Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Topic: Skyline Fire Functional Exercise
Speaker: Jim Oberhofer KN6PE, EC Cupertino ARES
Date: Thursday, 01-May-2008, 19:30
Event: Cupertino ARES Meeting, Orientation Training

Skyline Fire Functional Exercise

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Skyline Fire Pre-Planning

1. Skyline Fire Situation Update

2. Mapping Disasters to capabilities

3. Net Logistics Review

4. Message handling

5. Cross-band repeat

6. Final thoughts
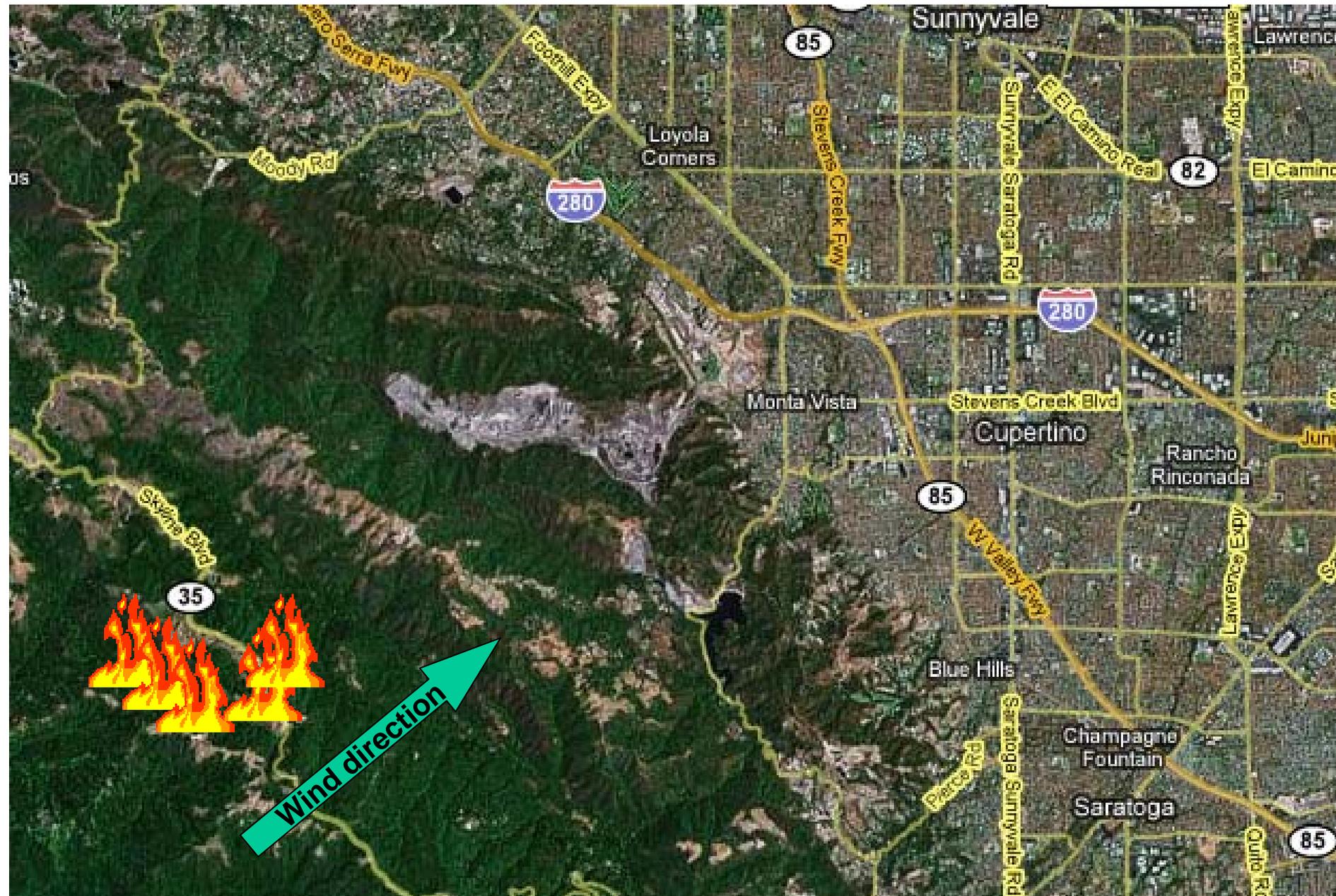
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Skyline Fire Event

Situation Assessment – "drill traffic"

- The fire started just off of Skyline Blvd (Rt 35) by the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve and has been slowly advancing in a Northerly direction fanned by southerly winds at 10-25 mph.

