



County of Orange RACES



NetControl

December, 1999

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Top Story

OCRACES Responds to Assist OCSD Search and Rescue

By: Lt. Mike Krueger - N6MIK

Early Sunday, November 21st, OCRACES received a request from OCSD to provide communications and command post support at the scene of a double homicide. The incident had occurred Saturday night, and the Search and Rescue Reserve Unit (SRRU) had been asked to conduct a search for additional evidence at daybreak. The scene was located on the Ortega Highway, approximately 2 miles east of Casper's Regional Park.

A total of 18 OCRACES members responded to the PagerNet and telephone call-ups shortly after their 6AM activation. Of those, 6 were dispatched to the scene with portable repeaters, a satellite telephone, additional law and amateur radios and a desire to help. 6 others were ready to re-

spond had a second shift been needed. According to reports from Sheriff's deputies that had been on scene overnight, radio and cellular telephone communications from this location were poor due to the rough terrain. When the first OCRACES members arrived, it was determined that the OCRACES 449.100 repeater provided excellent coverage along the highway and the communications from the search area to the Command Post could be conducted on simplex. As a result, no portable repeater equipment was needed. Access to the cellular telephone system improved when the OCSD mobile command post arrived. However, the cellular signal was still intermittent. A satellite phone was deployed on the trunk of a patrol unit as a backup to the cellular system.

In addition to coordinating com-

Dec. Meeting

Linda Bomberg, a Senior Program Coordinator with Sheriff Emergency Management will speak about the new EOC message forms used at the Loma Ridge EOC and provide a few role play exercises for the group. The meeting is open to the public, and will be held on Monday, December 6th, 7:30 PM at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange.

munications from the command post, OCRACES members were utilized to monitor a hiking trail that allowed access to the crime scene during the search.

OCRACES members responding to this activation were Lt. Mike Krueger (RACES IC), Lt. Steve Sobodos (Search Team Communicator), Sgt. David Boehm (Operations Unit Leader), Roger Thomas (Incident Dispatcher), Ralph Sbragia (West Trail Communicator) and Marc Smith (East

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Upcoming Events

December 6	General Meeting, Alternate EOC, 1930 Hours
December 12	OCRACES Holiday Dinner, 1800 Hours
December 14	OCSD/Communications Holiday Lunch, 1130 Hours
December 31	OCRACES Y2K Activation, EOC and Other Sites
January 3, 2000	General Meeting, Alternate EOC, 1930 Hours
January 31, 2000	City/County RACES Meeting, 1930 Hours

Visit the OCRACES Web Page @ <http://www.ocraces.org>
(Back issues of NetControl now available on the OCRACES Web Page)



Captain's Corner By Ray Grimes, W6RYS

another month and another millennium almost gone! There are so many things to reflect upon in OCRACES. We continue to be a top quality organization, having made many contributions to the County of Orange and its citizens over the years. Our success is largely due to its dedicated membership, particularly the core people who unfailingly participate in most every event and are always willing to tackle a new project.

We have a great working relationship with our county which gives the flexibility and support necessary

to accomplish what we need to. Looking back at what he have accomplished in the past decade, to name but a few key items, we have developed expertise and leadership in digital radio systems, HF, ATV, and Direction Finding.

OCRACES has developed an effective countywide paging system. We have over a dozen portable UHF COR repeaters deployed for OCRACES field use. Each of you have received training on SEMS and the new 800 MHz CCCS consoles. We very effectively support Baker to Vegas every year, providing communications over a 120 mile route which is truly in the middle of

nowhere. OCRACES has been at the forefront in establishing a true working relationship with surrounding cities and counties, and State OES. Our name is almost a household word, thanks to a very attractive and informative web page.

Our job isn't done though. The year 2000 may hold new challenges and a few surprises. We need each member to not only participate, but to do a little more than previously. We also need the fullest participation of all members. Remember, this is your organization, and its success is directly proportional to the time and effort each of us are willing to contribute.

Training By Lt. Mike Krueger, N6MIK

Trail Communicator).

his months training column will conclude the list of common ICS Definitions. A series of articles focused on the function, operation and implementation of the Incident Command System will begin in the January Issue of NetControl.

Section - That organization level having functional responsibility to primary segments of incident operations such as:

- Operations
- Planning
- Logistics
- Finance

The Section level is organizationally between the Branch and the Incident Commander.

SITSTAT - An acronym for the Situation Unit - a unit within the Planning Section.

Span-of-Control - The supervisory ratio of from three to seven individuals with five being established as the general rule of thumb.

Staging Area - Specified location where incident personnel and equipment are assigned on a three (3) minute available status.

Strike Team - Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader.

Task Force - A group of resources with common communications and a leader temporarily assembled for a specific mission.

Technical Specialist - Personnel with special skills who are activated only when needed. Technical specialist may be needed in the areas of:

- Fire behavior,
- Water resources,

Environmental concerns,
Resource use and
Training areas.

Tractor Plow - Any tracted vehicle with a plow for exposing mineral soil, with transportation and personnel for its operation.

Unified Command - A method for all agencies or individuals who have jurisdictional responsibility, and in some cases, those who have functional responsibility at the incident, to contribute to:

- Determining overall objectives for the incident.
- Selection of the strategy to achieve the objectives.

