

After Action Report 2018 Field Day



Cupertino
ARES/RACES

1. Overview

Description: 2018 Cupertino Field Day
Event Date: 23-June-2018
Report Date: 4-September-2016
CARES Event: CUP-18-32T
RACES Event: CUP-18-32T
Control: Cupertino ARES/RACES
Report Revision: 1.0, FINAL
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Requirements for Reporting

Completing an After-Action Report is part of the required SEMS reporting process. The Emergency Services Act, Section 8607 (f) mandates that the Office of Emergency Services (OES) in cooperation with involved state and local agencies complete an After-Action Report within 120 days after each declared disaster. Section 2450 (a) of the SEMS Regulations states that, "Any city, city and county, or county declaring a local emergency for which the governor proclaims a state of emergency, and any state agency responding to that emergency shall complete and transmit an after-action report to OES within ninety (90) days of the close of the incident period as specified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, s2900(q)."

CARES will follow this requirement for reporting the results and recommendations for this Training Event.

i. Introduction and Background

Terms

| | |
|--------|--|
| CARES: | Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service, ARES/RACES organization supporting the City of Cupertino; provides backup and emergency communications to the City. |
| CERT | Community Emergency Response Team. |
| MRC | Medical Reserve Corps. |
| ARRL | American Radio Relay League. |

Introduction

Field Day is an annual event sponsored by the ARRL and is intended to be an opportunity for education, practice in emergency radio operations, and public relations. Individual ARES/RACES groups participate in their own communities, and a national contest aspect to the event adds to the motivation to participate. CARES participated this year by setting up and operating personally-owned radio equipment and the CARES communications van as well as an information table and a station where members of the public could talk on a ham radio. CARES participation lasted from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Members of the city government, served agencies of CARES, and ARRL section officials were invited to visit during the event. The City of Cupertino authorized the event under training activation number CUP-18-32T.

This year, the City of Cupertino sponsored an Emergency Preparedness Fair -- a new event, held on the same day as Field Day. CARES participated in Field Day as part of the Preparedness Fair.

ii. Type / Location of Event / Drill / Exercise

Event Type: City of Cupertino, CARES Training Activation
Event Identifier: CUP-18-32T
Event Name: Field Day
Location: City of Cupertino Quinlan Community Center / Memorial Park

iii. Description of the Event / Drill / Exercise

CARES event objectives:

1. Practice off-the-grid field deployment.
2. Practice HF, VHF/UHF, packet and digital operations.
3. Practice with and educate each other about various other radio equipment and technologies.
4. Meet informally with representatives of some of CARES' served agencies and ARRL officials.
5. Educate the public and city officials about CARES, Cupertino Citizen Corps, and emergency preparedness.

Event resources came from the following organizations:

1. Cupertino ARES/RACES: Nineteen (19) CARES members participated in the event.
2. Others: Fourteen officials or other representatives visited during the event and checked in.

Performance against Objectives:

1. Practice off-the-grid field deployment

Results: SATISFACTORY. The event was held outdoors, with all equipment being powered by generators, batteries, and solar panel. CARES members brought and deployed their own equipment, including three HF stations and antennas, a 30-foot antenna mast, hex beam antenna, and two packet stations. The CARES communications van 469 was also deployed, as were city-owned generators and tents.

2. Practice HF operations

Results: SATISFACTORY. CARES operators practiced at making contest contacts with some success, with reasonably good band propagation on 40m and 20m that day. A Near Incident Vertical Skyway (INVIS) antenna was set up to demonstrate communications in the 100 to 200-mile range. This setup worked satisfactory.

3. Practice with and educate each other about various other radio equipment and technologies

Results: SATISFACTORY. CARES members gave demos and shared knowledge about MESH networks, HF operations, and using a antenna analyzer.

4. Meet informally with representatives of some of CARES' served agencies and ARRL officials

Results: SATISFACTORY.

5. Educate the public and city officials about CARES, Cupertino Citizen Corps, and emergency preparedness

Results: SATISFACTORY. The event was held in a public park part of the Quiland Community Center, so it was visible and accessible to the public.

- CARES members staffed an information booth, answering questions and handing out brochures on CARES, CERT, MRC, ARRL, emergency preparedness, the role of amateur radio in emergencies, and more. 30 people signed the visitors log.
- CARES members staffed a Get-On-The-Air station where non-hams could talk on a ham radio.

iv. Chronological Summary of Event / Drill / Exercise

CARES operated this event under activation number CUP-18-32T. The following is a summary of the event timeline. All times listed here are in local time. CARES members arrived and left throughout the day, as the event did not require all-day attendance by individual members.

| Time | Description, Notes, Comments |
|------|---|
| 0715 | First CARES members arrive at the site |
| 0730 | ComVan 469 arrives at the site, other CARES members arrive |
| 0740 | City trailer with tables, tents, chairs, generators, etc. arrives at the site |
| 0745 | Safety briefing and planning session |
| 0800 | Members begin setting up radio equipment, tents and tables, information booth |
| 0945 | Site briefing and safety checks |
| 1000 | Preparedness Fair opens |
| 1100 | CARES Field Day operations begin |
| 1230 | Lunch |
| 1500 | Preparedness Fair closes |
| 1530 | CARES operations cease, members begin taking down and putting away equipment and supplies |
| 1600 | Site is clear, all city supplies are in the trailer |
| 1630 | Communications van departs |
| 1635 | City trailer departs, volunteers depart |

v. Response at SEMS Levels (as appropriate):

Include a summary, conclusions, the field response, and other local, operational area, regional, state or federal response.

Not applicable

vi. Interacting Systems, Agencies, and Programs:

Include mutual aid systems (law enforcement, fire/rescue, medical, etc.); cooperating entities (utilities, American Red Cross, Sheriff's Office, City Departments, etc.); telecommunications and media interactions.

Not applicable

vii. Improvements, Conclusions, Recommendations:

As applicable, include a description of actions taken, assignments, associated costs or budget, timetable for completion or correction, and follow-up responsibility.

The following is a summary of the key conclusions and recommendations.

What worked

- Engagement with the public was good.

What didn't work / needs improvement

- The number of CARES members taking advantage of the opportunity to practice or learn HF operations was small—3 experienced HF operators and 1 member new to HF.
- Field Day has a strong focus on HF operations, though almost all of CARES training and expected emergency activities involve VHF and UHF communications, not HF.

Recommendations :

- Consider merging an annual preparedness fair with Field Day as an annual event.
- Consider setting up the Field Day site west of City Hall under the trees for better temperature control.

viii. Logs, attachments:

As applicable, include a description of actions taken, assignments, associated costs or budget, timetable for completion or correction, and follow-up responsibility.

None needed nor required.

End of Report.