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## 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



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# 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.

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# 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.

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# 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

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# 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...

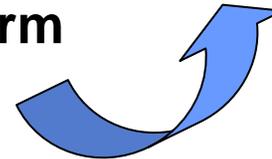
- Injuries
- Structure damage
- Hazards
- Access

### 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		



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# 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.

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# 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

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# 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

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# 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.

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# 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.*

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# 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.”

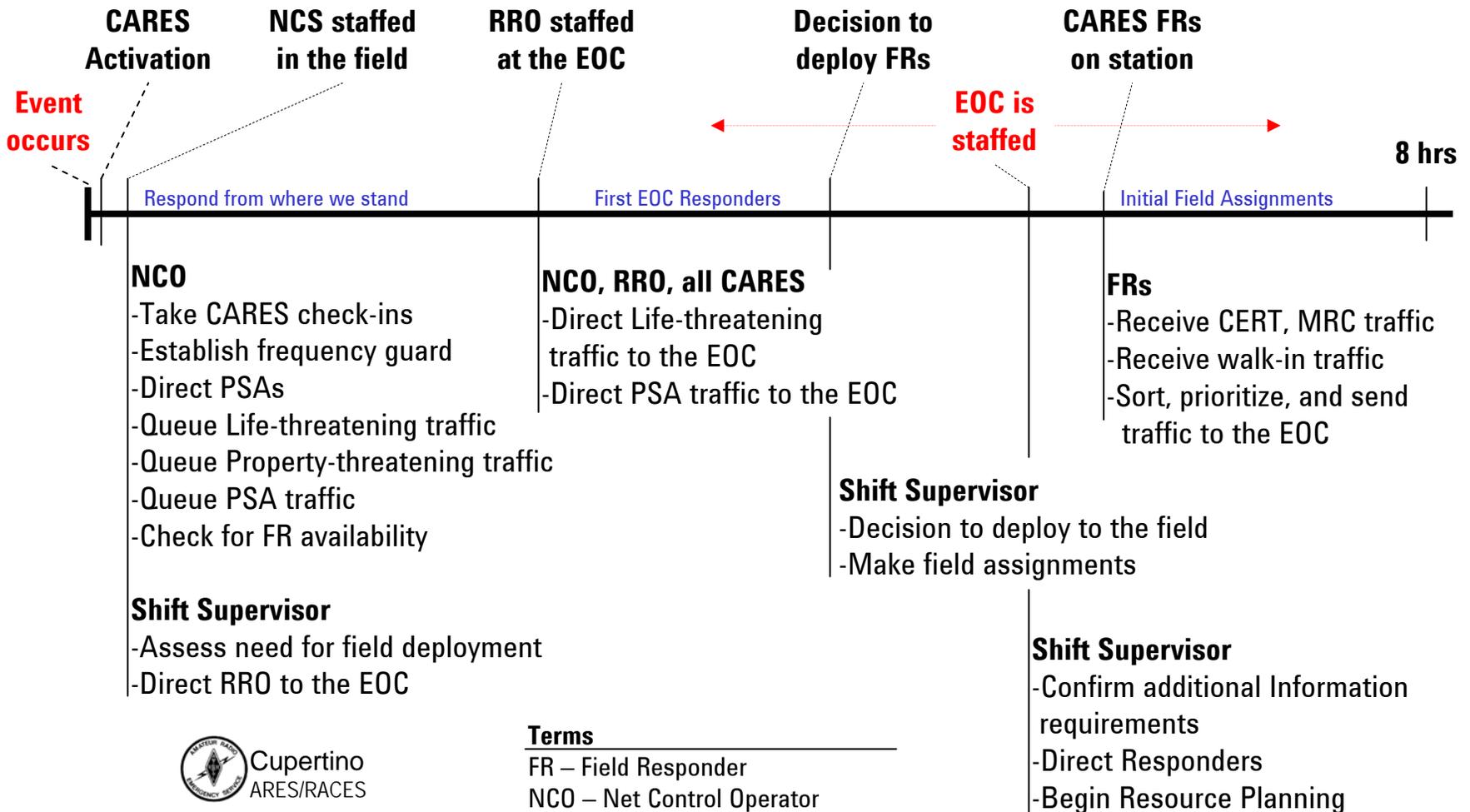
**NCS:** *This is KD6TQJ, Net Control for the Cupertino Emergency Net. Other stations with any traffic, please identify now.*

## 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)		
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3.5	Hazards	Electrical Power, Lines Down. Power in the neighborhood?				
4.1	Access	Roads blocked Other Obstructions				

# Preliminary Safety Assessment

*How do we do it? - Initial Response Ops*



**Terms**

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

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# 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

