

# After-Action Report

## Fourth of July Fireworks 2008



Cupertino  
ARES/RACES

### 1. Overview

**Description:** July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks  
**Event Date:** 4 July 2008  
**Report Date:** 13 August 2008  
**Cupertino Event:** CUP-08-14T  
**Santa Clara County Event:** XSC-08-06T  
**Control:** Cupertino OES  
**Report Revision:** 1.0  
**Submitted By:** Jim Oberhofer, EC, Cupertino ARES/RACES

#### 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.

#### i. Introduction and Background

The City of Cupertino (City) requested communications, logistics, and first aid support from Cupertino Citizen Corps during the 2008 Cupertino Fourth of July Fireworks event. To staff the event, Cupertino Office of Emergency Services activated the Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES), the Cupertino Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and the Cupertino Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).

From April through June, the Cupertino Department of Parks and Recreation held 2 event planning sessions and one walk-through of the sites for city, emergency services, and citizen corps event staff.

Due to the staffing levels required to fill all required field positions, requests for Amateur Radio operators were made to Santa Clara County RACES and surrounding jurisdictions. In accordance with County RACES policies, County RACES activated Mutual Aid Communicators (MACs) under activation number XSC-08-06T. All responding MACs were also sworn in as Cupertino

DSW workers. Additionally, the City CERT coordinator contacted neighboring cities that maintain active CERT membership to solicit volunteers.

On 4-July, the City initiated a RACES Training Activation under the designation CUP-08-14T.

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

---

**ii. Type/location of Event / Drill / Exercise**

Event Type: City Activation, RACES Activation  
Event Identifier: CUP-08-14T  
Event Name: Cupertino 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks  
Location: City of Cupertino

---

**iii. Description of Event / Drill / Exercise**

The City of Cupertino sponsored a Fourth of July Fireworks display for city residents. The fireworks were launched from Cupertino High School with viewing locations identified at Creekside Park, Hyde Middle School, and Sedgwick Elementary School.

To maintain the security of the launch site and ensure the safety of the public, the Cupertino HS campus was closed between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., as were the following adjacent streets:

1. Finch Avenue between Vallco Parkway and Stevens Creek Blvd.
2. Finch Avenue between Stevens Creek Blvd. and Phil Lane
3. Calle de Barcelona between Finch Avenue and Miller Road
4. Tilson Avenue between Finch Avenue and Tauntau Avenue
5. Phil Lane between Miller Road and Tantau Avenue
6. Stendhal Lane between Phil Lane and Shadygrove Drive

Event resources were provided from the following organizations:

1. Cupertino Department of Parks and Recreation: About 12 full-time and 67 seasonal staff members were responsible for overall event control, coordination, venue setups, and perimeter control.
2. Santa Clara County Sheriffs Office (SO): About 28 Deputies were responsible for overall event security and general law enforcement.
3. Santa Clara County Fire District: One Engine Company was positioned adjacent to the launch site and responsible for fireworks safety.
4. CARES and County Communications Mutual Aid Communicators (MACs): Responsible for maintaining communications with all volunteer security teams and viewing location staff.

Twenty-four amateur radio operators responded from the following cities:

Cupertino	17
Mountain View	4
Campbell	3
Milpitas	1
San Jose	1
Los Gatos	1
Sunnyvale	1

5. Cupertino MRC and CERT members were divided among the viewing sites, with a lead at each site who provided on-site coordination. These combined MRC/CERT teams were responsible for event first aid. There were no members from cities other than Cupertino.  
Cupertino 24

7. Logistics for the event was managed by CCC.

---

#### iv. Chronological Summary of Event / Drill / Exercise

All events took place on Friday, 4-Jul-08. All times listed are in local time. The summary is a compilation of net control and individual volunteer staff logs that were legible and had meaningful information (times and comments). Comments that constitute feedback are captured in *Appendix A Feedback Comments*.

