TRAINING SESSION 5

FIELD EXERCISE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Field Exercise Committee
March 9, 2006

<u>THE FIELD EXERCISE</u>

This is a practice exercise, so don't be concerned if mistakes are made – this is how we learn. This exercise is not the 'real thing', but it will give us a chance to practice what we have learned in class so that many of the procedures and protocols will become 'second nature' when we are called upon to help in a real disaster or emergency. Let's all have fun and learn from this experience.

There are not going to be any surprises or "planned" unexpected events. We are here to practice what we have learned in class, so let's focus on these key elements of being a good emergency responder and communicator.

Date: Thursday, March 9, 2006
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 PM
Working Frequency: W6WLS/r, 147.18(+) PL 94.8.

<u>OBJECTIVES</u>. The objectives of the Field Exercise are:
- To practice Resource Net Control procedures and protocols.
    - Use of the "Resource Station Requirement Log"
    - Use of the "Resource Availability Listing"
    - Use of the " Resource Assignment Log"
    - Checking in with the Resource Net Control Station.
    - Getting an assignment from Resource Net Control.
    - Checking out with Resource NCS when arriving on station.
    - Checking in with Tactical NCS when on station.
- To practice Tactical Net Control procedures and protocols:
    - Use of "tactical" call signs.
    - Use of ham call signs.
    - Listen before PTT.
    - Think about what you want to say before PTT.
    - Use of "common" language.
    - Clear & concise communications.
- To practice proper techniques for informal and formal message handling:
    - Use of the ARES "Tactical Message Log Sheet"
    - Use of the ICS-213 "(Formal) General Message Form"
    - Compose in your mind the msg you want to convey before PTT.
    - Sending the message using the proper tactical net techniques.
    - Logging all your msgs; in & out.
    - Insuring that all msgs that were inquires (questions) received an answer back.
- **MANDITORY CRITIQUE: As a requirement of Training Session #5 and completion of the course, each participant is required to send an email within 5 days of the Field Exercise to the instructor, Rich Hanset (KI6EH@K6BJ.org), with the following information**:
    - In a couple of sentences, what was your 'immediate' reaction to the Field Exercise?
    - What three things did you learn from the Field Exercise?
    - What do we need more practice at?
    - How would you improve the series of training sessions?

CREDITS

Many thanks go to the committee that planned this Field Exercise. Without them it wouldn't take place. They include:

- Frank Wyatt N6FW who wrote the original scenario.
- Allan Handforth KC6VJL who organized the scenario, added the basic messages and adjusted the scenario for proper served agency procedures.
- Greg Harbustan KI6BJI who arranged for and advised on the technical aspects of the exercise.
- Cap Pennell KE6AFE who advised on proper techniques and message handling protocols.
- Jack Scanlon KQ6CH for helping with the event planning.
- Vic Linderholm AE6ID for helping with the scenario.
- Mike Mistor W6WLS for the use of his repeater system for this exercise.

FIELD EXERCISE

SCENARIO "RAINY VALLEY":

It has been raining steadily over the watershed of the San Lorenzo Valley and the rest of Santa Cruz County with rain fall rates in excess of ½" per hour for most of the last three (3) days. As the rain continues, roads are starting to become blocked and water levels are getting extremely high in all of the creeks and the San Lorenzo River. The power is off in most of the San Lorenzo Valley.

The Santa Cruz County EOC and the Santa Cruz Red Cross are activated. The San Lorenzo EOC has been established at Felton CDF.

The Tactical Net Control Station call is "SAN LORENZO EOC".
Working Frequency: W6WLS/r, 147.18 (+) PL 94.8
Tactical and Resource Nets will be run concurrently on the same frequency.

For purposes of this exercise, the following Station Assignments have been made:

Station Assignments:

Tactical Call	Formal Designation
Shift Supervisor (DEC)	ARES Shift Supervisor (DEC – Cap Pennell, KE6AFE)
County EOC	Santa Cruz EOC
San Lorenzo EOC	Tactical Net Control Station
Resource Net Control	Resource Net Control Station
Santa Cruz Red Cross	Santa Cruz Red Cross Chapter House

BEGINNING OF THE EXERCISE – RAINY VALLEY

Announcement to be made by the <u>Shift Supervisor</u> over the radio to begin the exercise:

"THIS IS A PRACTICE EXERCISE.

"This is the Field Exercise that is Part 5 of the ARES Training Sessions. The purpose of this Field Exercise is to practice the procedures and protocols learned as part of the Training program.

"This Field Exercise is a requirement for completion of the Training Sessions. Visitors are welcome to participate but they will be assigned after class participants have been given their assignments and as positions or stations are available.