- Several hundred acres of Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District land have already burned.

- As of tonight, the fire has jumped Skyline Blvd and continues to smolder. Winds have died down tonight but are expected to picked up again Friday morning.

- CalFire reports that the fire is only 20% contained.

- CalFire has over 300 fire fighters on scene; the State's Air Tankers plans fire retardant drops on the blaze all day Friday.

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Skyline Fire Event
Situation Assessment – "drill traffic"

- CalFire has established it's ICS on a ridge off of Montello overlooking the event.

- Equipment staging is located at Vasona Park.

- A forward Camp has been established at Stevens Creek Fire Station.

- A forward Staging area for AMR units has been established at San Antonio Park off of Cristo Rey.

- Marsha plans to activate Cupertino Citizen Corp Saturday Morning in case the City needs volunteer assistance from CARES, CERT, and MRC.

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Wind direction

Skyline Fire Event
What Marsha needs from CARES

OES Director has requested CARES to do 3 things:

1. respond as "Agency Reps" for the City of Cupertino to the Stevens Creek Fire Station Mini-Camp, and AMR staging, and the ICP

2. perform Health & Welfare checks of senior residences because of smoke encroachment

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Mapping Disasters to Capabilities

Disasters

- Earthquakes
- Flooding by dam failure
- Flooding by rain
- Wildland fire
- Large urban fire
- Manmade disasters (BNICE)

Potential Problems

- People – Injuries
- People – Trapped
- People – Homeless
- People – Hungry
- People – Sick
- Structures Damaged
- Structures Burning
- Utilities – Power
- Utilities – Gas main
- Utilities – Sewage
- Utilities – Water
- Access problems

Response Requirements

- Mass care shelters
- Evacuations
- Field First Aid stations
- Mass care, feeding
- DC/Fire Suppression
- DC/Prelim Safety
- Mass Prophylaxis
- Search and Rescue
- Information Outreach

Response Capabilities

- Shelter Staff
- Search & Rescue
- First Aid
- Fire Suppression
- Watches (creek, fire, traffic, incident, etc)
- Communications (Field, Shadows, etc)
- General resource

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Wild land, Urban Fire

Disasters
- Earthquakes
- Flooding by dam failure
- Flooding by rain
- **Wildland fire**
- **Large urban fire**
- Manmade disasters (BNICE)

Potential Problems
- People – Injuries
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Response Capabilities
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Wildland/Urban Fire Scenario

Objective: mitigate damage to infrastructure and property, preserve life

	What EOC needs	CARES	CERT	MRC
Notification		3N Notification	3N Notification	3N Notification
What do you do first		• Take care of family at home	• Take care of family at home	• Take care of family at home
Activation / Mobilization	• Help with initial EOC staffing • Need volunteers for various assignments	• Activate emergency net • Check into emergency net • Stand by	• Stand by • Respond to local Ark	• Stand by • Respond to local Ark
Deployment (Help stabilize the situation)	• Neighborhood notification of hazards • Shelters opened • City official shadows	• EOC Radio Room staffed • Assign Field Responders (Shelters, DPW, FD Staging, Arks, Fire Stations, etc) • Support Agency Reps • Assign to Fire Watch Teams	**Ark Deployment** • Activate Ark • Establish, staff ICS • Check in volunteers • Assemble, dispatch Information teams • Assign volunteers to Fire Watch teams • Assign volunteers to shelters • Assist with Logistics requests	• Establish First Aid Station at or near open Shelters

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Wildland/Urban Fire Scenario (continued)

	What EOC needs	CARES	CERT	MRC
Recovery	• Field Status Reports	• Operational period reports	• Operational period reports	•Operational period reports
Demobilization	• List of supplies to be replenished	• Personal Equipment inventory • CARES asset inventory	• Personal Equipment inventory • Ark asset, supplies inventory	• Personal Equipment inventory • Ark First Aid asset, supplies inventory

