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**Cupertino  
Amateur  
Radio  
Emergency  
Service**

**Organization update for the  
Cupertino Disaster Council**

August 3, 2006

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# What's in a name?

<b>C</b> upertino	More than 70 of individuals who live or work in Cupertino and see a value in volunteering to support the City.
<b>A</b> mateur <b>R</b> adio	Over 600,000 hams in the United States, that use radio transmitters and receivers to communicate with other Amateur radio operators. Ham radio operators are licensed by the United States Government.
<b>E</b> mergency <b>S</b> ervice	Supports the City with reliable primary and backup communications during emergencies or other times of need.

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# Who are we?

## Mission

The mission of Cupertino ARES is to maintain and train Amateur Radio volunteers capable of providing professional emergency communications, increasing the City's emergency response effectiveness, and speeding the recovery effort.

## Objectives

- Preparedness - CARES members train to respond to a local emergency with our equipment, training, and experience.
- Response - CARES members deliver backup and emergency communications to our city, various served agencies, and our neighbors.

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# How we prepare

- Weekly radio nets
- CARES Drills
  - Preliminary Safety Assessments
  - Joint drills with Cupertino OES, CERT, MRC
- Quarterly County Communications drills
- Annual Simulated Emergency Test, Field Day
- Community Events – 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Tournament of Bands
- Operator Certification procedures



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# How we respond

- Preliminary Safety Assessments
- Creek Watch
- Monitoring, spot-checks of critical city facilities
- Staff strategic city sites – Fire Stations, Novacare, Quinlan Shelter, OES Ark sites
- Communications shadows
- Staff the EOC, member to the Planning Section
- Communications support other Served Agencies
  - Cupertino Sanitary District
  - San Jose Water
  - Santa Clara County Fire
- Support Santa Clara County with Mutual Aid Communicators

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# Our value-add

- Frequency-agile... no single assigned frequency
- Range of capabilities... voice, data, video
- Self-funded equipment and maintenance
- Interoperability
- Process, Procedures, and Practice

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# Our value-add

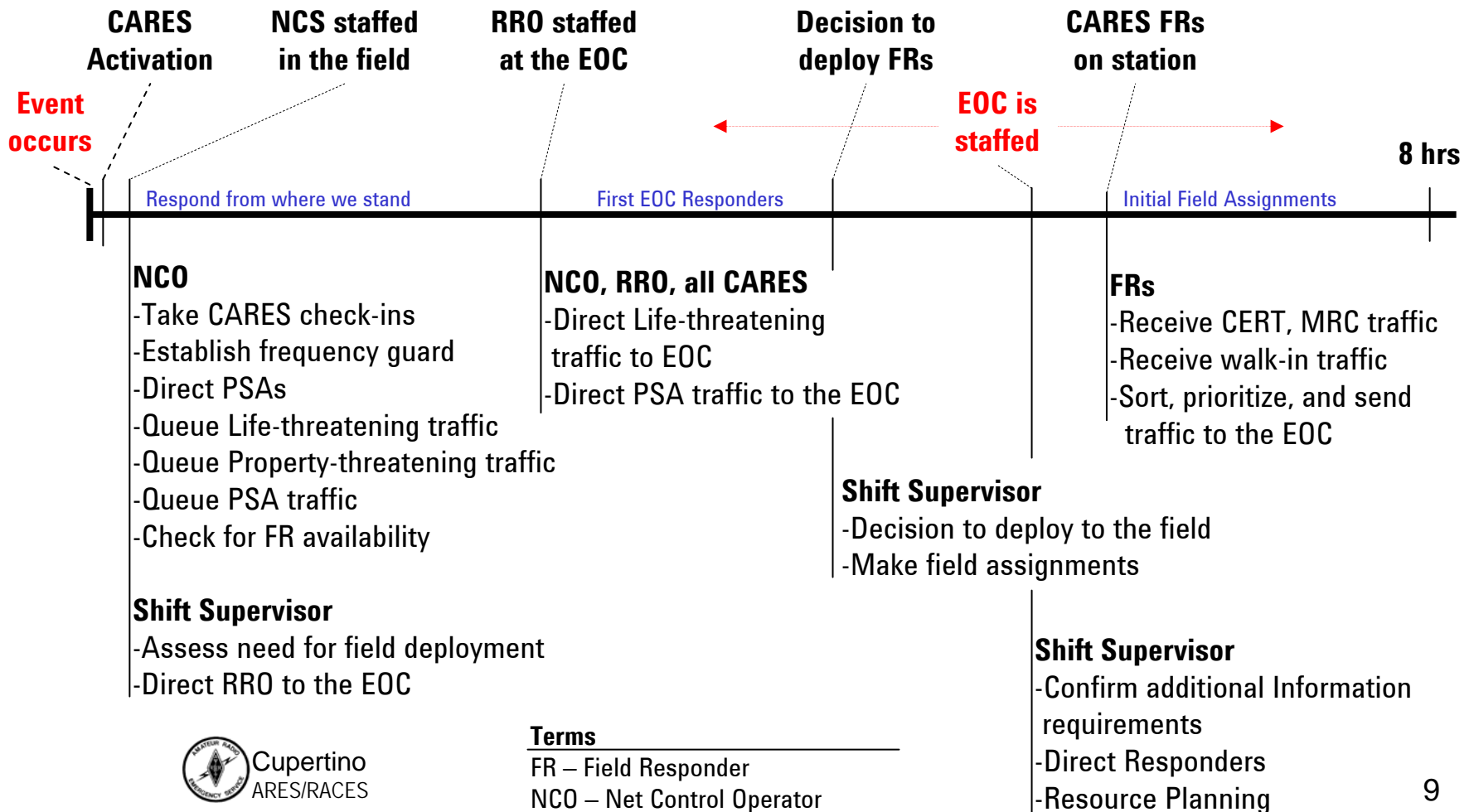
## Interoperability



- The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006 (HR 5852), an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002.
- The measure requires the DHS to strengthen its efforts to improve emergency communications, and calls for Amateur Radio operators to be part of a "Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group" who would advise federal and state homeland security officials.
- Its sponsor, Rep David G. Reichert (R-WA) – Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology – says his legislation is designed "to improve the ability of emergency responders to communicate with each other" -- ***interoperability***.