Time	Report by	Notes, Comments
1430	Shift Sup	Begin event setup.
1500	Shift Sup	County MACs started to arrive. County MAC check-in and coordination with Resource net went ok.
1559	Sedgwick	Begin check-ins; volunteers issued vest, lanyard and event tag.
1630	Finch Field	Sheriff's Office Barbeque Dinner.
1714	Phil/Tantau	DSW Swear-in of MAC, other non-city volunteers.
1715	CP	Held briefing for volunteers.
1730	Creekside	Setup at Creekside.
1745	Sedgwick	Began setting up at Sedgwick.
1750	Logistics	Logistics on site at Sedgwick.
1755	Standahl/P/F	On station; met deputy on duty, Standahl/P/F.
1756	Phil/Tantau	On station, Tantau and Phil.
1800	Creekside	Creekside reports insufficient gloves for the station; no ice bags.
1800	NE Rover	NE Rover arrived at scene. First went out but returned to CP since all of the high school was fenced in.
1800	Sedgwick	Set up shelter at Sedgwick; all signed in by 1830.
1800	Standahl/P/F	Barricades in place at Standahl, Phil, and Finch.
1800	Finch Traffic	Finch and Stevens Creek is closed.
1806	Creekside	Creekside road closure.
1808	Hyde	Shift Supervisor sends message that Pedestrian traffic is permitted if resident produces an ID with verification. All roads are closed to car and pedestrian traffic at 2000.
1810	Sedgwick	Sedgwick first aid station is set up.
1815	Sedgwick	Sedgwick begins roving patrol.
1820	Logistics NCO	Logistics retrieved water for CP. NCO receives multiple requests for ice at the sites.
1830	Hyde	Hyde reports that their setup complete.
1830	Sedgwick	Sedgwick reports treating "Star"... little poke on left foot.
1830	Finch Field	Finch Field reports there are 20-25 people converging.
1850	Logistics	Distributed water and food.
1850	CP	Confusing situation on Phil and Tantau at barricade. Barricade was placed at the west edge of Sedgwick Property, then set up at Phil and Tantau.
1850	Phil/Tantau	Phil/Tantau reports the Barricade is up.
1900	Hyde	Handoff "Hyde-1" to different Comm Member.
1907	Sedgwick	Sedgwick reports treating WMP: got hit on the eye with a softball.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Report by</b>	<b>Notes, Comments</b>
1911	Phil/Tantau	Received a break.
1915	Logistics	Logistics responds to Hyde's request for ice. Arrived at City Hall to retrieve.
1915	Sedgwick	Sedgwick reports treating Justin: Bee Sting.
1920	Sedgwick	Sedgwick reports treating a boy with a scraped foot.
1940	Hyde	H&W check from NCO.
1955	CP	Rover requests for fire gear for Parks and Rec personnel in the Bleachers. Informed by NCO that none was available, and this was the responsibility of P&R.
	Shift Sup	Bleachers: check-in issues. Had to ask Command to change him out due to improper dress (was wearing shorts). Was originally assigned to fall-out zone.
2000	Logistics	Delivered ice to Hyde.
2010	Hyde	H&W check from NCO.
2015	Creekside	Child stringing 5 glow-sticks, struck sibling on face, no first aid required.
2021	Hyde	Hyde could not contact NCO on Tac-3.
2025	Hyde	Comm Member assumed Hyde-3.
2030	NE Rover	NE Rover reported to CP.
2030	CP	Swapped Bleachers and NE position assignments.
2030	Sedgwick	Sedgwick reports treating Ryan: Spider or mosquito bite.
2045	Creekside	Creekside generator failed; possibly low on gasoline; changed to utility power from inside the building.
2045	Finch Field	Called for Sheriff for cars in parking.
2050	Creekside	Creekside reports treating a sprained ankle; used ice pack.
2053	Standahl/P/F	Standahl/P/F on a Break; rover filling in.
2055	Sedgwick	Sedgwick reports treating Avinsih: Bee Sting.
2100	Hyde	Hyde reports still waiting for ice.
2100	Finch Field	"Finch Field" asked a sheriff for the field to be cleared.
2105	Standahl/P/F	Standahl/P/F back on station.
2110	NCO	NCO had report from a non-event ham who was monitoring our traffic that the lawn sprinklers at Wilson Park came on and soaked all park visitors.
2115	Hyde	H&W check from NCO.
2115	Sedgwick	Sedgwick ended roving patrol.
2115	Finch Field	Finch Field asked for parking at rose bowl to be blocked.
2130	Sedgwick	Walked field and perimeter.
2130	Finch Field	Begin Fireworks.
2147	Creekside	Creekside received report about a missing child, age 6 wearing red/black jacket; informed North/south field teams, then reported to NCO.
2150	Sedgwick	Sedgwick reports treating Amber: ash in the right eye.
2150	Sedgwick	Fire works over.
2155	Bleachers	Bleachers receives protection gear from other volunteers; 2 jackets, 2 helmets, goggles, one pair of gloves.
	NCO	NCO reports that public works parking starting to pick up barricades before traffic control has been established.
2200	Bleachers	Bleachers reports that a person on the adjacent house says thank you for a great show.
2200	Sedgwick	Sedgwick team starts tear down the First Aid station.
2205	Finch Field	Finch Field reports barricades removed from rose bowl.
2210	CP	CP: Unclear release from County Fire. Need to better communicate this.
2210	Hyde	Hyde Team start walking back to CHS.
2210	Bleachers	Bleachers reports Stadium lights are on about 10 minutes ago. good overview

<b>Time</b>	<b>Report by</b>	<b>Notes, Comments</b>
		of the area, all calm.
2210	Standahl/P/F	Standahl/P/F released from station.
2210	Finch Traffic	Finch Traffic reports all barricades are down.
2215	Sedgwick	Sedgwick Team begins securing the site; leaves for CP.
2215	Finch Field	Finche Field reports secured the site, returning to CP.
2215	Standahl/P/F	Standahl/P/F at for demob.
2220	Bleachers	Bleachers secured from assignment.
2225	Phil/Tantau	Phil/Tantau checked out.
2230	Creekside	Creekside team Departed Creekside.
2230	Bleachers	Arrived at CP, returned protection gear, vest, ID badge. Checked out.
2230	Sedgwick	Sedgwick checked out.
2230	Sedgwick	Check out at Command Center. Surrendered vest and ID tag.
2233	Creekside	Creekside checked out.
2235	Creekside	Creekside arrived at CP.
2300	Logistics	Closed down CP.
2303	Rover	Creekside brought in a bunch of badges and vests, but no ICS-214s.
2310	CP	Net secured, all volunteers checked out.

---

#### **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 appropriate for this event.

---

#### **vi. 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.

#### **Cupertino Office of Emergency Services (OES)**

OES Emergency Coordinator, Marsha Hovey, supported the event as an advisor to the Cupertino Citizen Corps Incident Command staff; authorized activation of volunteers under event number CUP-08-14T.

#### **Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office**

Sheriffs Office was in charge of area security and overall public safety. Citizen Corps staff acted as eyes and ears for the Sheriffs Office by providing on-site information to the deputies. CARES and Planning and Intelligence established an information flow between CARES Net Control, Volunteer Groups, SO, and Parks and Rec.

#### **Cupertino Parks and Recreation**

Parks and Rec provided regular paid and summer interim staff for the event. Interactions with all staff was smooth. Citizens Corp was supplied with a P&R radio for use at the command post as well as large aerial maps of the venues.

#### **Medical Reserve Corps**

MRC volunteers staffed three first aid stations, and were tightly integrated into the overall event command and control. Each site reported responding to first aid requests from the observing public.

## **Santa Clara County RACES**

A formal mutual aid request was submitted from the City of Cupertino to County RACES for Mutual Aid Communicators (MACs). Communicators from 6 city RACES organizations responded with one or more communications volunteers. All MACs demonstrated a high degree of professionalism, flexibility, and skill in their assignment.

### **Communications Systems**

CARES TAC-2 (146.460) Simplex was the primary communications frequency that was used for all volunteer wide-area coverage. The CARES TAC-1 frequency was identified as the talk-in frequency, and CARES TAC-3 (W6TDM 440 Repeater) was used as the event Chat Channel.

FRS radios were used by CERT and MRC volunteers between First Aid stations and roving field teams. Frequency assignments were listed in the Event Briefing Packet. When required, First Aid Teams passed information to the Command Center by using FRS to relay information to a local Roving Team, who then used Amateur Radio to pass the traffic on to the Command Center.

---

### **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 Improvements, Conclusions, and Recommendations. See Appendix A for additional comments, detailed feedback, and other suggestions.