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Net Logistics
Initial Response Operations… from where we stand

NCO
-Check-ins
-Establish frequency guard
-Direct PSAs
-Queue Life-threatening traffic
-Queue Property-threatening traffic
-Queue PSA Traffic
-Check for FR availability

Shift Supervisor
-Assess need for field deployment
-Direct RRO to the EOC

EOC
Radio Room

County
ARES/
RACES
NCO

NCO

CARES members

(1) Check-ins, Availability
(2) Initiate PDAs
(3) Results; has Life/Property Threatening Traffic

General Traffic

Control

(2) Initiate PDAs

CARES members

General Traffic

Comm
Team Lead

General Traffic

CARES members
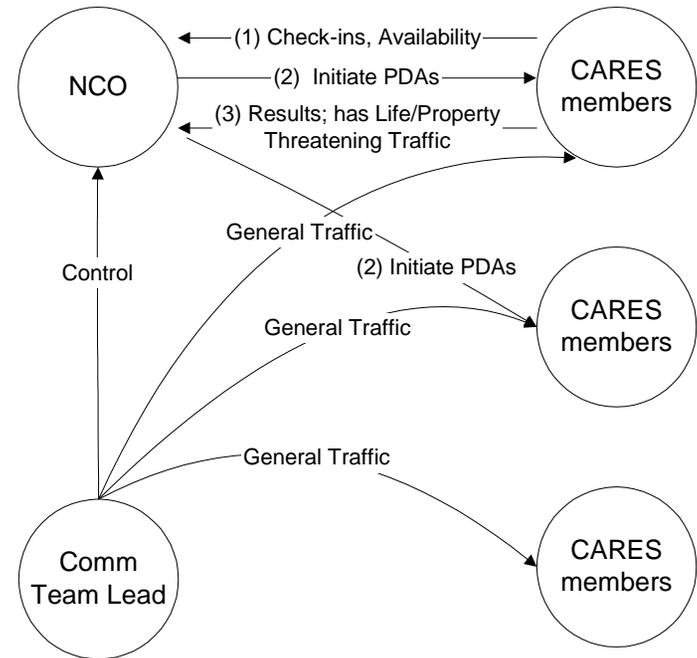
Net Logistics

Initial Response Operations
– First EOC Responders, Initial Field Assignments
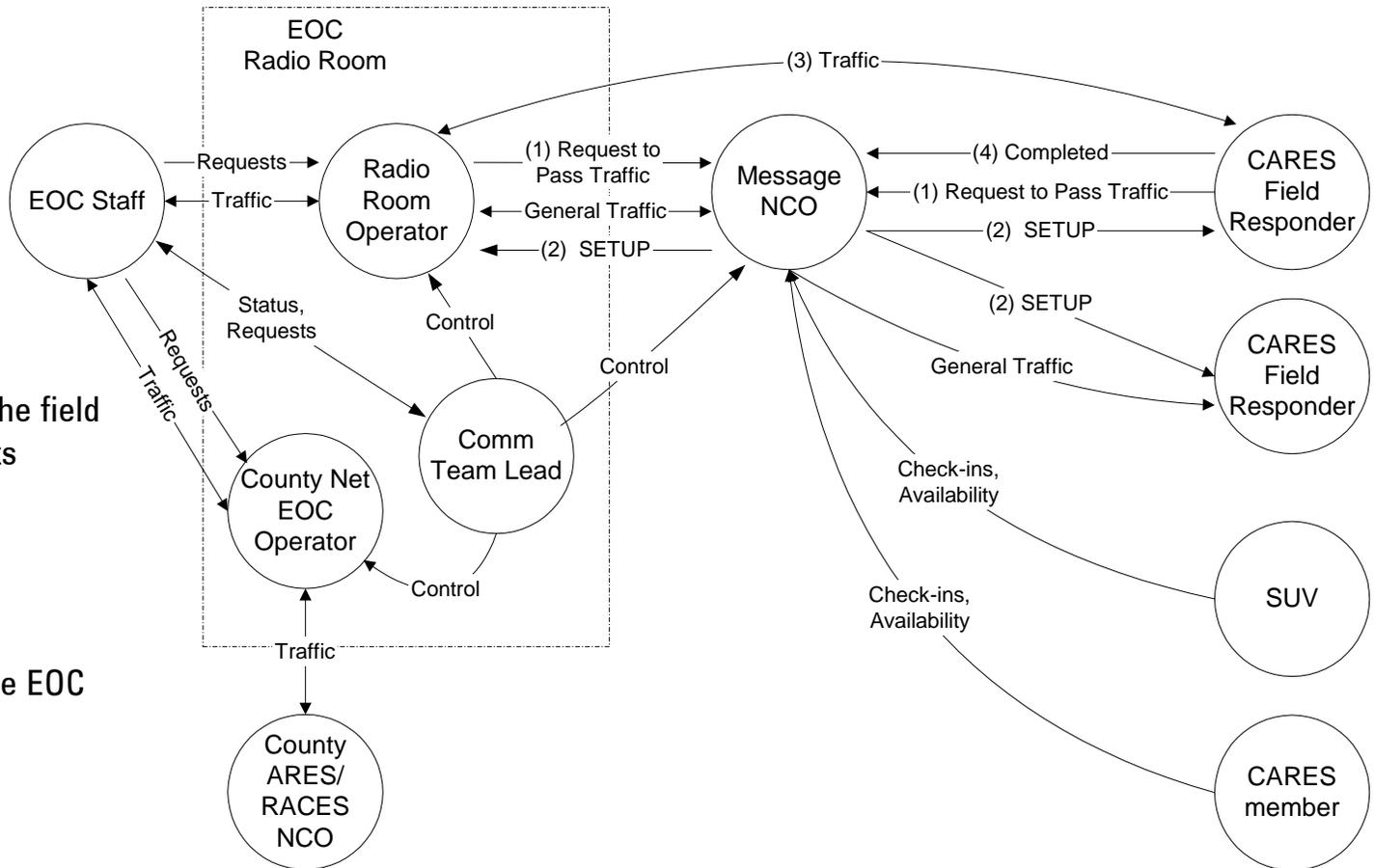
Shift Supervisor
-Decision to deploy to the field
-Make field assignments

