
Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Topic: Preliminary Safety Assessment Procedure

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Event: Cupertino ARES meeting, Orientation Training

Updated: 27-Jan-06

PSA Overview



Preliminary Safety Assessment

What is it?

Situation

- The Cupertino EOC needs a rapid assessment of the state of the city so that response resources can be assigned to have the maximum impact.
- During city-wide disasters, regular communications channels may be disrupted, leaving EOC decision-makers with little information to go on.

Preliminary Safety Assessment

What is it?

Response

- CARES is chartered to provide Preliminary Safety Assessment (PSA) information when a disaster occurs.

Definition

- A PSA report occurs early in an emergency. While information may be fragmented and incomplete, whatever data is available will provide the City with a preliminary assessment of the damage so the EOC can determine the best response that must be made to save lives, protect property, and speed the recovery.
- Early Safety Assessment reports should not be delayed by getting mired in detail in an effort to obtain more extensive assessment information.

Preliminary Safety Assessment

When do we do it?

Self-evident Events

- Earthquakes... These events have the potential significant damage throughout the Bay Area.

Non-evident Events

- Flooding... May be localized to a specific area
- Man-made disasters...
- Whenever requested by the EOC

The PSA Process

1. *Once the shaking stops...*

Take care of yourself...

... your family...

- Determine the condition of your family; apply first aid if necessary.
- Determine the structural soundness of your home; evacuate if necessary.

... your neighborhood...

- Perform the Preliminary Safety Assessment...
 - What you do depends on your situation.
 - Do not put your personal safety at risk.
 - Do not exceed your physical ability to perform the assessment.



The PSA Process

2. Collecting the data...

Collect information on...

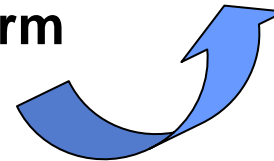
- Injuries
- Structure damage
- Hazards
- Access

using...

- Preliminary Safety Assessment Form

COES 203 Preliminary Safety Assessment Form – Field

Assessment Date/time:			Street: Between and	
Performed by:			Map Coordinates (Chamber Map):	
Command Post Location:			Number of Units Surveyed:	
Ref	Category	Subcategory	Count	Notes/Addresses (use back of page if necessary)
1.1	Injuries, Minor	Able to walk away from the incident		
1.2	Injuries, Delayed	Regular breathing, and Capillary refill <2 sec, and Answers questions, responds to commands		Address:
1.3	Injuries, Immediate	Rapid Breathing >30/min, or capillary refill >2 sec, or Confused, disoriented		Address:
1.4	Injuries, Presumed Dead	Unconscious, no respiration		Address:
2.1	Structure, Light Damage	• Superficial Damage • Broken Windows • Cracked or fallen plaster • Main damage is to contents		
2.2	Structure, Moderate Damage	• Large amount of cracking on exterior • Small cracks around doors and foundations • No outward sign of structural damage		Address:
2.3	Structure, Heavy Damage	• Partial or full collapse • Building is off foundation • Structural damage to the building		Address:
3.1	Hazards	Fire, any situation, note if extinguished		Address:
3.2	Hazards	Gas Leaks		Address:
3.3	Hazards	Sewer Leaks		Address:
3.4	Hazards	Water Main Breaks		Address:
3.5	Hazards	Electrical Power, Lines Down. Power in the neighborhood?		
4.1	Access	Roads blocked Other Obstructions		



The PSA Process

3. *Check into the Net*

- Turn on your radio and listen.
- If you are the first person on the frequency and have the capability to perform as an Net Control Operator, establish the CARES Emergency Net, or...
- Check in to the net when check-ins are requested.