#### **What worked?**

##### Preparation

- Sending documents up front to all responders
- Briefing and coordination
- Monday pre-event briefing

##### Execution

- Organization and execution
- NCOs in training
- Distributing glow sticks at first aid stations
- All sites: 10 first aid events all handled without problems
- Use of TAC-3 as a chat-channel between units
- Reduced nonessential traffic (as compared to previous years)
- City staff responsiveness and effectiveness at all venues
- Interaction with and responsiveness of the Sheriff's Office

#### **What needs improvement?**

##### Event Policy Management:

- Release procedures from County Fire at the end of the event
- Consistency and intent in enforcing event policies
- Managing the Finch Field area

##### Safety

- No event Safety Officer, or none that was evident
- Parks and Rec personnel in fallout area did not have brush coats similar to CARES members
- Not all Summer Intern staff were (i) aware of their role and what to do, and (ii) the required dress for the event given the range of weather conditions

- Public works picking up barriers before traffic control was in place

#### Volunteer Resource Management and Procedures

- Not all CERT responders knew their role; didn't read the packet ahead of time
- Volunteer vests were ineffective; poor visibility (invisible in the dark), and did not appear "official"
- Use of Tactical calls
- Health and Welfare checks took too long
- Mixed results with FRS radios; frequency identification, ability to hear over the surrounding noise

#### Event Logistics

- Missing First aid supplies (gloves, ice, etc)
- Generator failure in the field
- No water or soap at Creekside bathroom facilities

#### **Recommendation**

The following recommendations are made for next year's event

#### Parks and Recreation

Several reports came in from CCC members with concern for the Summer Staff. The following recommendations are put forth:

1. Provide summer staff with more complete briefings, material on their role during the event, instructions on dealing with public safety, control of flood lights, etc
2. Ensure summer staff is aware of clothing requirements before the event
3. Clarify intent and method for enforcing event policies, such as NO DOGS.
4. Turn off sprinklers at other close-proximity city parks (i.e.: Wilson Park) that may attract visitors.

#### Public Safety

The following recommendations are made that apply to Public Safety:

1. Identify the position and responsibilities of an event Safety Officer.
2. Finch Field continues to be problematic as in past years. Clarify if the current policy is the intended approach for handling issues that arise at this location. Consider additional barriers, increased Sheriff presence, establishing fire lanes, and/or use of temporary stop signs at end of event as means to mitigate problems.

#### Citizen Corps

The following recommendations are made that apply to Cupertino Citizen Corps:

1. Update CERT/MRC briefing to include a hands-on review and setup of FRS radios before dispatching responders to venues.

#### Communications

The following recommendations are made that apply to CARES:

1. Update Communications brief to include a brief review of message handling
2. Clarify the Health & Welfare check procedure (timing, handling missing stations, etc.)

---

**viii. Training Needs**

1. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Playbook. Update all sections to incorporate learnings from feedback derived from this event.

---

**ix. Recovery Activities (as applicable)**

Recovery Activities were limited to command center shutdown.

---

**x. References: Maps, charts, training materials, etc.**

The following material was developed and provided as part of the Volunteer Briefing Packet:

- 2008 Event Summary
- ICS-214 Unit Logs
- Aerial Maps of all sites
- Phonetic Alphabet

**Appendix A – Feedback Comments**

The following detailed feedback was received from CERT, MRC, CARES, and RACES Mutual Aid responders. Thirty volunteers responded. The comments align with the following 11 topics:

1. Overall Event execution (how you think the City did)
2. RACES Event execution (how you think RACES all did)
3. MRC Event execution
4. CERT Event execution
5. Event Planning
6. Resources and Logistics
7. Radio operations
8. Interactions with any Cupertino City Staff (i.e.: Parks & Rec or other)
9. Interactions with the members of the Sheriffs Office/County Fire
10. Interactions with the public
11. Other areas or comments?

**1. Overall Event execution (how you think the City did)**

[1] I think they did a very good job overall. There needs to be an overall large picture of all the sites. It was hard to explain our area of patrol (Finch Field). During orientation it was a little hard to hear, the bull horn or other item would help. When groups breakout have them move further away from the main orientation.

[2] This was my first year and I was very pleased at how smoothly everything went.

[3] City did very well. Most of my constructive comments are minor

[4] Overall it was good. Nothing went wrong during the event.

[5] Emailing mission document was a real plus. I used it to understand what is needed, frequencies to program, mission #, and when and where to go (didn't have to use comm time on AA6BT getting details).

[6] I thought the city did quite well, organizationally and with execution. While there is always some level of chaos, at this event, it was at a minimum.

[7] The city did well. I was at an unofficial venue so it is not possible for me to speak of the official venues and what happened there.

[8.7] May want to consider taping off the field west of Finch; large number of people continuously moving into the field.

[8.7] Add fire lane signs to enforce reason for an open lane.

[9] Everything seemed to work well at Creekside as well as the sign-in and sign-out at the High School.

<named>, our leader, was super.



[10] I really enjoyed it. Overall event was pretty good, communications worked the best. MRC worked very well.

[11] I believe the city did a good job overall. The various groups there were pretty well prepared and the information was clear and concise. The sheriff's dept did a good job dealing with folks where we were stationed.

[12] Excellent briefing and coordination. <named> was available at both setup and teardown evolutions, although the crew was able to function well as a group to accomplish the tasks necessary.

[13] Extremely well.

[14] Excellent Fourth of July event.

[15] I think everything went great and better than expected.

[16] I think that overall the pre-event and fireworks display went quite smoothly and the City is to be commended on such an entertaining display. My wife and I were stationed at Hyde School and there were many Oohs and Ahhs from the crowd there.

[17] It went smooth as silk

[18] Excellent

[19] I thought the operation was well organized and executed well. There was some grumbling from drivers about the lack of parking on the north side.

[20] The City did a GREAT JOB. Everything ran almost seamlessly, with most inter-departmental communications (Sheriff Staff to Parks staff, Parks staff to Barricade staff, etc.) being handled very quickly.

[21] I thought it went very smoothly.

[22] I thought it was extremely well-organized, it was the first time attending Cupertino's July 4th event.

[23] It was a very well organized event. It was very clear who we reported to and how to handle the situations that could arise. All the volunteers I interacted with were friendly and helpful. The leader of my venue was great.

[24] I was very impressed with how smoothly everything seemed to run. Cupertino should be very proud of using its volunteer resources for such a special evening, and at other occasions as well, I'm sure.

[25] I have only some comments regarding Citizen Corps:

\* Inventory of field supplies was done previously to the event. Check lists were prepared to help refill trauma bags and funny packs. Trauma bags were packed thoroughly but not fanny packs for a lack of time. We should be more careful next time.

\* Regarding ice and baggies, we provided cold packs (3) in each of the trauma bags. We would have to check if all the cold packs were used to consider either adding more packs or coolers/ice to the logistic list. One of the ice requests was for -just in case- from one of the venues and we told them to use the cold packs.