"Scenario: It has been raining steadily over the watershed of the San Lorenzo Valley and the rest of Santa Cruz County with rain fall rates in excess of ½" per hour for most of the last three (3) days. As the rain continues, roads are starting to become blocked and water levels are getting extremely high in all of the creeks and the San Lorenzo River. The power is off in most of the San Lorenzo Valley.

"The Santa Cruz County EOC and the Santa Cruz Red Cross have been activated. The San Lorenzo EOC has been established at Felton CDF.

"Resource Net and Tactical Net for this exercise are Directed Nets. If you have emergency battery power, please use it for this exercise.

[At this point:
- *The Shift Supervisor calls the Resource Net Control Station.*
- *The Shift Supervisor makes a new station request for the "Mountain Resource Center in Ben Lomond" by giving the information req'd on the "Resource Station Requirement Log Sheet."*
- *Following the request for the new station (Mountain Resource Center), the Shift Supervisor turns the 'net' over to the Resource Net Control Station so that they can begin taking check-ins.]*

"I now turn the Training Exercise over to the Resource Net Control Station to begin taking volunteer check ins." de Shift Supervisor [call sign]"

RESOURCE NET CONTROL

"THIS IS A PRACTICE EXERCISE.

"This is Resource Net Control Station _____ .

"Assignments will be given at the end of check in. Due to time constraints, volunteers are requested to simulate the travel to and their actual assigned location or station. No station or assignment details will be given as part of the assignments from Resource Net Control. For this exercise assume all appropriate information about the Tactical Assignment has been given.

"I will take Check-ins first, then I will call you back with your assignment. Once given your assignment, you can assume that you have been "checked out" with Resource Net Control.

For purposes of expediency, Tactical Net Control will do a roll call of all assigned stations and assignments prior to the beginning of the Tactical Net portion of this exercise.

"This is Resource Net Control Station _____ requesting check-ins for the "Rainy Valley" flood event.   We will take Training Class participants volunteers first. Please check in now:"

> *Note:*
> - *[RNCS should be filling out the 3 Resource Net Forms.]*
> - *After taking all check-ins, call the volunteers back with their specific assignments.*

[GIVE ASSIGNMENTS TO ALL CHECK-INS (class participants have first priority for assignments).]

"This is Resource Net Control Station _____ turning the exercise over to Tactical Net Control."

> - *After all assignments have been made, turn the frequency over to Tactical Net Control.*

Instructions to Field Exercise participants:

1. Following is a script for most all the tactical messages for the Tactical Net. Please follow the script, in order, noting the comments between [ ] for additional information or instructions.

2. Listen carefully, non-assigned Tactical Locations will be skipped and the script will continue with additional messages as time allows, as appropriate.

   • Use the 2 different message forms (Tactical Message Log Sheet and ICS-213 General Message Form), for this exercise.

   • All "Informal" messages, both to and from your Tactical location, must be logged on the "Tactical Message Log Sheet.

3. "Formal" messages will be will be logged on the "ICS-213 General Message Form". Formal messages must be copied word-for-word and must contain the name and title of the person to whom the message is being sent to and the name and title of the person originating the message. *Alert: Be prepared! Everyone will receive at least 1 Formal Message*.

4. Each Tactical Station is responsible for sending at least one and possibly two (2) "informal" tactical messages to another tactical station. The "subject content" of the message that you are to communicate to another tactical station is given below. It is your responsibility to format the message properly to convey the precise meaning in the least number of words. This is to be done before PTT!

5. Please observe the proper tactical net protocol and the use of Tactical and ham call signs. For example, one of the scripts on the following page reads:

   "Redwood Shelter, Santa Cruz Red Cross, Ask for 30 more cots and 60 more blankets."

   > You as the communicator at "Redwood Shelter" have been asked by the shelter manager to obtain from "Santa Cruz Red Cross" 30 more cots and 60 more blankets. Therefore, you would create the following message and communicate it as required. An example of the message you might create is:

   • San Lorenzo EOC, Redwood Shelter, Directed call (to) Santa Cruz Red Cross
   • San Lorenzo EOC: Go ahead (with your traffic)
   • Santa Cruz Red Cross, Redwood Shelter
   • Santa Cruz Red Cross, what's your traffic
   • Need additional 30 Cots, 60 Blankets; de Redwood Shelter, [FCC Call-sign]
   • Copy, will get back to you with an ETA; de Santa Cruz Red Cross, [FCC Call-sign]

TACTICAL NET CONTROL:

"THIS IS A PRACTICE EXERCISE.

"This is Tactical Net Control Station _____ .

"Scenario update: It has been raining steadily over the watershed of the San Lorenzo Valley and the rest of Santa Cruz County with rain fall rates in excess of ½" per hour for most of the last three (3) days. As the rain continues, roads are starting to become blocked and water levels are getting extremely high in all of the creeks and the San Lorenzo River. The power is off in most of the San Lorenzo Valley.