The PSA Process

4. Prepare your Message

- *Message ID* -- Assigned by the Net Control Operator
- **Precedence** -- determines the urgency of the message (Emergency, Urgent, Routine, Health & Welfare)
- *Destination* -- If omitted, deliver to EOC Planning or Ops Section
- **Date/Time** -- Time the message was created. If omitted, receiving station enters the Date/Time the message was received.
- **Subject** – If omitted, “PSA”
- **The Message** -- PSA Report... numbers only
Emergency Traffic... nature and location

Message Handling

4a. Precedence (Priority)

- **Emergency** -- Life-threatening: Situations, reports, and updates that might directly result in deploying or prioritizing resources for an incident involving life-saving efforts. When in doubt, **DO NOT** use this designation.
- **Urgent** -- Property threatening: Situations and reports of new threats, revised flood projections, wind direction changes in a major fire, and reports of additional damage from earthquake aftershocks suggesting additional rescue efforts or surveillance.
- **Routine** – PSA reports, correspondence between agency representatives, material and logistics messages, routine resource requests, shift planning, relief requests, etc.
- **Health & Welfare** -- Includes welfare inquiries

Message Handling

4b. Precedence (Priority)

Handling Mixed Urgency Messages

- If you have a mix of different message priorities, deliver the specific message priority (EMERGENCY and URGENT) when called.
- Deliver the balance of the report (ROUTINE and Health and Welfare) when called.

Message Handling

What it sounds like - *Sending Emergency Traffic*

- NCS:** *Is there any EMERGENCY Traffic for the net?*
- KN6PE:** “Net Control, this is KN6PE with EMERGENCY Traffic for the EOC”
- NCS:** *KN6PE acknowledged. EOC, are you ready to copy emergency traffic?*
- EOC:** “EOC is ready”
- NCS:** *KN6PE, your message number is 29. Send your traffic to the EOC.*
- KN6PE:** “EOC, This is KN6PE with EMERGENCY Traffic, message #29. Break”
- EOC:** “OK, Continue”
- KN6PE:** Message is: House fire at 12345 Woodhill Court. Break”
- EOC:** “OK, Continue”
- KN6PE:** “One person trapped inside. Break”
- EOC:** “OK, Continue”
- KN6PE:** “Area water pressure appears to be low. End of Message. This is KN6PE”
- EOC:** “Acknowledged. This is EOC, W9BJX back to net.”
- NCS:** *This is KD6TQJ, Net Control for the Cupertino Emergency Net. Other stations with emergency traffic, please identify now.*

Message Handling

What it sounds like - *Sending a PSA Report*

KN6PE: “Net Control, this is KN6PE with PSA Traffic for the EOC”

NCS: *KN6PE acknowledged. EOC, are you ready to copy PSA traffic?*

EOC: “EOC is ready”

NCS: *KN6PE, your message number is 30. Send your traffic to the EOC.*

KN6PE: “EOC, This is KN6PE with PSA Traffic, message #30. Break”

EOC: “OK, Continue”

KN6PE: PSA Message is: 1-1 is 8. 1-2 is 0. 1-3 is 3. 1-4 is 0. Break”

EOC: “OK, Continue”

KN6PE: “2-1 is 11. 2-2 is 5. 2-3 is 1. Break”

EOC: “OK, Continue”

KN6PE: “3-1 is 1. 3-2 is 0. 3-3 is 3. 3-4 is 1. 3-5 is 0. Break”

EOC: “OK, Continue”

KN6PE: “4-1 is 0. Houses surveyed is 24. End of Message. This is KN6PE”

EOC: “Acknowledged. This is EOC, W9BJX back to net.”