\* We should set the orientation day for Citizens Corps as deadline for signing in on eventbrite. It would help with the assignments and avoid last minute shows up. We should let volunteers know about a deadline in the very first communication we have with them and through out the recruiting period. We should explain to them that qualifications have to be checked, instructions need to be given, and some assignments have specific requirements that the recruiting officer has to consider. A last minute show up doesn't allow for any of those things to be done and the effectiveness of the process will be compromised.

## **2. Communications Event execution (how you think the ARES/RACES teams did)**

[1] Most of the communications did well, but I think we could improve. Better use of the Tactical 1,2 & 3 needs to be done. Tactical 3 wasn't monitored very well. A lot of technical problems at first with TAC 3. The net operator was trying to control 3 frequencies, instead of asking for assistance from the person sitting next to them. There was no memo forms should situations occur.

[1] In doing health and welfare, the list was long of operators. There was some joining like Finch Field 1,2,3,4, but most were individual. If there was recent communications with an operator, do you need to do a health and welfare?

[3] CP lost track of Hyde #3 until it was reported by Hyde. Overall, went well

[4] It was good.

[5] Command post was loud and clear, monitored all three Tactical channels was a plus because some people thought Tac1 was primary (Tac2 was primary instead). It can be frustrating when a command post only operates one channel at a time.

[6] They all did very well. There were a couple of times where net control had poor reception for KI6DRN, that was mostly due to their equipment. One other perimeter issue was that we had "Bleachers" failed to respond to health and welfare checks several times. That person was reassigned. We don't know why they didn't respond. Other than that, CARES/ARES/RACES did really well.

[7] CARES did well at this event as usual. I do believe that the Health and Welfare checks were really a bother, since each of them took about 30 minutes to do. Some of the NCOs were not quite the easiest to understand over the radio.

[8.3] Had to ask IC to change our one ham who was in shorts and assigned to the Fall Out zone.

[11] Our new net controllers did a very good job dealing with everything that came their way. The comm traffic I heard was clear, concise and well executed. Of course, I am a little biased...

[12] Wasn't really involved with radio this time around.

[14] Seemed to run pretty well, although a quick run-through on the FRS/GMRS radios would have been nice. I was working as central comm at Creekside, and one incoming call would be accompanied by a ringing tone, but others didn't.

[15] Excellent

[16] There was a little confusion in the assignment of tactical calls between Net Control and site Responders. The assignment of tactical calls was confused between the individual responder and the position. During the organizational brief it was suggested that the responders rotate between positions at regular intervals so that everyone had a chance for the feel of responsibility. We had 3 hams at Hyde and we rotated at 30 minute intervals. That left us confused as to who was Hyde-1, Hyde-2 or Hyde-3 at any moment. And to compound the problem, Net Control was calling individual hams by their assumed tactical calls leaving us feel a bit disorganized. I think it better for the tactical call to stay with the individual and notify Net Control which tactical call has primary liaison responsibility for the site.

[17] I saw zero problems

[18] Very Well. At our site we were asked to rotate Hyde 1 positions every half hour. It was nice to have the opportunity to be Hyde 1, but it became a little confusing as to who was then Hyde 2 and Hyde 3. I think it would have been better to have the event time divided into 3 slots and each take the role once. Net control was very clear and gave very good information. At the end of the event, I was not clear if as Hyde 1, I was supposed to let Net Control know when volunteers were leaving my location to head to the high school.

[19] From a comm. perspective; net control and comm. positions all did a great job, there may have been a small breach of protocol when a lost kids name was given over the air but I was not directly involved in the incident—perhaps a briefing procedure on how to handle lost/found children traffic.

[20] The teams seemed to interact very smoothly, both with each other & the general public. At times, it seemed like there might have been some chaos going on in the areas where the teams were, but the teams all seemed to be handling things with a high level of professionalism.

[22] Again, very well-organized and competent staff. Comments:

a) Mark asked folks to test TAC-3. When I called Net Control several times on TAC-3, I received no response. After notifying Net Control they did respond on TAC-3, but their audio was very weak (but readable).

b) Our site lead wanted to rotate his primary communicator, e.g. "Hyde 1", every 30 minutes. This caused a lot of confusion since we failed to come up with a plan to rotate the rest of the communicators' tactical. That's something I need to address the next time I encounter that situation again. If every site lead wanted to do this, I would recommend that each ham be assigned a tactical that doesn't rotate but then the token "Hyde Comms" (for example) is rotated amongst the communicators at the site.

[26] A bit of a rough start prior to the start of the event, but once the event was underway, all was good. I thought it very good that as net control operators changed, it was clearly announced. Also good were the regular health/welfare checks. Another nice touch was the radio check prior to sending us into the field.

### 3. MRC Event execution (how you think the MRC teams did)

[1] I had no contact with any of the MRC at Finch Field.

[3] Saw no problems

[4] No comments as I was alone at this location

[5] seemed reasonably organized.

[6] Overall, they did quite well. At net control, we did have several requests (for Hyde and Sedgwick) for ice for use by the MRC if they run out of the instance cold packs that are issued in the medical supplies. MRC had made several requests via the ham communications for this. Perhaps, something to look into for next year?

[8.5] Glow sticks at first aid stations were a great idea. Because they were free, everyone knew where first aid was.

[11] No MRC teams at our location so I cannot judge their performance other than their apparent professionalism and organization at the beginning.

[12] As a MRC, there were 8 or 9 individuals needing assistance of some sort. Parents seemed satisfied after they left.

[13] At Sedgwick, had several small injuries which were skillfully handled

[14] As a former EMT, it was really hard to deal with the MRC protocol of no topical applications or anything more than a band aid. I believe that this is a liability issue, but it was hard to explain to a worried parent, whose son was poked in the eye by his sister, that under the "First Aid" sign, MRC was only able to recommend that they stop by an Urgent Care facility.

Also, at the start, there were only 5 sets of exam gloves available. This was relieved after new fanny packs were delivered.

[15] we had few first aid events/incidents and those were handled well.

[16] MRC at Hyde was excellent. We had a recent EMT program graduate who wants to make a career of medical aid with AMR. She took primary responsibility for handling the situation and she did it well. We had two early evening incidents. The first was a very active young boy who apparently was running around and took a tumble and strained a finger. Our EMT cleaned it and cold packed it (in the presence of the boy's father) and helped generally prevent any major swelling. The second was also a young boy who was running around in his bare feet and stepped on a bee which stung him. Our MRC EMT was very careful to take medical history (possible allergies, clean the wound area of any debris (including the bee stinger), kept the youth occupied with conversation (watching for allergic reaction) and apply a clean Band-Aid to the wound. The youth was sent away with his shoes on but later was seen to be running around in his bare feet again!

