

Date:	2-Mar-00, General CARES Meeting
Session:	Emergency Communications with the Red Cross
Speaker:	Scott Hensley KB6UOO, David Barr, Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley
Summary:	Orientation of comms procedures between shelters and the Red Cross

General

1. The Red Cross is located at 2731 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95125
2. On-site amateur radio capabilities include 160 meters to 23 cm, packet and voice.
3. On-site commercial radio capability 47MHz, 455 MHz, both cross-linked together on 453.0125 and 47.42.
4. The Red Cross relies on the amateur radio community for emergency staffing.
5. During a major event, all communications go to and from Red Cross field operations and the Red Cross radio room.

When a Disaster Hits

6. When a disaster hits, the following occurs:
 - the Red Cross communications team gets notified
 - They determine what resources are needed
 - Shelters are opened, and operated by the Red Cross or Salvation Army
 - Opened shelters use a Red Cross Communicator
 - Red Cross Comms requests from the County OES for a mutual aid and radio volunteers
 - Red Cross Shelter Communicators reports up into the Red Cross (comms with the city is secondary)

Volunteering

6. Requirements for a Red Cross Communicator are:
 - DSW registration
 - Valid FCC license
 - Radio equipment (handheld or other)
7. Depending on the shelter size and other factors, 1-3 volunteers may be required.
8. Shift sizes are 4-8 hours with 0.5 - 1 hour overlap for turnover or On-the-Job Training

Procedures

9. Types of Traffic that could be passed:
 - # of clients in the shelter
 - Age ranges, sex
 - Request for medical assistance
 - # of meals, cots, blankets
 - staffing information (shelter manager, mass care workers) and needs
10. DO NOT PASS names or addresses, or medical conditions... you don't know who is listening.
11. Red Cross relies on Amateurs to bring their own batteries (but sometimes are supplied)
12. Shelter volunteers usually don't need to bring their own supplies (food, water, etc).
13. Other Training:
 - Red Cross Introduction to disaster
 - Shelter Operations
 - On-the-Job Training

End of summary