



CHRISTMAS TREE HILL NRG
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MONTHLY MEETING - VIA ZOOM
Sunday, March 27, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83497074637?pwd=N2JTdkdGU2c0eFR2QVIDV2oxRWc4dz09>

Meeting ID: 834 9707 4637 | Passcode: 229915

AGENDA

4:00 PM Call to Order and welcome

- 1. May 15th Resident Meet & Greet event planning update** (see attachment sent with meeting reminder email)
- 2. March 13th Radio Exercise Debriefing** (see attached)
- 3. New/Other business.**

5:00 PM Adjourn

REMINDERS / UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Next radio test:**

APR 11, 2022 PLEASE RSVP	Monday	8:00 PM	Suhail Chaudry or Harriet Mather
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- **Next May Event Planning Group Meeting: April 11th @ 6:00 PM (via Zoom)**
- **Next meeting date: Sunday, April 24th @ 4:00 PM (weather permitting in-person @ Menke Park)**
- **Save The Date: May 15th Resident Meet & Greet Event in Menke Park**

CTH NRG MARCH 2022 RADIO EXERCISE DEBRIEFING HIGHLIGHTS

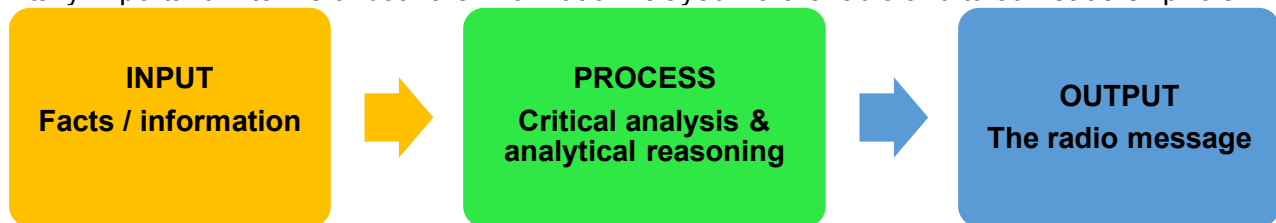
Radio Use Reminders

- Speak slowly, loudly, enunciate clearly and judiciously use words (less is better);
- Do not overuse the PTT button, in other words, if you have the floor, you need not release and then depress the PTT every time you pause in your speaking. Remember that the radio makes a loud noise when the PTT button is depressed, so the less it is used the better;
- Wait a few seconds before you speak;
- Remember important words like “copy”, “over”, “standby” “do you read me”;
- Always be mindful of the fact that CTH Command/scribes must have time to record the information being relayed.

The radio exercise was designed to emphasize the importance of the following key aspects of disaster response and radio communications:

1. Critical analysis and analytical reasoning

The analysis of facts and information, reasoning based thereon, and situational awareness is vitally important in terms of both the information relayed via the radio and to our leadership role.



The **process** applied in this exercise should ideally have taken the following key **inputs** into account in compiling the **output**:

- **IMPACT** (slight / moderate / severe)
- **INJURIES** (life threatening vs non life threatening)
- **HAZARDS** (downed power lines, roadways obstructed, collapsed roadways, etc.)
- **INFRASTRUCTURE** (collapsed homes, etc.)
- **REQUESTS** (things that your zone/block needs like CERT, medical aid, BC support, etc.)
- **ACTIONS TAKEN** (what you have done to address the above by/at the time of the radio message/briefing)

CTH NRG Team members are urged to structure radio messages using the above key categories in the order listed (**II-HI-RAT**). If all radio users follow this same format then CTH Command, Zone Coordinators, CERT team members, and scribe(s) can more easily and accurately record the information relayed.

The timeline that was provided gave a clue as to the scope of the expected preliminary assessment:

2:40 PM	Quake
3:00 PM	Radio communications system activated
3:15 PM	Aftershock
4:00 PM	Command Center activation, and initial impact assessment and actions taken.

In other words, what facts could reasonably have been gathered (some were provided in the scenario) and what actions could reasonably have been taken in the one hour and 20 minutes preceding the radio call should have been factored into the **input** (information gathering) and **process** (critical analysis/analytical reasoning), and been reflected in the **output** (the radio message).

2. Leadership and delegation

How leaders go about mounting and mobilizing a response, harnessing the power of volunteers, and delegating tasks and responsibilities was a key component of the exercise. In a real non-evacuation disaster situation the ability to lead others and mobilize volunteers so as to mount a rapid response is vitally important.

3. Deciding what information should be relayed

In a real disaster such as the one described in the scenario the need to be concise and judicious with what is shared is vitally important, especially given the number of BCs we have and the length of time it will take to gather the information needed to respond appropriately. In the scenario presented there was much information that could be shared based on the preliminary assessment, however, it is not necessary or advisable to share too much when using a 2-way radio communications network. The key question that should always be asked in any given situation is 'what is the purpose of sharing the information I am about to share'? Information should only be shared if it is relevant to others in the context of responding to the situation, or when assistance is needed, i.e., a downed power line blocking ingress/egress, a damaged roadway, a first-aid field unit set up in a location, a doctor in a specific location available to render medical assistance, the location at which there is a life-threatening injury or at which CERT assistance is sought.

Information that is not relevant to others in formulating a response or relevant to CTH Command in deploying assets should not be relayed in a situation such as the one described in the scenario.

4. The role of CERT

It is important not to automatically conflate a CERT response and a medical response. CERT is first and foremost a search and rescue function and not a medical response function. CERT trained volunteers do have basic first aid training and when appropriate, they will apply their training to assist someone they search for and rescue, but, their focus is not primarily injury focused unless the injury is life threatening and there is no one around to assist medically or transport the person. For example, a collapsed house with people inside of it that are injured, is a far greater CERT emergency than an injured person with a broken arm in a safe location, but a life-threatening emergency is a higher priority than a potential injury in a collapsed house. Therefore, in listening to radio communications CERT team members should listen carefully for situations that require their specific expertise to handle needs that are otherwise unmet, rather than just for injuries in general.

In conclusion, the exercise scenario made it clear that first responder assistance and CTH NRG CERT team assistance efforts would be severely hampered, if not impossible, which might well be the situation in a large scale earthquake disaster. The scenario called for a high degree of planning to cope without such assistance, at least initially, hence the emphasis on using and mobilizing volunteers and establishing zone staging areas.