[17] Knowledgeable and helpful

[18] Fine

[22] We were staffed with 2 MRC folks, both were rookies but did a very good job. We had no ice for the MRC very early in the event, when we needed some for a bee sting incident.

#### **4. CERT Event execution (how you think the CERT teams did)**

[1] No contact with CERT at Finch Field.

[3] Saw no problems

[4] No comments as I was alone at this location

[5] seemed reasonably organized.

[6] I did not have much exposure to the CERT teams but from what I can tell, no issues, they worked with the MRC and CARES.

[11] No CERT teams at our location so I cannot judge their performance other than their apparent professionalism and organization at the beginning.

[13] Only one dedicated CERT person at Sedgwick and <named> did a great job

[16] CERT did not seem to have a particular notable function at Hyde other than the ARK Captain who opened up the ARK and helped us get set up and man the First Aid/Information stations. He was very effective and when it came time to tear down and stow the equipment he took full responsibility for getting things put away and locking the ARK, even though we offered to stay and assist.

[17] Super

[18] Parks and Rec wanted us to set up in the ball diamond. Understandable since this area is not a good viewing site, but some people commented that they didn't know where first aid was. These comments were made to our first aid responders as they were walking around. We did have two people who needed first aid who were able to find us, so it may be that the others didn't try to find us.

Our site lead originally wanted to set up near the vault. I think this would have been less work for setup and takedown and would have been more visible to the public.

[18] Not all of our CERT volunteers seemed to know what their role was and did not have a packet. I think it would be good to remind everyone to read the packet before proceeding to their assignment. That said, when they were given instructions by the site lead, they did follow them.

[22] We were staffed with 3 CERT members; one was also a ham radio communicator. They, too, were competent. Unfortunately, two of the CERTs hadn't attended orientation and didn't receive or read the information packet. Somehow the check-in staff needs to be more thorough on handing out info packets as people check-in. When tasked, they performed fine.

## 5. Event Planning

[1] Event Planning was done very well, but some important things were missed. The IC should meet the lead Sheriff as soon as they come in, and ask about their briefing. As far as I could see there was no safety officer appointed. The IC got too involved in the details of setting up the T cards. The early radio check was good idea, but otherwise there was no pre early instructions except sit for 1/2 hour. Parking person was forgotten and had not FRS radio to communicate to.

[2] The meeting on Monday was very beneficial since I was not familiar with this event. Friday was off to a good start with the BBQ and good company at Sedgwick.

[3] Lack of hitches demonstrated good planning. Could have used a recommended CP location for Hyde, based upon prior year's learning's.

[6] The planning was awesome -- everything went according to the operations plan. In fact, the sheriff were so impressed that they wanted to see the plan. They were amazed at how well we were organized, and in execution.

[7]The event was planned well. The only issue of note was that of perhaps having a small CERT or MRC team at Finch Field. Also, having better signage to instruct civilians to stay off the fields would be helpful.

[11] The event seems to have gone very well. People were available on time, the setup was clear and well run, the equipment seems to have worked out well, and the people there seem to have had everything in order.

[13] Pre-planning was evident all the way through with the exception of the Glow Sticks which we were not aware would be given out.

[15] excellent

[17] Excellent

[18] Excellent. I loved receiving the packet ahead of time to read. One thing to add to the packet might be a high level description of the types of jobs people will be doing. It is very obvious once you have done the event, once, but for new people it would give them a heads up. For example: CARES/CERT - Hyde, Sedgwick, and Creekside walking the areas and being eyes and ears for law enforcement. High School, sitting at the entrances to watch for individuals entering the restricted areas. Street closure locations, sitting or standing.

[19] Check-in was a little awkward for me as a walk-on but other aspects went well including the briefing

[20] The event went off with a BANG (Sorry, I couldn't help myself!) Well coordinated & well executed.

[22] This was my first time attending or volunteering for this event. It would have been nice to know ahead of time what the various posts/positions would be and what the roles and responsibilities could be for each option.

[26] As always, excellent.

## 6. Resources and Logistics

[1] Overall very good, but the Hyde team had no Ark key, until I did some questioning. <named> gave up his key. This has to be an automatic check. FRS radios came late. Check in should also have cell phone numbers checked as backup communications.

[3] Went well. Everything we needed was inside Hyde ARC. Generator stopped running after an hour or so

[5] Appears well done based on years of experience and bringing that experience to future 4th July events (didn't have to reinvent mission plans). Providing free water was a definite plus. Though hams should bring there own, some may not, but keeping everyone well hydrated prevented heat exhaustion (NASA Ames did the same for Yuri's Night which kept health problems a minimum).

[6] From what we could tell, resources and logistics were managed well. Any time we received a call into net control about something needing attention, resources were deployed. And the sheriffs were on top of everything that came that was relayed to them.

[7] The vests were a bad plan. It was difficult to distinguish amongst different teams, they were invisible in the dark and were not as official looking as our regular vests.

[8.10] no water or soap in the Creekside bathrooms

[9] The Creekside bathrooms (the one I used and the one a lady complained about) had no water or soap. I am not sure about toilet paper.

[11] The barbeque was a little on the light side in terms of quality, and a number of vegetarians didn't really have any choices (veggie or garden burgers would be good, and having the water chilled would also have been good).

[11] Set up logistics around the various areas seemed to be pretty good. Again, being stationed in the wild wild North kept us from seeing most of the major logistical issues.

[13] Everything was there that we needed even generator and lights.

[14] Other than the glove issue above, seemed fine.

[15] some glitches regarding full equipment and gloves but those were resolved during the event.

[16] There seemed to be a bit of confusion here. Early in the evening, when we had the strained finger situation and called for a bag of ice, Net Control indicated that Rover would be bringing it out to our site. Then I heard Rover get assigned to replace one of fixed site positions (while a potty break was taken?) A bit later Net Control came back to us advised that the ice would be coming out in a CERT vehicle. By the time we got our ice we didn't need it anymore!

[17] All went according to plan and the resources were plentiful

[18] Fine.

[19] Public works was very responsive to requests for additional traffic control equipment.

