

2022 Wildland Fire Canyon Trails Fire Evacuation Exercise Retrospective

June 2, 2022
Jim Oberhofer



Topics

1. CUP-22-39T Exercise
2. Summary of Findings
3. Observations



21-May-2022 CTFE Exercise

Objectives

1. The radio resource nets are operated per standard operating procedures.
2. Voice messages are passed by radio between field RACES teams and the Incident Command Post (ICP).
3. Voice messages are passed between neighborhood radio volunteers and the local ARK.
4. Voice & digital messages are passed between the ICP and County EOC.
5. Execute the Demob Process for all responders per the current procedure.



CUP-22-39T Timeline (from ICS-214's)

Time	Description, Notes, Comments
0700	Retrieve Comm 469
0725	Comm 469 arrived at Monta Vista Fire Station
0806	Begin Packet Radio station setup
0828	Packet Radio setup complete
0900	Scenario overview, Safety Briefing
0925	Made assignments
0928	CARES Emergency Net activated
0945	Opened Neighborhood FRS/GMRS net
1000	Begin County RACES comm operations
1006	Checked in to County Packet Net
1110	Begin Demob setup
1115	End of Exercise announced
1122	Shut down County RACES comm operations
1126	Checked out of County Packet Net
1130	Closed Neighborhood FRS/GMRS net
1145	Completed Demobilization; shut down Demob Unit
1300	Returned Comm 469 to Service Center



By the Numbers

Volunteer hours:

CARES

73 hours

CERT / BL / NW

42 hours

Total participants:

28 (CARES:17, CERT/BL/NW: 12)

Field Posts staffed:

4

Neighborhoods staffed:

4

Senior Residences staffed:

3

Summary of Findings

1. Plausible scenario

Cupertino's location against the foothills, recent state-wide fire events, and the resulting evacuations point to the need to ensure our community is ready.

2. A meaningful neighborhood volunteer mission

When faced with a real need, neighborhood teams see the need and value in organization, communications, and procedures.

3. Deployment within an Evacuation Zone

Without agreements in place with public safety agencies, it is unlikely that volunteers will be allowed into an evacuation zone once the evacuation order is issued.

Observations

Training

1. Update field procedures/training clarify when to use the Resource Net.
2. Update NCO procedures/training on how to handle missing field operators.
3. Develop training for handling Field-originated and NCO-received Informal messages.

Procedures

1. Define Field Resource Tracking
2. Revisit radio operations and how C469 staffing will occur, esp considering COVID

Documentation

1. Complete the Shift Supervisor Handbook
2. Update Field and NCO message handling and documentation procedures for 3rd Party, Informal, and Operational messages



Observations

Equipment

1. Reconfigure the packet TNC to make it accessible from the C469 LAN.
2. Replace the Monta Vista ARK GMRS roof antenna to improve coverage.

Neighborhood Volunteers

1. Develop Message Passing training for Neighborhood responders.
2. Develop the neighborhood evacuation playbook.
3. Engage Cupertino's south-facing neighborhoods (zones CUP-E029 thru CUP-E034) and run this exercise again.

After Action Report

See the After Action Report for all the details.....

After Action Report 2022 Canyon Trail Fire Evacuation Exercise

Overview

Description: Wildfire Evacuation & Communications Exercise
Event Type: Cupertino Citizens Corp, Affiliated Volunteers
Event Name: 2022 Canyon Trail Fire
Activation No: CUP-22-39T
Managing Entity: Cupertino ARES
Event Date: 21 May 2022
Report Date: 1 June 2022
Report Revision: REVIEW
Submitted by: J.Oberhofer, J.Halchin, S.Hill, T.Kang, K.Foot, A.Boleda

Requirements for Reporting¹

Completing an After-Action Report is part of the required California SEMS reporting process. The California Emergency Services Act, Section 8607 (f) mandates that the Office of Emergency Services, in cooperation with involved state and local agencies complete an After-Action Report after each declared disaster. Section 2450 (a) of the SEMS Regulations states that, "When the Governor proclaims a state of emergency, the Governor shall require the state and transmit an after-action report as specified in the California Emergency Services Act. The after-action report shall be submitted to the Office of Emergency Services, suggested model form is attached."

[Cupertinoares.org](https://www.cupertinoares.org) > Exercises & Events > CUP-22-39T

<https://www.cupertinoares.org/docs/CUP-22-39T-CTFE-AAR.pdf>



Thank you

Any Questions?

