

Cal Ex 02-11 After Action Report

This report is an attempt to capture the history, lessons learned and recommendations pursuant to the implementation of Cal Ex 02-11.

This exercise was planned to test not only the validity of the latest modifications to the call out tree but to add a factor testing what would happen if the NCS were to have station problems causing a shift to an ANCS. In addition, the plan called for use of a digital mode to relay directives pertaining to the transfer of control and to emphasize the need to utilize digital modes more extensively.

The exercise was activated on July 23, 2011. The activation commenced on frequency RR immediately following the completion of net 9ECS01 at 1630Z. Approximately 60% of the members listed on the tree participated. Only one phone number was found to be incorrect (being corrected).

Although propagation conditions were not conducive to short skip transmission and reception the activation of an Alternate Net Control Station (ANCS) outside of the short skip radius did permit reasonably good communication with all reporting members.

All objectives were met or exceeded with a total check in count of 22 counting 5 out of state participants.

Lessons Learned

1. California covers an area that cannot always be expected to favor good connectivity on any currently available frequency and in all probability will require an ANCS located geographically separated sufficiently from the NCS to cover long skip conditions. **
2. All telephone numbers need to be verified from time to time to ensure accuracy. **
3. The call out roster needs to be flexible enough to accommodate new members and eliminate members no longer considered active. **
4. Further encouragement is needed to foster greater participation in such exercises. **
5. The exercises need to be expanded to include practice message handling and more realistic on air disruptions along with further inclusion of digital methods of communication. .

6. Exercises should generally be limited to a State wide activity since real emergencies are generally local in nature. In fact for California a reasonable case could be raised predicated on dividing the State into northern and southern units for the same reason. **
7. A process needs to be developed for allocating the responsibility of first responder to an emergency call out (activation of the tree) in the event that primary officials are not available (included in this exercise).
8. Sister services should be part of any emergency response real or not. **
9. Alternate modes of information transfer should be exercised where and when possible (included in this exercise).
10. Alternate frequencies should be tested and utilized during the exercise event. **
11. Long duration emergency response nets will require a reasonable distribution of member time on frequency and workload sharing for NCS/ANCS duties. **

Note: ** indicated observation from exercise 01 as well.

Recommendations **Including Observations and Opinions**

Although the exercise was considered very successful continued improvements can always be made. During the planning phase and all during the exercise development, implementation, and post exercise process input from all members must be sought out, encouraged and included.

The current method of formatting the call out tree by area code seems to be the correct method. Additional use of VHF repeater calls within local calling areas should be utilized.

Above all we must continue to remember that we serve others and thus must be willing to search out agencies that are interested in utilizing our unique capabilities. Once they establish a willingness to call upon us it is expected that they will recognize our level of ability, capability and professionalism and come to rely on us during the response to actual emergency events.

Ultimately it is hoped that an umbrella agency will act as our primary source for call out to assist and be willing to participate on a reciprocal basis in more realistic composite exercises.

Future Events

One additional exercise is planned for October 2011 and will be constructed to test more of the lessons learned thus far. The specific date has not yet been determined.

Respectfully Submitted

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