[20] The only Logistics hiccup I noticed was with the water. There were coolers with water in them at the beginning of the evening in the Command Center, then the coolers got hauled away (don't know where), & a little while later, flats of water showed up (not sure where they came from) & then disappeared again!?! We never ran out in the Command Center, but it was kind of interesting to note at the end of the evening there were flats from 3 different brands of water sitting on the table in the Command Center!

Had requests for baggies & ice at the satellite locations, but addressed that in my hand-written report. Suggest investing in 3 coolers, large pack of snack-size baggies, and ice to send out the sites for 1<sup>st</sup> aid.

[22] When setting up, there was confusion where our first aid tent (and Hyde) should be located. In retrospect, our team lead's intuition was the better option -- to place the tent near the Southwest corner of the ball field. It was more visible than the location the Parks & Rec staff suggested because "that's where it was placed last year". During the event, our first aid staff was asked by several attendees where the first aid tent was located, they hadn't seen it.

Also, we had a generator failure soon after we attempted to start it. Unfortunately, our team failed to communicate this to Net Control. Shame on us!

[26] Excellent.

## 7. Radio operations

[1] Maybe we should use a cross band radio to tie Tactical 2 and Tactical 3 together. Couldn't hear Sedgwick at Finch Field. There was no instructions on what to do with the city Parks and Rec radio at net control. Did use Tactical 1 to talk to other Finch Field team on the open net. This help us coordinate operations between us. There was no people counts taken so I don't think the IC new how many people were at the sites.

[3] Radios all worked. Hard to hear radio calls on FRS radios clipped to belts – drowned out by background noise

[5] A good setup using table with plenty of space for operators. J-pole antennas very effective (none of that mag-mount crap).

[6] Both county MAC and the event net on TAC-2 and TAC-3 worked very well with just a couple of issues sited in #2 above. Some of the field operators used TAC-3 to communicate with one another as the crowds grew so they could maintain communications with each other. If they needed something, we knew about it when they called in for net control.

[7] Just fine, really.

[8.3] set up county radio (Resource Net) earlier.

- [8.7] Net Control was well done this year.
- [11] Health and welfare checks seemed to take a very long time. Do we need as many as were done?
- [13] Very good, as normal
- [15] I had three radio people with me and they were excellent!
- [18] Very well. See #2 for additional comments.
- [19] Good radio operations all around – unnecessary traffic was down this year a generally messages were delivered efficiently.
- [20] Things got a bit chaotic with all the different radio types to monitor, but between the 3 of us, I think we managed to handle almost all radio traffic. One glitch I noticed after the event - we need practice on more concise information gathering - WHO needs WHAT, WHERE, & WHEN (who needed how many barricades placed where??)! Net Control was a bit confused at the start of the event about who exactly got assigned a tactical & what exactly the tactical call signs were, but we consolidated our notes. Apparently, there were some communication problems with some staff (they kept failing to answer during H&W checks), but they were handled before I took over as Net Control.
- [22] TAC-3 audio level from Net Control was very weak, but readable.
- Every 30 minutes, our Site Lead wanted radio comms to switch roles, so the role of Hyde-1 was assigned to a new ham. This made check-in confusing because we all had to assign (or re-assign) ourselves our tactical call signs. Would prefer to assign a site comm lead and ask for site status from that role instead of each particular tactical call sign.

## 8. Interactions with any Cupertino City Staff (i.e.: Parks & Rec or other)

- [1] Parks and Rec had 2 pairs on Finch between Stevens Creek and Valco Pkwy. They didn't have common instructions on where people were to go (right side sidewalk and they had no instructions what to do on Rose bowl parking. Great quick interfaces with the Sheriff Deputies.
- [3] P&R were helpful in directing where to set up CP. Truck with beverages and snacks was parked at CP
- [4] City had posted paid kids (some high school kids) working as intern with city recreation department by paying from 5 PM till 10 PM. I am not sure what those kids were suppose do. At my location and neighboring location there were 5 kids, just squatting on the footpath whole time. When I asked they said, they themselves did not know what they were suppose to do.
- [4] As stated earlier, I could not understand the roles / responsibilities of these kids. When I asked them, they themselves were wondering why they have been posted there. In fact, one of the sheriffs made a comment saying 'Free Money'.
- [6] Very good, they worked with us as we worked with Isabel Rodriguez. She interfaces with them quite a bit.
- [7] The Parks and Rec people worked hard and were pretty good at their jobs at my venue.
- [8.3] P&W High School volunteers... (i) were not dressed for the weather (some were shivering), (ii) had no Comm Gear or knowledge of who to talk to for info or issues, and (iii) were not issued fall-out gear when placed in the fall-out zone.
- [8.6] General concern for the lack of adequate safety measures to protect the Parks and Rec (Blue Shirts) personnel. I was issued a brush jacket, helmet, and goggles. They were in the fallout area like me, but had none of these items. Two of them even decided to site at “Ground Zero” on the center of the fallout zone to watch the show. They were wearing only thin cotton shirts. I explained how dangerous that location was and they reluctantly moved.
- [11] The Parks and Rec staff at Finch was very nice and pleasant to all the people who attended.
- [12] Diplomatically executed.
- [13] Good but did not have the initial briefing with them as we have in the past
- [13] Parks and Rec need training on rotation of flood lights.
- [15] Excellent
- [16] Parks & Rec was present on site and doing their own thing. We didn't really have much interaction except setting up our First Aid Station and Information Table where they told us too. Later, someone mentioned that the audience was not really aware of the presence of the First Aid Station other than that was where they could come for free cold-lite bracelets! We were going to have a string of white lights frame our First Aid station but mid-evening the Honda generator apparently fouled (it still had gas in the tank) and quit and would not restart so we were without our lights after dark.
- [17] All interactions were wonderful

[18] This year Parks and Rec didn't do some activities that they have done in the past (face painting). I think P&R should let the site lead know anything they are doing this year and anything that they are not doing that they have done in the past. This should then be communicated to the rest of the volunteers by the site lead. We had several questions about things that Parks and Rec were doing that not all members of our volunteer team knew about.

[19] The west Finch side supervisor and staff all exhibited initiative, concern and a sense of urgency in carrying out their assigned tasks.

[20] Cupertino City staff were great, they were very responsive to & even seemed to anticipate some of our needs. Public Works started picking up barricades before traffic control had been established.

[22] Hyde only used one of the two tables provided. Consider sharing the tables with Parks & Rec staff to use for information handouts, etc. During the briefing it would be helpful to hear what is going to be done differently versus last year. Managing public expectations were something we ran into several times throughout the night.