NCO, RRO, all CARES
-Direct Life-threatening
 traffic to EOC
-Direct PSA traffic to the EOC

EOC
Radio Room

EOC Staff — Requests → Radio Room Operator
Radio Room Operator — Traffic → EOC Staff

Radio Room Operator — (1) Request to Pass Traffic → Message NCO
Message NCO — General Traffic → Radio Room Operator
Message NCO — (2) SETUP → Radio Room Operator

(3) Traffic

CARES Field Responder — (4) Completed → Message NCO
CARES Field Responder — (1) Request to Pass Traffic → Message NCO
Message NCO — (2) SETUP → CARES Field Responder

Message NCO — (2) SETUP → CARES Field Responder
Message NCO — General Traffic → CARES Field Responder

Status, Requests
Control

Control

Check-ins, Availability — SUV
Check-ins, Availability — CARES member

County Net EOC Operator
Comm Team Lead
Control

Requests
Traffic

Traffic

County ARES/ RACES NCO

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Net Logistics
Initial Response Operations – High Traffic Volume
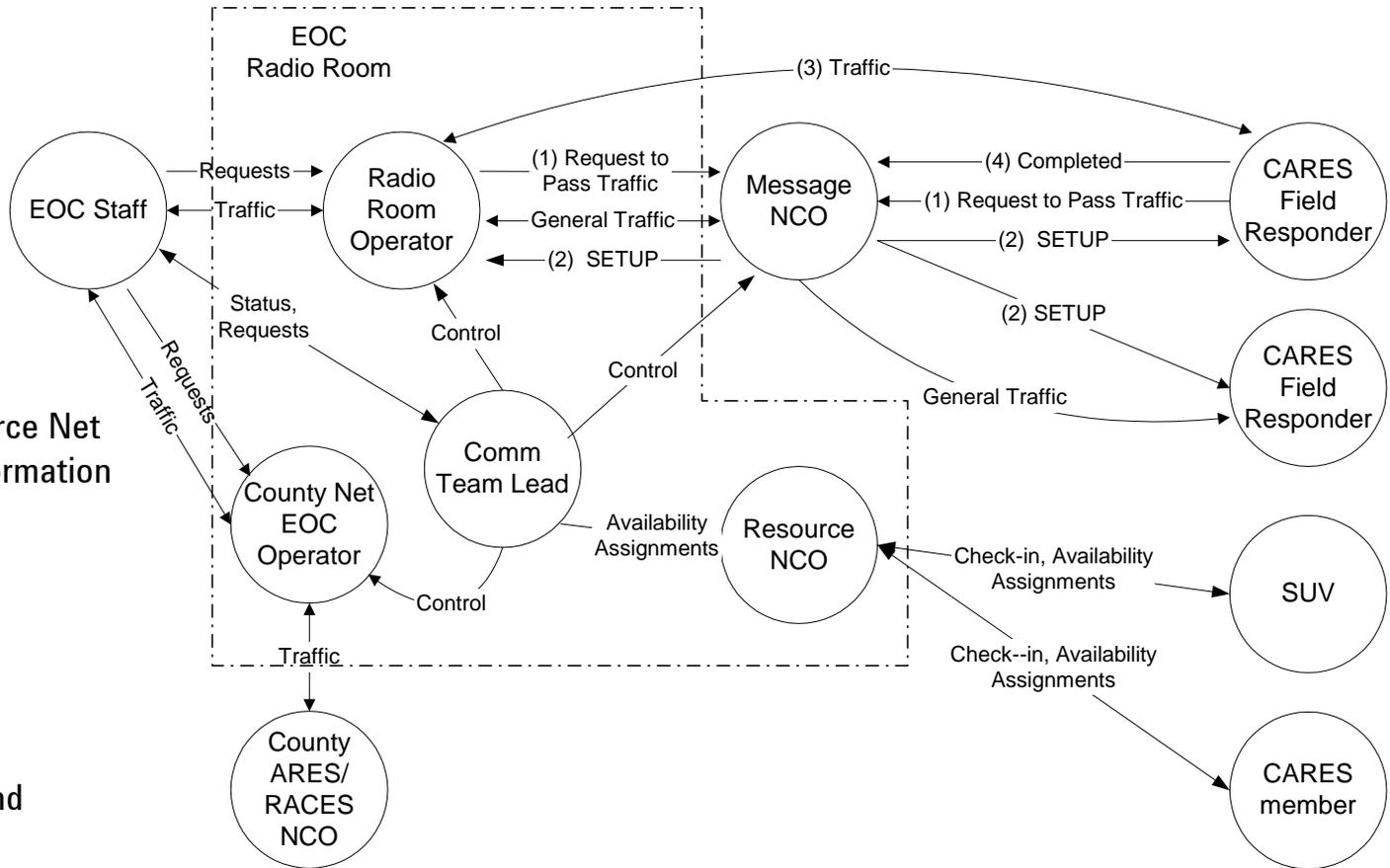
Shift Supervisor
-Establishes the Resource Net
-Confirm additional Information
 requirements
-Direct Responders

Field Responders
-Receive CERT traffic
-Receive walk-in traffic
-Sort, prioritize, and send
traffic to the EOC

EOC Radio Room

EOC Staff

Radio Room Operator

Message NCO

CARES Field Responder

CARES Field Responder

SUV

CARES member

County Net EOC Operator

Comm Team Lead

Resource NCO

County ARES/RACES NCO

Requests
Traffic
(1) Request to Pass Traffic
General Traffic
(2) SETUP
(3) Traffic
(4) Completed
(1) Request to Pass Traffic
(2) SETUP
(2) SETUP
Status, Requests
Requests
Traffic
Control
Control
General Traffic
Availability Assignments
Control
Traffic
Check-in, Availability Assignments
Check--in, Availability Assignments

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Net Logistics
Extended Response Operations – Low Traffic Volume

Shift Supervisor, RRO, FRs
-Maintain staffing levels
-Respond to new requests from
 EOC, Served Agencies
-Pass traffic as required
-Health & Welfare checks with
 field responders

