

NEWS RELEASE

Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES)

Website: www.zoy.net/CARES

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'Big One' Scheduled to Hit Cupertino on June 24, 2000

Cupertino, Calif. – For Immediate Release – On Saturday, June 24, on the lawn outside Cupertino City Hall, dozens of volunteer amateur radio operators will participate in a nationwide test of emergency preparedness. Assuming that a disaster has rendered buildings uninhabitable and knocked out PG&E power, the Cupertino hams will operate outdoors and use only batteries, solar power, or backup generators to power their voice, video, and digital radio links to thousands of other ham radio operators around the country.

Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE, Emergency Coordinator for CARES stated, "Through these exercises, CARES members hone their emergency communication skills for the 'Big One', which in Cupertino could be a major earthquake, flood, wildfire, explosion, dam burst, hazardous material spill, airplane crash, or other disaster." Cupertino City Manager, Don Brown, adds, "CARES is a great resource for the city of Cupertino. In addition to providing vital emergency communication services to the city in times of disaster, their trained members can provide rapid city-wide damage assessment during large scale disasters."

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Interested visitors are welcome to observe the action from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and try their hand at making radio contacts around the country.

Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES) is an association of licensed amateur radio operator volunteers dedicated to providing reliable emergency communications for the City of Cupertino and other agencies when disaster strikes.

CARES members come from all walks of life and range in age from high school students to retirees. In addition to providing emergency communication services when regular resources break down or are overwhelmed, CARES members provide the city with an early assessment of damage and casualties from Cupertino neighborhoods to help the City focus their response during a disaster.

Anyone interested in becoming a CARES member can find out more by listening to the weekly radio net every Tuesday evening on 147.570 MHz or by attending the monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Cupertino City Hall, or by visiting the CARES website at www.zoy.net/CARES.

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