## **9. Interactions with the members of the Sheriffs Office//County Fire**

[1] Great quick interfaces with the Sheriff deputies. Would have like a better rules on the field rules. Final rules were, no one on the east field. West Field same except on the pave area, they let the people stay. We started to have people park on valco parkway, but the sheriff were quick to clear. People were allowed to setup on the street on finch West side, the east side was left open for emergency vehicles.

[3] Cordial and responsive

[4] It was excellent. Since this location was closer to the Tilson gate, the mobile team used to visit very frequently.

[5] great food at BBQ.

[6] These folks were awesome to work with. I think that it made their resources and logistics utilization much smoother. They really enjoyed working with us as well, and as was mentioned before, they were quite amazed at our plan and how we executed it.

[6] Interaction with the fire dept. was inadequate. This became evident after the fireworks were over, that the fire marshal needed to give the "ALL-CLEAR" for the perimeter, bleachers, fallout and others stationed in these positions. Neither the sheriffs nor CARES had direct communications with the fire marshal. So, there was some confusion but it eventually worked out. Note that this did not impact the public. This should be addressed for next year.

[7] These guys were lifesavers for some public interactions and the dirt bikes were helpful to chase people off the field.

[7] We needed Sheriff Deputies to be stationed at Finch Field. If they were there, it would have been a smoother operation.

[8.1] Unclear release from Fire at the end of the Fireworks. Need better communications with Fire.

[8.3] Sheriff Department & NCS relationship was excellent. Coordination and communications could not have been better.

[8.3] Unified Command Issue: Need one representative from Fire with a radio; needs to work directly with the Sheriffs Office.

[8.5] Sedgwick: great presence by the Sheriff; always close at hand.

[8.7] Could have used Sheriff patrol [Finch Field] more often.

[8.8] Need Sheriff Deputy at Finch Field or signage. Need more people to keep the field clear.

[9] The sheriff deputies were very friendly and cooperative when I asked them to take their photo.

[11] We might consider placing some form of barrier around the field on to the west of Finch (the people side) to stop folks from setting up in the field. The people needed to be cleared about 3 times by the Sheriff's deputies, and this became pretty annoying to the folks present. Also, the Parks and Rec people were a little frazzled by the time the fireworks started due to the number of folks wanting to get into the east side of Finch. Maybe a sign at either end stating "Fire Lane, No Seating" on the East side would help in the process.

[11] Again, very professional at all times. Helpful and attentive to CARES staff at Finch.

[12] Diplomatically executed.

[13] Great guy at Sedgwick (Mike)

[14] Only had one contact, but it was pleasant and instructive. I had no idea that there was no Cupertino PD.

[15] excellent. We had a lost child during the fireworks show, and we worked closely with the Parks and Rec staff and the deputies to achieve a great outcome.

[16] They were present on-site but I am unaware of any need for interaction between them and the audience. They did investigate some after show ground fireworks at Hyde but I do not think there were any ramifications of the investigations.

[17] Excellent! The sheriff handed out little badges to kids and turned on their sirens. It was good PR

[18] Fine

[19] There were a few interactions; the Deputies received and responded quickly to safety issues / violations pointed out by Comm staff. Also, where issues were not acted on they took the time to discuss discrepancies in their own directives.

What went well: one of the assigned tasks for Finch Field positions was to advise participants and drivers of the off-limit status of the vacant lots adjacent to of Finch and of the no parking zone(s) along Valco Pkwy, Further we were to report such activity to the Control position. This task was made much easier by the excellent response of the SO to our radio relayed problem reports.

[20] Police response was fantastic. Command staff was informed and very responsive to all needs. I can't imagine doing this event without the Sheriff's Office being right across the room/out in the field with the teams!

[22] No issues. When we pointed out illegal fireworks, etc, they were super responsive.

[26] There were 3 officers at my location (Finch Traffic - Finch & Stevens Creek). They were friendly and professional. For next year (and as in years past), it would be useful for the Sheriff officers to get the same packet we get. Most useful would be the event timing and street map showing venues.

## 10. Interactions with the public

[1] Very good, the blue sheets that showed where to watch the fireworks were good PR. I handed these out to people when they asked where to go.

[2] The crowd was well behaved and I don't think we had any kind of incidences to mention, other than running out of glow sticks. All in all it was an enjoyable evening.

[3] Cordial. It was a friendly crowd. No behavior problems. People were in a good mood.

[4] It was good. Very polite crowd. Large number of people wanted to walk through Tilson, but Sheriff on one side of the road (Tilson) and I on the other side of the road were busy directing the people away from Tilson and towards Sedgwick School.

[6] We were net control and perimeter, so not much interaction with the public.

[7] Some were cooperative, some were a little bellicose, and some were unpleasant and uncooperative.

[8.5] need NO DOGS ALLOWED signs. It wasn't posted anywhere.

[8.9] for pedestrian traffic or closures, provide yellow caution tape to close side walks.

[11] In most cases the public were pleasant and well behaved. We had a few folks who were very upset about the arrangements (mostly due to the closure of the school area at 6pm) and stormed off or were rude. Also, the standard group of folks who believe the rules don't apply to them (crossing into the fire lane east side of Finch) before or during the fireworks. I am guessing that this is an issue here every year. The biggest issue was the field West of Finch. We might consider better signage or blockades before 6 to make this easier on folks.

[12] I enjoyed the 'fun' exchanges I had with the public. Offered a lot of 'extra' food from a # of the parties.

[13] Most people were great appreciative of Cupertino offering fireworks

[14] One guy came up and was shouting that the sound system was obstructing his pleasure.

[15] mostly great. There was some anger over the music at Creekside being too loud but the sound people were responsive and turned the music down. I also had some issues with the public over my refusal to give them light sticks with connectors because their children were too small. Fortunately, one of the radio people spoke the same language and major problems were averted.

[16] The audience was quite ethnically mixed and very cordial. The Cupertino Volunteers (MRC/CARES/CERT) went out on the grounds handing out the cold lite bracelets and information and we were all very warmly received. There were a few small dogs on leashes (beagle size and smaller) in the audience and we had concerns (per our pre-brief) but the dogs were well behaved (not anxious) through the fireworks display and everyone enjoyed the show.

[18] Fine. It was not clear what our team was supposed to do about dog violations. They handout says dogs are not allowed, but also says that volunteers are not to enforce the rules, just report them. When we



reported the dog violations to Parks & Rec and Net Control, we were told to do nothing unless there was a problem. This seemed like a very squishy rule.

[19] most participants were cooperative with instructions and direction given by comm. staff.

