

1) Deployment Massage from PBEM

The team expected a call right at 12:45 pm. Text messages started coming in at 12:46 wondering if they missed the call. The call came through at 12:47 pm.

2) Participant Deployment to Staging Area

As per our CV Ops Plan, NET members were to check in on FRS channel 7 as they deployed from their residences to CV Net Control .Each of the 12 members had pre assigned walking maps to engage with practice on Form 1 Damage Assessment. Along the walking route I had placed 6 red envelopes on mailboxes that the members were to collect and fill out the form with the information that was inside. Out of the 6 envelopes, 2 were scenarios that I had asked to radio in.

With 12 members deploying at the same time – we had an overwhelming FRS communication with members talking over each other. I had sent out an email about radio protocol on 10/10/18. Before I sent it out, I copied the ARO for this neighborhood to make sure I was giving them correct information. With a few minor adjustments the email went out. Interpretations of the “script” for radio protocol varied from members with little to no real experience with radio communication to members who were familiar with use of a radio.

As far as the radio communications along the walking route to the staging area, I think members heard other members calling in scenarios and they had gathered a couple of their own envelopes that were not specified to call in and thought they should be calling in all envelope scenarios which caused way too much traffic for CV Net Control to handle. CV Net Control was explaining to the members that it wasn't necessary to call in everything which again, some members understood and others didn't. Maybe it was just the case of not listening to the traffic – I don't know. CV Net Control also asked for a “Standby” quite a few times and members weren't sure if that meant for a minute, or if they were asked to stop walking the route, so after silence for a short time, the calls started coming in again.

3) Role Assignments

I had preplanned the IC assignment, the ARO assignment and a Volunteer Coordinator (a NET member who has mobility problems).The IC and ARO came to

the staging area at 12:30 to set up the staging area. The Volunteer Coordinator drove to the staging area after the deployment message went out. That person was the third one there at 12:55. As members came from their walking routes they were instructed to sign in on Form 2A. They were instructed to fill out a 3X5 index card which included their name, time they arrived, whether they were NET or SUV and any skills they might have. They were to give their Damage Assessment forms to IC and the index card to Operations Chief.

The Operations Chief was assigned a scribe and another scribe was assigned to IC. Another one of our ARO's for the neighborhood was assigned to CV Net Control already at the staging area.

The IC was given a scenario for a light search and rescue team to go to a pre-arranged private residence to find a scenario taped to the garage with a "scavenger hunt" theme to find items I had placed in the yard (all with red duct tape on the items), to locate the main water meter, the gas meter and to radio in the location of the meters to CV Net Control. The IC was given 3 different addresses for teams to get assigned by Ops Chief. After 1 ½ hours, the IC gave the role of Ops Chief to another NET member for experience.

After the first initial chaos with the radio communication the plan went very well.

4) **Radio Scenarios**

I gave the IC a message that a 7.5 aftershock, shaking for two minutes had just happened, while teams were out on search and rescue missions. IC contacted the ARO asking for check-ins of the teams to make sure everyone was safe.

What information that was to be transmitted in was unclear. One team communicated "This is the red team and all four members are safe". The other team communicated "This is Net 14, we are all ok."

The IC, Ops, Scribes and Volunteer Coordinator all communicated that they were safe.

Again – we need to work on radio communications.

I had requested a message from ECC to our CV Net Control that was to be passed on to the South Burlingame Team. The message was to let the Collin View Net know that the stadium structure at Lewis and Clark College had been deemed safe and that Red Cross would be airlifting tents, medical supplies, and personnel starting 10/15/2018 and setting up a field hospital.

That message never got out of ECC and after listening to the Netnet on Sunday night I realized that it was a low priority message and there wasn't enough time to get all messages out to the individual teams.

I was under the assumption that if radio communications from a search and rescue team needed a reply, that message should be written on a Form 8. There were many pieces of paper being passed from IC down to OPS down to Volunteer Coordinator (who was also in charge of inventory of supplies) then back to CV Net Control for radio transmission that made a need to have a SUV be the carrier of such paperwork between departments. IC to know what was happening, OPS to follow the teams out in the field, and then to see if the request from the team could be granted by the Volunteer Coordinator either by inventory or SUVs.

5) **Radio Operations**

I expected the CV Net Control to be the most competent phase of this exercise. We had three very competent Net member AROs who were extremely professional in all radio transmissions.

The consensus of the CV Net members was that indeed, these AROs are the best asset we have in a real emergency.

