

# After Action Report 2014 Field Day



Cupertino  
ARES/RACES

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## 1. Overview

**Description:** 2014 Cupertino Field Day

**Event Date:** 28-June-2014

**Report Date:** 5-August-2014

**CARES Event:** CUP-14-18T

**RACES Event:** CUP-14-18T

**Control:** Cupertino ARES/RACES

**Report Revision:** 1.1, Final

**Submitted by:** Judy Halchin KK6EWQ

### Requirements for Reporting

Completing an After Action Report is part of the required SEMS reporting process. The Emergency Services Act, Section 8607 (f) mandates that the Office of Emergency Services (OES) in cooperation with involved state and local agencies complete an After Action Report within 120 days after each declared disaster. Section 2450 (a) of the SEMS Regulations states that, "Any city, city and county, or county declaring a local emergency for which the governor proclaims a state of emergency, and any state agency responding to that emergency shall complete and transmit an after action report to OES within ninety (90) days of the close of the incident period as specified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, s2900(q)."

CARES will follow this requirement for reporting the results and recommendations for this Training Event.

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### i. Introduction and Background

#### Terms

CARES:	Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service, ARES/RACES organization supporting the City of Cupertino; provides backup and emergency communications to the City.
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team.
MRC	Medical Reserve Corps.
ARRL	American Radio Relay League.

### Introduction

Field Day is an annual event sponsored by the ARRL and is intended to be an opportunity for education, practice in emergency radio operations, and public relations. Individual ARES/RACES groups participate in their own communities, and a national contest aspect to the event adds to the motivation to participate. CARES participated this year by setting up and operating personally-owned radio equipment and the CARES communications van as well as an information table and a station where members of the public could talk on a ham radio. CARES participation lasted from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Members of the city government, served agencies of CARES, and ARRL section officials were invited to visit during the event. The City of Cupertino authorized the event under training activation number CUP-14-18T.

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**ii. Type / Location of Event / Drill / Exercise**

Event Type: City of Cupertino, CARES Training Activation  
 Event Identifier: CUP-14-18T  
 Event Name: Field Day  
 Location: City of Cupertino Civic Center Plaza

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**iii. Description of the Event / Drill / Exercise**

CARES event objectives:

1. Practice off-the-grid field deployment.
2. Practice HF operations.
3. Practice with and educate each other about various other radio equipment and technologies.
4. Meet informally with representatives of some of CARES' served agencies and ARRL officials.
5. Educate the public and city officials about CARES, Cupertino Citizen Corps, and emergency preparedness.

Event resources came from the following organizations:

1. Cupertino ARES/RACES: Twenty-one (21) CARES members participated in the event.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>
Rob Mark	N1KUH
Graciela Romero	KJ6ANV
Judy Halchin	KK6EWQ
Steve Hill	KK6FPI
Max Lanfranconi	KK6FSV
Judy Wang	KI6WEF
Walt Gyger	K6WGY
Phil Harris	WA2KDX
Janet Motha	KF6PUQ
Ken Ericksen	KI6SYY
Fari Aberg	KF6UVS
Skip Stevens	WA6VFD
Bob Cascone	KJ6WBF
Gerd Goette	KI6WEJ
Allan Gongtang	KD6QPP
Rohan Agrawal	KJ6LXV
Stuart Chessen	KF6RZR
Isabel Rodriquez	KK6ISA
Mark Laubach	K6FJC
Andrew Hall	KI6DRD
Jim Oberhofer	KN6PE

2. Others: The following individuals visited during the event.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Tony Bowden	KF6CNT	Santa Clara County Fire

Tim Maguire	KF6IRE	Santa Clara County Fire
Larry Carr	KE6AGJ	ARRL Asst. Section Manager
James Armstrong	NV6W	ARRL Asst. Section Manager
George Williams	N6NKT	American Red Cross
Orrin Mahoney	none	Cupertino City Council member
Rod Sinks	none	Cupertino Vice Mayor

**Performance against Objectives:**

1. Practice off-the-grid field deployment

Results: **SATISFACTORY**. The event was held outdoors, with all equipment being powered by generators, batteries, and solar panel. CARES members brought and deployed their own equipment, including two HF stations and antennas, a 30-foot antenna mast, and two packet stations. The CARES communications van was also deployed, as were city-owned generators and tents.