[20] I didn't have any interactions with the public, but heard no complaints.

I had a call from a non-event Ham at Wilson Park who was monitoring our event. He informed us that the sprinklers went on at 2110 and soaked the park visitors.

[22] Very pleasant. A few folks asked me what we were doing and about the program. Not being from Cupertino I could speak in generalities but it was interesting to provide this "ambassador" service. :)

Kids \*loved\* the Glow Sticks.

The "no dogs" rule wasn't well-enforced. Please get clarification on what the "official" rule is and document that. This caused unnecessary friction between us and the public who brought their dogs to the event.

[23] Excellent visibility by the Sheriff's Department. (At one point while doing a perimeter patrol, I saw two guys with a case of beer on a skate board approaching the school. I went ~1/2 block to find a Sheriff to talk to them. Before I got there, three Sheriffs had already approached the two guys and made sure they were not taking the beer into the school.)

If you are serious about keeping dogs out of the viewing venues (which is a good idea), there should be large signs posted stating 'no dogs.'

Handing out the glow sticks at the First Aid station was an excellent idea. It meant that every parent and child knew where the first aid station was in case of emergency.

[26] No major issues. We did have people constantly stopping (and blocking traffic often) to ask questions. I don't have recommendations on how to improve traffic flow (i.e. keep it moving). Perhaps traffic planning has ideas?

## 11. Other areas or comments?

[1] I don't like the new vests. I think the visibility is poor with these vests and they don't promote our organizations. I think the Parks and Rec should wear the new vests, because you can't see them in their blue tee shirts at night. There can be large amount of savings to all paid staff if they move everything up 1/2 hour (except fireworks). The city is short of cash. The sheriff should move the terminate time 1/2 hour later, since there was a lot of traffic and illegal fireworks.

[1] The Sheriff's barbeque had no vegi option. So it was power bar for dinner.

[3] See PowerPoint (separate file)

[5] I carried three radios: Icom dual band, Bendix King VHF, Bendix King UHF. All set with three CUP Tactical frequencies. All three loaded with new alkaline batteries. Carried spare batteries of course. Having batteries go dead is tacky (and this happens with hams all the time). Communicating with command post was easy, must be those J-poles. UHF repeater seemed to work though I could not hit it from my home two miles away in San Jose.

[5] I arrived by 1600 and was able to park close by (faculty parking lot). Getting there early helps me settle in; also helps planning staff know who has arrived. This was my first time working this event, also first working with Cupertino. How do you guys manage to perform this well?

[5] After BBQ food and briefing, I was assigned to northeast rover area. Not a lot of action, kind of boring but I signed up knowing hams are eyes and ears and the city wants to cover all areas. Action and adventure usually means something bad is happening (i.e. Emergencies). I chatted with a deputy at the area, asked her how was the academy, etc. She also said they get considerable radio training while as cadets.

[5] About 2015, I asked and received bathroom break. Later I was assigned to Bleachers. I was open to any location but wow did I get a nice spot! Obviously I was given fire protection gear.

[5] Bleachers spot on top of seats has a good high overview of Cup high school and surrounding areas. Perhaps a good spot for ATV with a UHF transmitter (using a Wavecom modulator). A small yagi aimed at Command post, they could have a TV set. Bleachers could also pan around per requests from command post.

[10] Also I noticed that a person who worked last year as volunteer came late and someone told him he can not help. I am not sure why we do not accept more volunteers. I did not before know there is some rules that a person to be late is not possible to help. I think I need more info about the rules.

[13] Took less time to open streets than in the past

[13] The Jazz Trio at Sedgwick is great but low key. Could they be "miked" through the speaker system?

[13] Check-In Comments: Allen's dedication to detail in the registration of volunteers really paid off and made check-in go smoothly. There were only a couple of small glitches which were easily taken care of. There needs to be a 4th person at check-in dedicated to checking PPE and DSW. Would suggest that the duties of 4 check-in people be designated as follows:

1. Check PPE & current DSW
2. Guide volunteers to check in on Form 211B, record badge and vest number and get cell phone number
3. Give Badge & Vest, flag pin and handout material to volunteer, then direct to staging area
4. As volunteers sign in, take their T-card to Command Post

[13] Vests and Badges need to be at Check-In when the first person arrives. Need to be sorted in numerical order.

[13] Glow Sticks at Sedgwick were a big hit with the kids and adults. Think we should have guidelines on how to distribute, i.e. to what age group and quantity per person. Should this be handled by Parks and Rec?

Should they be distributed in an area other than First Aid?

[15] Please never ever distribute light sticks with connectors again!!!

[16] We used FRS radio for local coordination and that worked out well. As I said, I enlisted my spouse as my partner and this was her first exposure to getting involved with something like the Cupertino Volunteers and I think she was very favorably impressed. I hope to impress her into service again in the future. She particularly enjoyed the warm camaraderie among our group of responders and kept saying how impressed she was with <named>'s (the ARK Captain) professionalism.

[17] The Glow Sticks were a hit. We passed them out as we were walking among the crowds

[18] <named> did very well as site leader. He had the roving teams use the light sabers as locating beacons by holding them in the air. In this way it was easy to see where each team was and also gave law enforcement a location to walk to.

[19] The pedestrian / auto interface at the intersection of Finch Ave and Valco Parkway (just north of Stevens Creek Blvd) is very problematic. Pedestrians crossing Valco Pkwy, to access the viewing areas just south of Valco Pkwy on Finch, must negotiate the intersection without the aid of traffic controls. As the event start time approaches both drives and pedestrians (w/ pets, chairs strollers, non-ambulatory etc) are rushed and not focused on safety. When the event ends the situation gets even worse as larger numbers converge within a shorter period of time. Might be considered a disaster waiting to happen.

Recommendations: traffic controls—e.g. temporary stop signs – SO representative to control traffic.

[20] There seemed to be less private fireworks being set off in the area this year. Not sure why there were fewer idiot handling explosives this year, but I sure didn't mind the change at all!

[21] The only confusion I noted was that the city was about an hour late putting up the barricades and the deputy seemed confused as to where pedestrians were and were not allowed.

[22] This form could use a section to discuss how well the team you were working with did, how well the site lead did.

The light sabers were very effective as locator beacons and to visually confirm placement of the teams during the event.

Thanks, for the opportunity to participate in your event. This was my wife's first time volunteering or really using her ham radio. This was a great, confidence-building event for a new ham. Cupertino sets a very high bar for other MAC events to follow. :)

**End of Report.**