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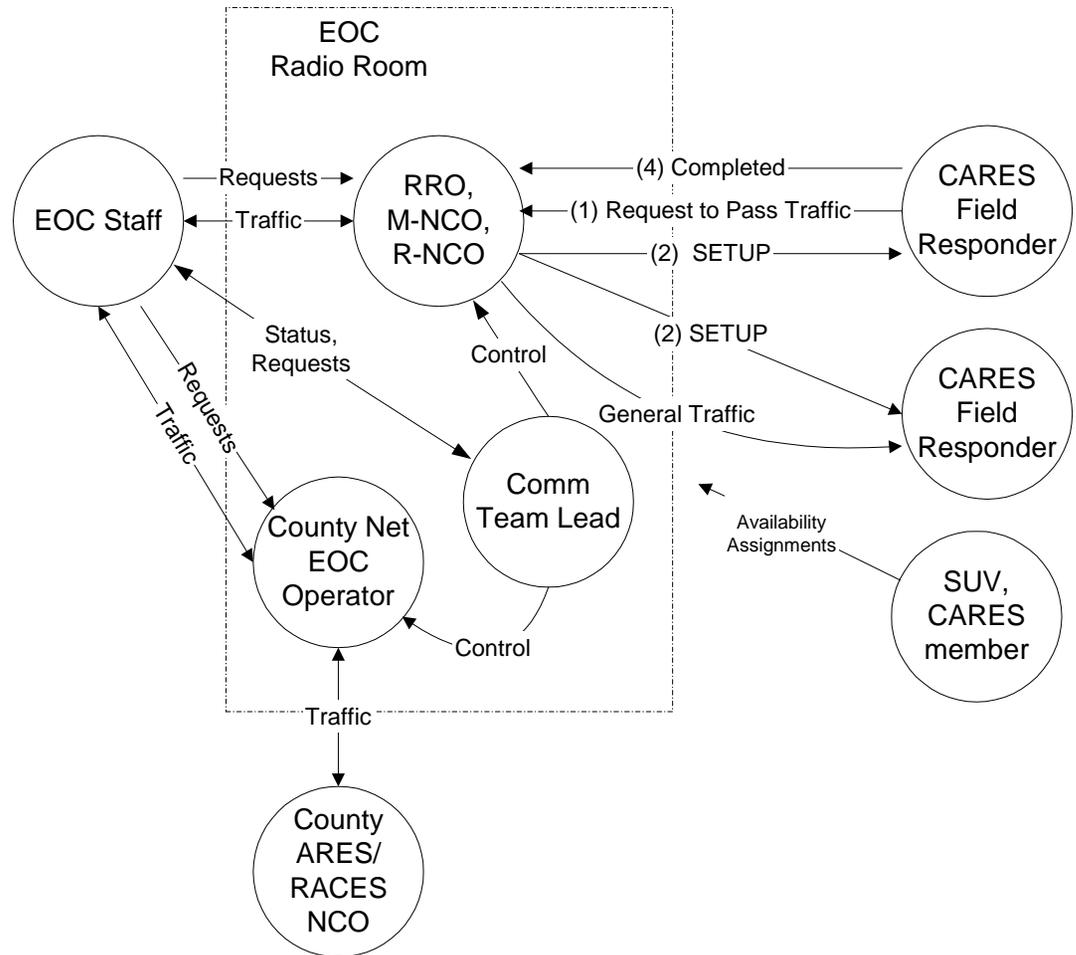
Definition of a Net

Directed Net

1. Established when the amount of stations on the frequency who wish to talk, or the amount of traffic to be handled, cannot be accomplished on a first come-first served basis.

2. NCS determines who will use the frequency at a given time.

3. NCS acknowledges those stations first that may have incident related traffic in priority order.

4. Conversations between stations are kept at a minimum.

5. Tactical call signs are assigned to support efficient traffic handling.

6. This net is considered formal in nature, and stations having non-incident related traffic may be asked to move to another frequency.

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Definitions of a Net

Open Net

1. A net may be declared OPEN if the incident has little incident related traffic, or if there is little need to direct individual stations with a Net Control Station.

2. An NCS may or may not be required.

3. Stations do not need to contact the NCS before making a directed call to another station.

4. Incident related traffic may be handled on a point to point basis.

5. Most any type of traffic and communications is permitted.

6. Conversations are permitted on the frequency, provided that they break every so often to allow incident related traffic to pass.

