

Cupertino CERT  
Search and Rescue Drill  
March 15, 2009

Activation Number: CUP-09-16T

Location: Results Way Warehouse Santa Clara County Fire Training Site

Time: 0900-1200

Goal: Exercise the response of CERT Search and Rescue Team and execute a search.

Scenario: CERT members are automatically activated after an earthquake. They checked their family, home and neighborhood and then went to their ARK. After arriving the CERT members were deployed to the Results Way site to be part of the Search and Rescue Team. Upon arriving at the site they had to organize and search the building.

Site preparation: Prepared doorways, set victims and hazards around building

Summary:

0900- Arrived and signed in

0915 briefing

0920 Set up Command Post Leader

    Communications Plan

    Search Plan

1004 Switched to Ch 2 backup due to traffic on Ch 1, Assigned Ch 3 as backup

1030 Aftershock 3 whistle blows

1032 Search Teams returned to command post. One team missing.

1130 exercise ended

1135 Debrief

1200 Event Concluded

Remarkable Issues:

Overall, the exercise was very successful and met the defined goals. Since this was the first time we used this venue we learned this is a very good venue for this type of exercise. The volunteers were very well prepared, energetic and full of great ideas.

Debrief Comments:

1. Equipment-
  - PPE review (Leather and Med gloves, N95 mask)
  - Flashlights need stronger lamps,
  - Headlamps need to stay on the hard hats
  - Hand warmers

Door wedges  
Clipboards (need to offer some protection from the weather)  
Hard Hat comfort (extended time is it comfortable)  
Clothing Base layers (LD Comfort)  
Bandanas  
SOG (Standard Operating Guide)

2. Documentation- write in the rain paper for forms that are used in the field.  
ICS214a Individual Log, ICS214 Unit Log, ICS211 Sign In sheet,  
Also need some kind of clipboard that is protected from the elements.
3. Communications- Setting a communication plan is essential. We had FRS radios  
Primary channel 1 sub 1 with a back up 2 sub 2. We had to change  
channels and were able to have everyone change to the back up channel  
with out having to announce on the radio the channel they changed to.
4. Safety Assessment- this was a very large building and we had no knowledge of  
the building layout. We decided to send in a team to take a look at the lay  
out and that really helped with developing the search plan. The building  
was divided into pieces and each team took a piece to search.
5. Door marking- We found that we all knew that the doors needed to be marked.  
We did have some variation on how they were actually marked. We need  
to be very consistent so that we know the status of the search.
6. Personal Care- It was a cold morning and three hours gave us a chance to  
experience cold, fatigue, hydration and hunger. This is a good lesson to be  
sure that we take care of ourselves. The person in charge is responsible  
for the well being of all members.  
Being in good physical condition is important.
7. Drill scenario- Put them on one piece of paper no cover sheet. Next time maybe  
we can have cardboard cut outs for victims.
8. Teams- We kept a team outside to rest but to also have a team available to go in if  
needed.
9. Search patterns- determine the exits. This can be noted on the exterior  
assessment.
10. Welfare checks- as part of the communication plan this was difficult to execute.  
The scribe at the command post was overwhelmed with the  
communication and welfare checks. This would be better served to be  
assigned to another person.

11. How many people do you need to run a search?- The command post could use a few support people. The communications person needs a scribe. A person the handle the sheltering and care of the team is needed too. So the IC should request from logistics these other resources.
12. Animals- We had a couple of snakes at this drill. This may happen for real and we should see about some training on handling of animals.