



# The Salvation Army

## Emergency Disaster Services

### Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network



16 August 2018

## California ARES Group Developing A Disaster Assessment Program

**Pacific Palisades, CA (08/13/2018)** – According to Scott Reaser (K6TAR), the Pacific Palisades Amateur Radio Emergency Group (PPAREG) of California has started an interesting communication exercise program.

In a disaster situation, radio amateurs can canvass their neighborhoods to attempt to assess what has happened. So, for their practice sessions, PPAREG has selected a local group of blocks known as the "Alphabet Streets." The mission is to observe, collect and communicate. An on-site net control is assigned as a data collection point, while others are assigned to walk the blocks and make reports block by block.

All participants rotate assignments and experience all communication positions. They learn from mistakes and speed of data intake issues. Learning and proficiency comes from actually performing the functions in the structured environment communication and data exchange.

For data observation practice, they have started with counting parked cars on a given street, going from intersection to intersection. It's simple and non-intrusive. Message traffic counts usually amount to several dozen per operator rover/base pair for a one hour session. Another practice is to count other things such as parkway trees, motorcycles and trucks. Then, they assign these counts real life attributes such as number of residents, gas leaks, power lines down, residence fires, non-ambulatory injuries, victim non-responsive, etc. The collected findings are reported out on the appropriate ICS forms.

The community of some 30,000 residents is situated between the mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Landslides can block road access, take down infrastructure and residents are cut off and left to manage on their own. They are the focus of the assessments, outreach and communications in order to help them get the assistance they need.

PPAREG is interested in gaining more traction for their practice by establishing some more formal agreements, MOUs, etc. They hold up as a model, Cupertino ARES/RACES (CARES) which has partnered with the city of Cupertino, CA to create a highly tuned and polished communication/emergency response system. As a result, PPAREG reached out to CARES for assistance with its program and the forms CARES use to field collect situation/preliminary safety assessments (PSAs) in emergencies/disasters. Their goal was to help move the PPAREG monthly exercises from just counting street parked cars to a full blown disaster assessment package.



Cupertino CARES Field Day photos by KK6FRI – 24 June 2018

The Cupertino group's EC Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE, responded by sharing their advice and forms COES 105 (field form) and COES 106 (rollup form). PPAREG is working to incorporate CARES' forms and best practices to enhance their own methods.

More information can be found about the Cupertino CARES program at <https://www.cupertinoares.org>. There is also a YouTube video explaining some of the forms they use at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmm-2IBKiQQ>

## The Salvation Army Now In Samoa

**IHQ - London, UK 08/10/2018** – Just prior to his retirement, in consultation with the International Management Council, General André Cox approved the official recognition of Salvation Army work in the Independent State of Samoa (formerly known as Western Samoa) as of 01 August.

In a March 2017 letter, the Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuila'epa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, expressed a keen interest in having The Salvation Army begin work on the islands, citing drug and alcohol dependency as key issues he felt The Salvation Army could address. He wrote: "I like to think you were divinely guided...to bring the good news of your work for Samoa."

Following receipt of that letter, IHQ felt that the time was now right to seek official registration for The Salvation Army, and to appoint officers to begin to develop plans for a ministry there.

Plans were soon put in place to establish a corps and an addiction treatment center. Violence against women and children was another key area that was suggested as a focus for the Army's ministry. Sunday meetings have been taking place since May 2018, and employees, engaged to be involved in the addictions program, began work in June.

With legal registration now in place, along with an approved budget for the first three years, officers have been appointed to lead the work under the auspices of Salvation Army leadership in New Zealand in the New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory.

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