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Net Logistics

	Directed Net	Open Net
Net Control Operator	• Required Participant • Controls channel access and flow	• Optional Participant • Monitors the channel • Offers assistance as necessary
EOC Radio Room Operator	Participant in the net	• Optional • Participant in the net
Field Responders	Requests permission to pass traffic	Self-originates traffic
Traffic volume	High	Low
No. of Stations	High	Low
Non-Participating Stations	Asked to stand by	OK to use the frequency

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Resource Net specifics

- Check into the Resource net (Tac-1, 147.570)
- State your availability
- If scheduled for a later shift, check out and come back 30 minutes prior to your shift.
- When given an assignment, STAY on the RESOURCE Net until you arrive. Then
  – Check out of the Resource Net
  – Check into the Message Net
- When done with your assignment…
  – Check out of the Message Net
  – Check into the Resource Net
  – Stay on the Resource Net until you return home, then check out of the Resource Net

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Message Handling
Two types of traffic

Passing traffic on behalf of a served agency

- Pass the traffic exactly as written. Your job is to get the message to the destination as quickly as possible, not to understand it.

✔ *Self-originated messages*

- These messages are not written and a written response may not be required. In this case, you control what the text of the message will be. The phrasing is up to you.

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Message Handling
Self-originated messages

- ***Informally originated*** -- These are messages based on your observations, information, or inquiries you receive that you believe should be passed on for action.

  Example: You report in after arriving at an assignment
  Resident inquiring into the status of a clinic
  A person reporting a gas leak
  A report of flooding
  Observe flames from a location
  Hear an explosion to the north

- ***Situation Reports*** -- These are more structured messages that report on the situation that exists where you are assigned. They are based on your observations or information you receive.

  Example: Preliminary Damage Assessment Report
  Infrastructure Damage Assessment Report

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Message Handling
What do Situation Reports cover?

- Fire Hazards

- Utility Hazards

- Access Hazards

- Injuries

- Other observed conditions or information that you believe someone would be interested in receiving in light of the emergency.

- Also, its ok to pass "all clear," "no problems," etc., if that is the case.

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Field Message Handling
Field Message Forms

Note Pad Method

From	Date/Time
To	Pri or Msg #

Message:
This is the message that needs to be written down. Watch the details

Reply
Write down the reply below the original message. If it is going back to the originator, deliver it to him/her

Index Card Method

Front Side

From	Date/Time
To	Pri or Msg #

Message:
This is the message that needs to be written down. Watch the details

Back Side

Reply
Write down the reply on the back of the card. If it is going back to the originator, deliver it to him/her

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Coverage in Cupertino Foothills
Cross-Band Repeat; Saturday, January 11, 2003, 9:00am to 10:30am

Three cross-band repeat tests were performed:

- 2 meter to 440. We configured a radio to the frequency pair: 146.57 and 434.800. Cross-band repeat was enabled. Several members monitored either the 2 meter or 440 side while transmissions were made.

- 440 to 2 meter Repeater. Next, we configured a radio to the frequency pair 146.115+/PL=100 and 434.800. Cross-band repeat was enabled. Members could access the 2 meter repeater from the 440 side of the configuration.

- Two linked cross-band repeat configurations. Last test: we configured one cross-band radio to the frequency pair: 147.570 and 438.000. The second radio was configured to the frequency pair: 438.000 and 146.460. Cross-band repeat was enabled on both. Members confirmed that they could transmit on the CARES TAC-1 (147.570) and be heard on the CARES TAC-2 (146.460). Additionally, members could monitor and operate on the "link" frequency – 438.000 – as well.

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Coverage in Cupertino Foothills
Cross-Band Repeat; Saturday, May 3, 2008, 8:30am to 11:30am

Questions:

1. Are there radio coverage dead-spots in the hills that is covered by Cupertino?

2. Who has Cross-Band capabilities AND knows how to turn it on?

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What you need

- GoKit
- Forms… ICS-214 (Log), Message Form
- Reasonable clothing
- FRS (optional)
- Food and water

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Things to remember

- Safety first
- Work with your buddy
- Ensure you are in contact with the Net
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CARES Functional Exercise

- When: Saturday, 3-May, 8:30am to 12:00pm

- Where: Start from your home location

- Who: All CARES members

- How: 1. Net is called at 8:30a, take check-ins
               2. State availability for a field assignment
               3. OK if you can only participate for a few hours,
               4. Deploy for Field Assignments
               5. Field message simulation at all sites
               6. If you have a Buddy, bring him/her!

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