"The Santa Cruz County EOC and the Santa Cruz Red Cross have been activated. The San Lorenzo EOC has been established at Felton CDF.

"There will now be a roll call of all deployed tactical stations: [TNCS do a roll call].

"We now join the exercise in progress and that each station follow the script as shown below, beginning with the County EOC requesting a status report from the San Lorenzo EOC…

Tactical Net Training Message "Subject Content"

From Tactical Call	To Tactical Call	Message Subject/Context	Immediate Reply
County EOC	San Lorenzo EOC	Status of EOC Preparation	100% as needed
Santa Cruz Red Cross	San Lorenzo EOC	Status Roll-call all Shelters	
	Felton Comm. Shelter	Opening status, # Clients	still setting up, 10
	Redwood Shelter	Opening status, # Clients	ready, none
	St. Michaels Shelter	Opening status, # Clients	ready, 3
	Scotts Valley Shelter	Opening status, # Clients	still setting up, none
	Zayante Fire Shelter	Opening status, # Clients	still setting up, 6
Santa Cruz Red Cross	San Lorenzo EOC	Status complete, return control	
Valley Mission	San Lorenzo EOC	Have over 50 sandbags ready	
Mountain Resource	San Lorenzo EOC	Report current CERT volunteers and 4 wheel trucks	
Ben Lomond Fire	San Lorenzo EOC	Need 5 additional portable Street Pumps	
Scotts Valley Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Need a sign kit	
San Lorenzo EOC	County EOC	Ben Lomond Fire needs 5 additional street pumps	

Boulder Creek Fire	San Lorenzo EOC	Need 30 Sandbags and transportation
San Lorenzo EOC	Mountain Resource	Need 4 wheel and driver pick up 30 sandbags and deliver to and help Boulder Creek Fire

Break (back to back calls)

San Lorenzo EOC	Valley Mission	Hold priority 30 sandbags for CERT pickup
Felton Comm. Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Need Nurse for Special Needs Client
Felton Fire	San Lorenzo EOC	Report tree damaged house Empire Grade Rd Need Red Cross help
San Lorenzo EOC	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Client needs help 2500 Empire Grade Rd.
Redwood Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Have drunks disrupting shelter operations
Santa Cruz Red Cross	County EOC	Request Sheriff Unit to respond
St Michaels Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Need food for 20 people
Zayante Fire Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Need 4 packages Client Registration Forms
San Lorenzo EOC	All Monitors	Please check in status

[Note: Some of these may not have been assigned - if no quick response, skip over]

Lompico	San Lorenzo EOC	River at banks
Boulder Creek Dam	San Lorenzo EOC	Water high but stable
Felton Grove	San Lorenzo EOC	Water has reached bridge and debris causing flow problems
Paradise Park	San Lorenzo EOC	Few homes starting to flood – residents provided shelter in Park
Loch Lomond	San Lorenzo EOC	Flooding over banks – nothing threatened
Glen Arbor	San Lorenzo EOC	Water just below Bridge
Smith Woods	San Lorenzo EOC	A little water – holding our own
Brookdale Lodge	San Lorenzo EOC	Brookdale Lodge evacuated – water flooding gardens
Monitor 1	San Lorenzo EOC	On Lompico Rd – Debris building and causing some street flooding

Santa Cruz Red Cross All Shelters   Formal Message – copy as given

Situational Report: [Given by the Shift Supervisor]
"The rain continues to pour but not as heavy. All shelters are starting to reach capacity and excess clients are being bused to Scotts Valley Shelter as long as the roads remain passable. The Fire departments are clearing downed trees and doing river rescues as needed. CERT is being used for various tasks through out the San Lorenzo Valley. …This is a Training Exercise"

Redwood Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Response to Formal Message 20 dinners, 30 clients
Scotts Valley Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Response to Formal Message 49 dinners, 80 clients and growing
Boulder Creek Fire	San Lorenzo EOC	Need Addition CERT for lost child search
San Lorenzo EOC	Mountain Resource	Send as many capable volunteer to Boulder Creek Fire for foot search duty
St Michaels Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Response to Formal Message 36 dinners, 32 clients
Felton Comm. Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Response to Formal Message 106 dinners, 136 clients
Boulder Creek Dam	San Lorenzo EOC	Water 6 inch overflow, also controlled released started
Zayante Fire Shelter	Santa Cruz Red Cross	Response to Formal Message 56 dinners, 40 clients
Ben Lomond Fire	San Lorenzo EOC	Any response on the Street Pump request - No

[At 8:55PM or the end of the messages, whichever comes first:]

Shift Supervisor	All Participants	Formal Message – copy as given