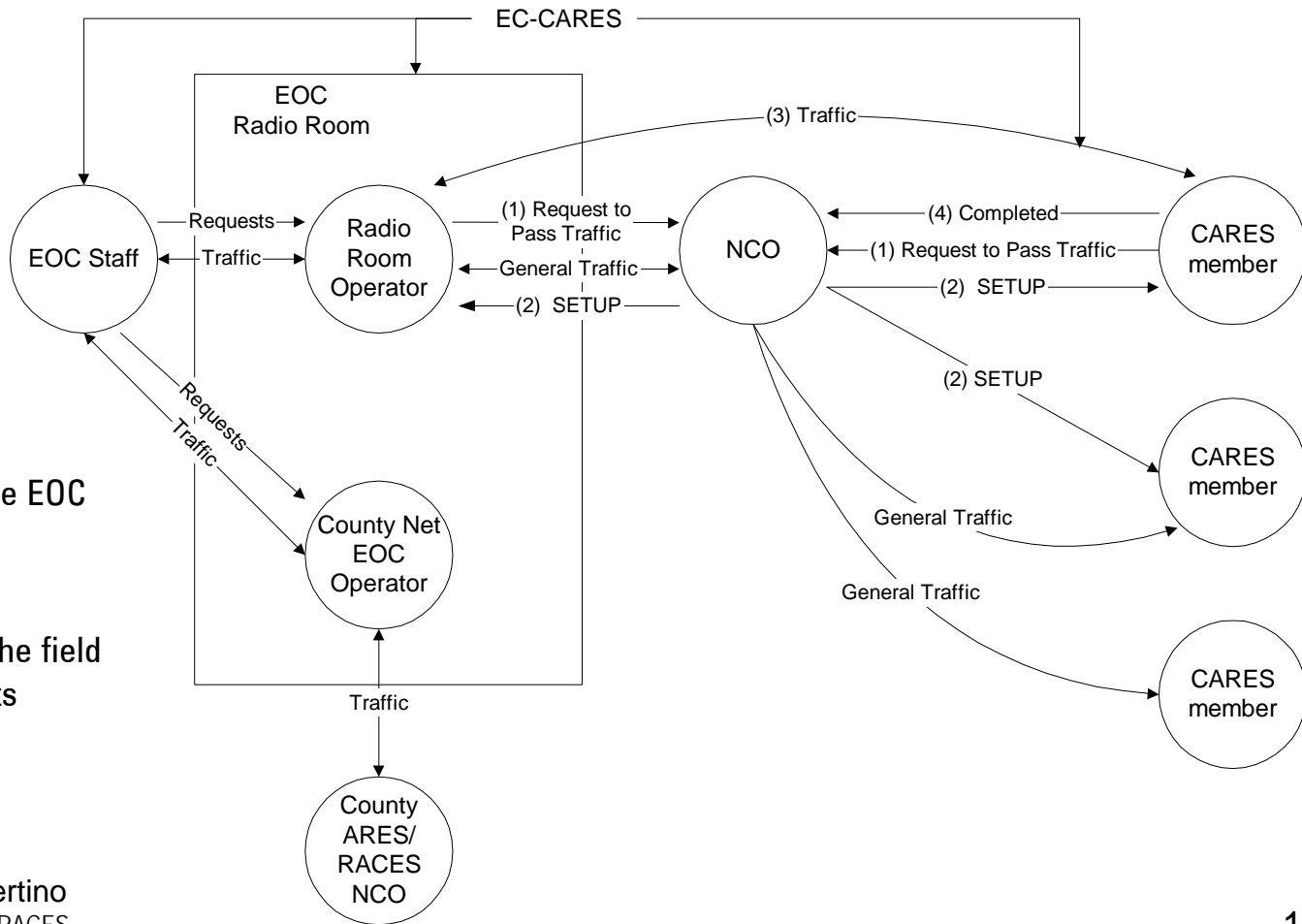
# Our value-add procedures



# Our value-add

## Response Operations

– First EOC Responders, Initial Field Assignments



### NCO, RRO, all CARES

- Direct Life-threatening traffic to EOC
- Direct PSA traffic to the EOC

### Shift Supervisor

- Decision to deploy to the field
- Make field assignments



## Welcome to the Cupertino ARES/RACES Home Page



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August 1, 2006

This site is operated by and for Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES) members interested in emergency preparedness and amateur radio communication. Visitors are welcome to check us out.

### Summer '06 Highlights!

Here's what's happening with CARES...

**CARES SOP updates** have been completed and are now available for download. Changes to Parts 1 (Overview), 2 (Procedures), 5 (Checklists) and 6 (Forms) have been made and are available on the [SOP reference page](#).

**UPDATED Got Field Day?** CARES did, and we did a lot of it!... HF SSB, CW, and PSK31, GOTA, VHF contacts, ATV, packet, plus visits from the community, our Served Agencies, and City Council members! Check out the story in the [Cupertino Courier](#), and this year's [Photo Album](#), with more pictures to come!

**4th of July Planning** is here and CARES has been asked to provide communications support



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