

South Skyline Nov. 18, 2016 Drill Summary

On Friday, November 18, 2016 at 2000 hours South Skyline held an emergency drill. The scenario was a large earthquake that had knocked out all phone / cell communications.

Drill objectives were:

1. Utilize our community response teams (group leaders, CERTs, residents with medical training, HAM operators, other volunteers) in an exercise which involves damage assessment, triage and transportation of victims.
2. Assess ability to activate community resources: CERT, medical and HAM operators to appropriate areas of operation.
3. Test effectiveness of community communication infrastructure: In Portola Heights, GMRS and 2m simplex; in Las Cumbres, MURS and 2m simplex.
4. Test effectiveness of communication with the EOC in Las Cumbres, Ham operators in Portola Heights and a mobile station at the medical triage center in Castanea Ridge on 2m and 6m. ICS Form 205 Emergency Comm Plan attached.

Participating neighborhoods were: Primarily Portola Heights / Castanea Ridge and Las Cumbres, with one GMRS radio operator from Monkey Rock.

Summary Report from Las Cumbres:

- Participating were: two Hams (one on standby); three MURS operators (one Operations Manager, one scribe, one radio room operator); 10 Cluster Leaders with MURS radios active in the community, checking on homes.
- It took too long to set up the EOC radio antennas. Need to have better storage organization of the antennas and cables, with labels of what goes where. Need to modify antenna mast deck rail strapping for more rapid deployment.
- Cluster Leaders were already active in the field with no central controlled net. Relied on field relays to EOC, which resulted in some confusion since there was no net control and several people were trying to communicate to Cluster Leaders. Need better IC structure and better field relay protocols and training for this likely scenario.
- Ham radio comms went well (CM 4/5) between Las Cumbres and the medical facility at Castanea Ridge. Tested two 2m repeaters: (1) CASTLE K6FB – 145.450; (2) CMD31 – WA6SCF – 146.730 and 6m FM. Also tested 2m simplex using hand held with good antennas with marginal but usable results (CM2/3).

Summary Report from Portola Heights / Castanea Ridge / Monkey Rock:

- Participating were: four Hams and ten GMRS operators.
- Once the “event” happened, there was a GMRS check-in to determine immediate needs. One victim was identified in Portola Heights. No medical personnel were available in the immediate area for triage. Arrangements were made with the medical director from Castanea Ridge to come transport the victim to the medical facility in Castanea Ridge. Transportation of the victim went well.
- One Ham operator was assigned the role of Net Control for communications with Las Cumbres, one Ham operator was assigned the role of GMRS Net Control for the neighborhoods and one

Ham Operator was dispatched to the medical facility to set up a mobile station. Communication between all four Ham operators was conducted on 2 m simplex (VTAC34 – 146.535).

- GMRS communications went well, with the following exceptions: Medical Director at Castanea Ridge had some difficulty receiving while indoors; once he moved outside, signal strength was good. Signal from Monkey Rock could be received in Castanea Ridge, the front gate of Portola Heights (CM 1/2) and from a couple of locations in Portola Heights, but not all. Excellent use of relays to resolve both issues.
- Mobile station at medical facility was set up fairly quickly, after resolving a power issue.
- Ham radio comms went well (CM 4/5) between Las Cumbres and the medical facility at Castanea Ridge. Tested two 2m repeaters: (1) CASTLE K6FB – 145.450; (2) CMD31 – WA6SCF – 146.730 and 6m FM. Ham communications within the neighborhood of Castanea Ridge and Portola Heights on VTAC34 was excellent (CM5).

Plans:

- Involve more South Skyline neighborhoods. GMRS radios are being purchased for residents of Monkey Rock and Rosemary Lane.
- Possibly obtain a GMRS repeater that can link the neighborhoods.
- Activate the South Skyline CERT Team.
- Include field search and rescue activities.