

After Action Report 2005 Lunar New Year Parade



Cupertino
ARES/RACES

1. Overview

Description: Lunar New Year Parade
Event Date: March 12, 2005
Report Date: March 20, 2005
CARES Event: CUP-05-03T
Activation ID: Yes
Control: Cupertino ARES/RACES
Report Revision: 1.0
Submitted By: Jim Oberhofer/CARES

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, section 2900(j)."

Additionally, CARES will use the After Action Report format for documenting training drills and exercises.

1. Introduction and Background

The Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES) participated in the annual Cupertino Lunar New Year Parade as hosted by 2005 Lunar New Year Unity Parade & International Fair Committee, an ad hoc committee of Cupertino residents interested in promoting the diversity of Cupertino. See more information at: <http://www.unityparade.org/>

From a CARES perspective, the purpose of this exercise was to (i) Provide communications support to the parade coordinators as needed, and (ii) Support the CERT organization in providing communications for their First Aid teams during the parade.

On 12-March, the City initiated a Training Activation under the designation CUP-05-03T.

This report covers the activities undertaken by responding volunteers in support of this event.

2. Type/location of Event / Drill / Exercise

Event Type: City of Cupertino Training Activation
Event Identifier: CUP-05-03T
Event Name: Cupertino Lunar New Year Parade
Location: City of Cupertino

3. Description of Event / Drill / Exercise

This is the 3rd year that CARES has participated in this event. While most of the event organizers rely on Cell Phone and FRS where usable, the role of CARES has been to provide communications support for CERTs' First Aid teams, logistical support for County Sheriff, and ad hoc support to parade participants at Staging, along the parade route, and the Destaging area.

The parade route covers about a 1.2 mile area along Stelling Road from Jollyman Park to Memorial Park. CARES and CERT members assembled at the parking lot of St Judes Episcopal Church, corner of Stelling Road and McClellan Road.

During the event, CARES resources were dispatched into the following field locations:

1. Net control station
2. First Aid, 2 teams
3. Parade Staging area
4. Rover along Stelling, 2 individuals
5. De-Staging

CARES and CERT members were teamed up into First Aid Teams and provided event support at the Staging location and along the parade route.

All communications was handled within an open net using CARES TAC-3 (K6FUZ repeater, 147.105+). FRS Radio checks were performed, but with limited success given the coverage and extent of the event area.

Event resources were provided from the following organizations:

1. Cupertino ARES/RACES: Responsible for staffing all communications positions. No EOC activation was required. Nine CARES members participated.
3. Cupertino CERT: Responsible for staffing and providing all First Aid positions. About 6 CERT members participated in this event.

4. Chronological Summary of Event / Drill / Exercise

All events took place on Saturday, 13-Nov-04. All times listed are in local time.

Time	Description, Note, Comment
0810	CARES position established at St Jude's Church parking lot
0815	CARES members begin to arrive and sign in.
0840	Jim KN6PE requested permission to activate CARES and CERT for this event from Marsha Hovey, Cupertino Director of OES. Permission was granted under activation ID: CUP-05-03T.
0925	Ken KR6CO reports from the event briefing that SO requests a parade headcount of observers.
0930	Field assignments were made with the following positions assigned. Jim KN6PE Net Control Operator Allan KD6QPP First Aid #1 Bill KD6TQJ First Aid #2 Ken KR6CO Rover Andy W9BJX Rover Eric KG6QPT De-Staging John KCFGX Staging Chris KC6PJJ Parade Unit #59 Bill K1NCY CERT First Aid #1
1035	First parade unit leaves Jollyman Park
1050	CARES Health and Welfare check
1100	Unit #17 passes NCS
1110	1 st Parade Unit off of Stelling at De-Staging
1110	CARES Health and Welfare check
1130	CARES Health and Welfare check

Time	Description, Note, Comment
1125	Report a parade count of 1600 to SO
1130	DeStaging reports an additional 280 behind Quinlan Center off of Stelling. Headcount number updated, passed to SO.
1150	CARES Health and Welfare Check
1245	Notified Marsha Hovey that CARES was securing from the Training Activation.

5. Response at SEMS Levels (as appropriate):

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

Not appropriate for this event.

6. Interacting Systems, Agencies, and Programs:

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

County OES. No participation was required.

CERT. Approximately 6 CERT members volunteered to participate in this event to provide first aid.

Communications Systems. The primary Field-to-EOC radio channel was CARES TAC-3 (147.105+).

7. 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.

Overall, the event appeared to have proceeded smoothly. The elimination of the performance in front of the reviewing stand ensured a continuous flow of parade units.

What worked?

- Good net control and discipline
- Participating in the briefing at the beginning of the event.
- Good coordination with the Sheriffs Office.
- Good linkage between CERT and CARES.

What needs improvement?

- Event coordinators appeared to have left staging toward the end of the parade. Several people were still looking for information about logistics. CARES and CERT addressed as best possible.
- Regarding the people count: Need to start earlier if the parade is going to move as fast as it did. Require 2 individuals to cover this assignment.

Recommendation

Need to communicate the nature of the event earlier than we did to ensure an adequate CARES turnout.

8. Training Needs

None additional recommended.

9. Recovery Activities (as applicable)

Nothing special was required.

10. References: Maps, charts, training materials, etc.

The following material was developed in support of this exercise.

- Parade route
- Email notification of the event