2. Practice HF operations

Results: **SATISFACTORY**. Four operators practiced at making contest contacts with some success, though band propagation was poor that day.

3. Practice with and educate each other about various other radio equipment and technologies

Results: **SATISFACTORY**. CARES members gave demos and shared knowledge about mesh networks, Amateur TV, and using a spectrum analyzer. There was also practice with packet radio and NTS messages.

4. Meet informally with representatives of some of CARES' served agencies and ARRL officials

Results: **SATISFACTORY**.

- Two members of the Santa Clara County Fire Department, a served agency, visited the site and talked with CARES members.
- A representative of the Silicon Valley chapter of the American Red Cross, a served agency, visited the site and talked with CARES members.
- Larry Carr and James Armstrong, both Assistant Section Managers of ARRL, visited the site and talked with CARES members.

5. Educate the public and city officials about CARES, Cupertino Citizen Corps, and emergency preparedness

Results: **SATISFACTORY**. The event was held in a public plaza in front of the public library, so it was visible and accessible to the public.

- CARES members staffed an information booth, answering questions and handing out brochures on CARES, CERT, MRC, ARRL, emergency preparedness, the role of amateur radio in emergencies, and more. 51 people signed the visitors log.
- Two members of the Cupertino City Council, including the Vice-Mayor, visited the event and were educated about CARES.
- CARES members staffed a Get-On-The-Air station where non-hams could talk on a ham radio. Four visitors took advantage of this opportunity.

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**iv. Chronological Summary of Event / Drill / Exercise**

CARES operated this event under activation number CUP-14-18T. The following is a summary of the event timeline. All times listed here are in local time. CARES members arrived and left throughout the day, as the event did not require all-day attendance by individual members.

Time	Description, Notes, Comments
0800	First CARES members arrive at the site
800	City trailer with tables, tents, chairs, generators, etc. arrives at the site
0815	Safety briefing and planning session
0830	Members begin setting up radio equipment, tents and tables, information booth

Time	Description, Notes, Comments
0830	Communications van arrives
1045	Operations briefing and safety check
1100	Site opens to the public and operations begin
1245	Lunch
1700	Operations cease, members begin taking down and putting away equipment and supplies
1730	Communications van departs
1800	Site is clear, all city supplies are in the trailer
1800	City trailer departs, volunteers depart

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**v. Response at SEMS Levels (as appropriate):**

Include a summary, conclusions, the field response, and other local, operational area, regional, state or federal response.

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**vi. Interacting Systems, Agencies, and Programs:**

Include mutual aid systems (law enforcement, fire/rescue, medical, etc.); cooperating entities (utilities, American Red Cross, Sheriff's Office, City Departments, etc.); telecommunications and media interactions.

Members of the Cupertino City Council and two of CARES' served agencies, American Red Cross and Santa Clara County Fire Department, visited the CARES Field Day event. This was a good, informal opportunity for education about CARES and for relationship building.

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**vii. Improvements, Conclusions, Recommendations:**

As applicable, include a description of actions taken, assignments, associated costs or budget, timetable for completion or correction, and follow-up responsibility.

The following is a summary of the key conclusions and recommendations.

**What worked**

- Engagement with the public was good.
- The number of visits by city officials and served agencies was good. The County Fire officials stayed and chatted for several hours.

**What didn't work / needs improvement**

- The number of CARES members taking advantage of the opportunity to practice or learn HF operations was small—3 experienced HF operators and 1 member new to HF.
- Field Day has a strong focus on HF operations, though almost all of CARES training and expected emergency activities involve VHF and UHF communications, not HF.

**Recommendations**

- Perhaps we should try to add a similar annual activity more focussed on the frequency bands most used by CARES.
- A better form for the GOTA station log is needed. The form provided by ARRL doesn't have space for all the required information, and doesn't adequately emphasize the information that's required for contest credit.

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**viii. Logs, attachments:**

As applicable, include a description of actions taken, assignments, associated costs or budget, timetable for completion or correction, and follow-up responsibility.

End of Report.