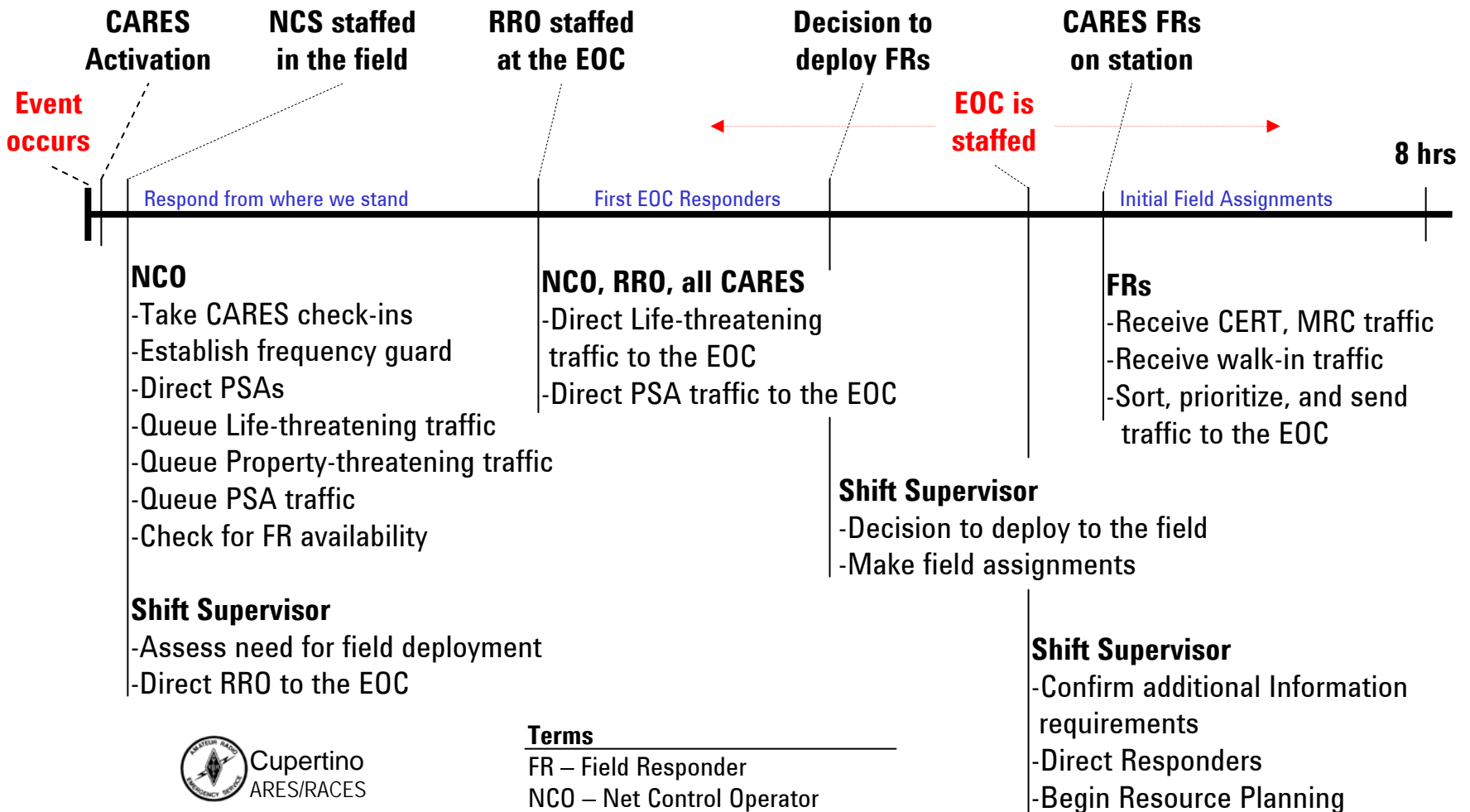
NCS: *This is KD6TQJ, Net Control for the Cupertino Emergency Net. Other stations with any traffic, please identify now.*

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Performed by:				Map Coordinates (Chamber Map):		
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4.1	Access	Roads blocked Other Obstructions				

Preliminary Safety Assessment

How do we do it? - Initial Response Ops



Terms

- FR – Field Responder
- NCO – Net Control Operator
- RRO – Radio Room Operator

Preliminary Safety Assessment

PSA Drill

- When: Saturday, 28-Jan, 9:00am to 11:00am
- Where: Operate from your home location
- Who: All CARES members, one NCO, one RRO, SS
- What:
 1. Develop a damage scenario that you think would be typical of your neighborhood.
- How:
 1. Net is called at 9:00a, take check-ins
 2. Simulate going through the assessment process; Use the PSA data collection form.
 3. Over the next hour, CARES members send messages to EOC based on the precedence
 4. On-air critique at about 10:45am
 5. Secure the net



Cupertino
ARES/RACES