have a mix of different message priorities, deliver the specific message priority (EMREGENCY and URGENT) when called.

- Deliver the balance of the report (PRIORITY and ROUTINE) when called.

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Message Handling
Preliminary Safety Assessment Drill

- When: Saturday, 5-Mar, 9:00am to 11:00am

- Where: Operate from your home location

- Who: All CARES members, one NCS, one SS

- What:
  1. Pick 4 messages that you think would be typical of your neighborhood.

- How:
  1. Net is called at 9:30a, take check-ins
  2. Simulate going through the assessment process; Use the PSA data collection form.
  3. Over the next hour, CARES members send messages to EOC based on the precedence
  4. On-air critique at about 10:45am
  5. Secure the net

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Message Handling
Report Status

- ***Initial*** -- This is the first message you send when making a situation report. If you have ***EMERGENCY*** traffic, then pass this traffic as your first message. If you only have PRIORITY traffic, wait for all ***EMERGENCY*** traffic to be passed.

- ***Follow-up*** -- This is the second and subsequent messages you send. Pass your PRIORITY traffic when NCS calls for it. Reference the Message ID assigned to your *Initial* message.

- ***Final*** -- Let NCS know this is your final message because you are going off-line, being relieved, etc.

- ***Correction*** -- Use this status when you are amending a previously sent message. Reference the original by *Report ID.*

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Message Handling
Who does what?

Sending Station

- Creates the message with minimally the (i) Message number, (ii) Precedence, (iii) Subject, and (iv) Text.
- Delivers the message slowly, with breaks.

Receiving Station

- Records the message as sent.
- Acknowledges receipt of the message. May ask for fills or repeats.
- Keeps related messages together.
- Routes the message as directed.

NCS Operator

- Acknowledges stations with traffic and prioritizes by precedence.
- Ensures both sending and receiving station are ready to exchange traffic.
- Assigns the Message ID.

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Message Handling
Sending an Emergency Report

KN6PE: "Net Control, this is KN6PE with EMERGENCY Traffic for EOC"

NCS: *KN6PE, acknowledged. EOC, are you ready to copy traffic?*

EOC: "EOC is ready"

NCS: *KN6PE, your message ID is CD-29. Send your traffic to the EOC.*

KN6PE: "EOC, This is Message CD-29.
  Subject is: House Fire.
  Messages is: House fire at 12345 Woodhill Court. Cross-street is Prospect and Stelling. Break."

EOC: "OK, Continue (with the message)"

KN6PE: "One person is trapped inside. Area water pressure appears to be low. End of Message. This is KN6PE"

EOC: "Acknowledged. This is W9BJX, EOC, back to net."

NCS: *Other stations with emergency traffic, please identify now.*

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Message Handling
Sending an <u>initial</u> Situation Report

KN6PE: "Net Control, this is KN6PE with Priority Traffic for the EOC"

NCS: *KN6PE, acknowledged. EOC, are you ready to copy traffic?*

EOC: "EOC is ready"

NCS: *KN6PE, your message ID is CD-30. Send your traffic to the EOC.*

KN6PE: "EOC, This is Message CD-30.
Subject is: Initial Preliminary Safety Assessment Report.
Location is: Pinebrook Neighborhood.
Message is: No Injuries. 6 houses with Light Damage. 1 house with Heavy Damage. Power is out in the neighborhood. Break."

EOC: "OK, Continue (with the message)"

KN6PE: "Road the East end of Pinebrook Court. 45 houses surveyed. End of Message. This is KN6PE"

EOC: "Acknowledged. This is W9BJX, EOC, back to net."

NCS: *Other stations with priority traffic, please identify now.*

Cupertino
ARES/RACES

Message Handling
Guidelines

As the Sender…

- During an emergency, say as little as possible, yet convey all of the meaning

- Send as fast as you can write it

- Insert Breaks to confirm the message is getting through

As the Receiver...

- Its OK to ask for a "repeat" if you miss any part of a message

- Its OK to ask the sender to slow down

Cupertino
ARES/RACES