6) **Search and Rescue/ Size-Up Scenarios**

I had planned on 5 search and rescue scenarios. We only had time for 3 scenarios. I attached paper to the garages, next to the envelope that had the scenario in it. The paper was to be used for Search Marking practice. Even though they had found people with minor injuries, one team leader decided not to use the paper for Marking X and putting in the information because they never went into the house. The teams also had to find certain items which I did not say what they were, but I did tell them how many items to find in either the front yard or property, marked with red duct tape and to bring them all back to the staging area. Items I used were: gallon water jugs, shovels, scissors, wooden stakes, crowbar, 3 in 1 tool, putty spatula, rebar pieces, fire extinguisher, hammer, and spray can of paint.

Most of the teams found the items and brought them back to the staging area.

We did have a discussion about the scenario that there were two teenage boys at home by themselves and they were scared. Both parents were at work and communications were severed.

We decided that if we had two qualified SUVs, we would send them there with a FRS radio until we came up with a better plan. If we didn't have the SUVs we would send NET Members.

7) **Neighboring Team Scenarios**

I know that we had radio communications with South Burlingame. I'm not sure what the content was.

I also know that the scenario I prepared didn't get transmitted.

8) **Documentation**

Preparation for this exercise included individual plastic storage clipboards filled with forms that would be needed for a natural disaster. Each storage clipboard had the command position easily recognizable for clarification of roles. Laminated Role Cards were included along with 3 to 4 sharpened pencils. IC had copies of all forms to give to other command staff if they needed more. We had ordered stick on clocks a month in advance of this exercise but, we have not received them. Each container will have its own clock with an extra battery for the next event.

We had some confusion as to what forms to use when giving the OPS a problem to solve and then what form goes out with the team and who fills out the form when the team transmits information back to CVNet Control.

We decided that the IC fills out form 4 and sends it to OPS. OPS fills out form 3 and gives form 4 to the team leader who is going out in the field with a team. The scribe for OPS listened to the radio and filled in the form 3 as the team transmitted information.

We also used a cork board with the "pass port" system. That involved the Ops Chief to move the index cards with the members name out of the "personnel" column and placed under one of the three team columns so all staff could see at a quick glance where members were assigned.

A lot of paper forms were generated for a three hour exercise. We need to work on a filing system to keep forms that have been completed safe and sound.

I will assume that documentation by the CV Net Control were correct.

9) **Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers / Community Members**

I put a message on NextDoor a month before the exercise explaining the Deployment Exercise that we were participating in and requesting neighbors who wished to volunteer to private message me. I never got any response. I sent the same message on the Sunday before the event again on NextDoor. Again, no response.

I expected a few SUVs and we had 1 show up. That SUV was primarily a runner for CV Net Control to the command staff with transmitted messages coming into CVNet Control. This was very much appreciated. He summarized the event as WW3.

10) **Post – Exercise Team Hot Wash**

I was expecting not everyone to stay for the Hot Wash. I was wrong.

I went through the questions on the hot wash handout and we had quite a few good suggestions.

What is high priority on the radio?

Dealing with interference on channel 7 with a father and daughter playing a game. We could also hear Markham Net Control.

Once a member has been assigned a position, they become that tactical call sign (Logistics) not their net check-in number. Need full addresses transmitted in when out in the field ex: Street, Drive Court. We have many streets named the same except for either Drive or Court or Street.

Form 1 Assessment Forms need an extra blank row before the next address for extra comments.

Overall impressions

11) **Overall, what went well?**

Overall, whole experience was fantastic. We had never deployed and followed our Operation Plan. I was very proud of our NET members. We will be revising our Operation Plan.

12) **Overall, what could have gone better?**

Radio chaos between 12:45 and 1:15. Instead of IC being so concerned with mapping trouble spots on the map, spending time with individuals as they were assigned a role, going over the materials in their storage clipboard and making sure

they knew what role they were assigned to. A storage clipboard was handed to individuals with the thought that they would go through the paperwork and understand what they were supposed to do.

13) Overall, what did you learn from this?

I learned that no matter how much thought goes into preparing for a disaster, it will not go off without some kind of hiccup. I learned that Collins View has great NET members. Willing to jump in and help out wherever needed. Every one of the members learned something from this exercise.

I learned that I need to really think about the information I give out before the exercise to members.

14) Feedback for the Exercise Planners

I'm not sure where to go on this information. I think what I had planned went very well. It took many hours of organizing for our neighborhood. With so many different geographic and situational neighborhoods in Portland I don't think making one comprehensive exercise plan would work. I am very interested to learn what other neighborhoods planned. My original goal was to follow our Operation Plan to see how it would really work. I was not very excited to get emails Saturday night and Sunday morning with more instruction. By then I was done planning and getting the members ready to participate.

I think all team members should be able to peruse the hot wash comments from the exercise coordinator for each team involved to see the different styles of deployment.