Unit - That organization element having functional responsibility for a specific incident planning, logistic, or finance activity.

Water Tender - Any ground vehicle capable of transporting speci-

Meetings:

General: First Monday of Month
(open to public) @ 1930 hr

Meeting Location:

OCSD/Communications
840 N. Eckhoff St. Suite 104
Orange, CA 92868-1021

County RACES Frequencies:

6 m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12
MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL

2 m: 146.895 MHz output,
146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL;
(primary net Mondays, 1900 hrs)

2 m: Packet: 145.07 MHz
(1830 – 1900 hours)

1.25 m: 223.76 MHz output,
222.16 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL

70 cm: 449.180 MHz output,
444.180 MHz input, 107.2 Hz
PL (private)

OCRACES Web Page:

<http://www.ocraces.org>

OCSD/Communications

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Did You Know?

Emergency, Please Hold!

By: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

An issue has emerged recently which has public safety administrators and emergency personnel expressing great concern. A large health care maintenance organization (HMO) has been said to have mailed its clients cards directing them to call the HMO for approval and pre-screening prior to calling 911 for medical assistance. This is likely an accountant's view of how to run a business, assuring that medical response and ambulance rides are financially authorized for qualified patients. Can you envision the implications of such a program? Where precious seconds may count, you could be on hold while your personal file is retrieved, membership is validated, and data reviewed. You may not be able to get immediately connected to the HMO due to a large local volume of traffic (the flu epi-

demio for example). The patient may have incorrectly self-diagnosed his/her condition and is wasting valuable time in not seeking the proper immediate care (I guess it wasn't the flu, but a cardiovascular episode?). The victim may be on a cellular telephone and can't be reached again if the connection fails. If the patient is talking with a distant operator who operates a nationwide call center, how would a call which goes from urgent to critical be expeditiously routed back to the local PSAP (public safety answering point) so that proper emergency assistance can be dispatched? Would these call takers be certified EMT's or Registered Nurses, or simply call takers?

This issue is expected to receive great consumer criticism, and has already been viewed as a "cause to be challenged" by emergency medical and public safety interests, and legislators. It is likely that the HMO will retreat quickly from its pre-screening policy and may next time weigh good sense and public opinion

Visual Communications

Coordinator: Jim Carter (WB6HAG)
Web page: [Http://www.qsl.net/wb6hag/](http://www.qsl.net/wb6hag/)

Tri-Agency - The Tri-Agency program remains on hold, pending the outcome of LA County experimental video proposal to the FCC.

Buena Park RACES – OCRACES members Jack Barth (AB6VC) and Jim Carter (WB6HAG) provided technical assistance to BP RACES last month. They helped them install new ATV equipment in their EOC and van. Buena Park RACES now has a state of the art operation.

ATV Drill – Plans are in the making for an all Cites ATV drill during the month of February. Our October drill was cancelled

because Buena Park used the ATV simplex frequency for their Silverado Days parade. The objective of the drill will identify ATV signal paths and means for multi-agencies to co-exist on a single ATV simplex frequency. More information will be provided to City RACES next month.

ATV Presentation - Anaheim RACES received an ATV presentation last month, presented by OCRACES members Ray Grimes, Jack Barth, and Jim Carter. The presentation was well received.

Loma Ridge – Plans are in the making to add a standard broadcast feed to our overhead monitor in our RACES room. This will allow us to view Los Angeles TV stations during a major event in order to

Technical Interest

There You Are!

By: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

Location Technology is the next telecommunications frontier. Location Technology is a fancy term for what we know as commercial Automatic Direction Finding or Positioning. Location Technology merges GPS (Global Positioning System) and computer technology with radio communications to produce entire new product lines and user markets. The aviation industry has for the past 5 years experienced an incredible rollover of radionavigation technology, thanks to the success of the GPS system. No longer are multiple ground located radiolocation transmitters needed. One GPS system now serves the entire globe.

The FCC has mandated that the Cellular telephone industry has less than 11 months to solidify a Location Technology methodology. If a carrier chooses the handset supported location method, they have only 18 months to start deploying the hardware. Experts believe that 95% of digital Cellular handsets will incorporate location technology by 2004. There will likely be a mixture of technologies available though, with some Cellular carriers preferring to offer fixed infrastructure triangulation methods of location. Fixed infrastructure costs are easier to spread among a large base of customers. While handset Location Technology is pretty state of the art, it is still based on the GPS system which won't provide signals inside of buildings, tunnels, and parking garages. The best one could hope for in these systems is

"last known" position, with automatic location update ability when the handset is again taken outdoors.

The nagging problem with triangulation location technology is that it is still possible for a subscriber radio to be assigned to the wrong PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point), depending on precise user location and elevation above ground. People in high rise buildings making 911 location enhanced calls will experience very different results, depending on their elevation within the high rise building and which side of the building they happen to be occupying at the time.

Mobile location services will be a large market, with the public already seeking automatic emergency roadside assistance wireless devices and crash location/reporting services. There are countless commercial applications for Location Technology, ranging from tracking of precious and perishable truck loads, to tracking and documentation of HAZMAT loads, and security and monitoring of containers in storage yards. Your new car or truck in as little as 5 years will offer optional location enhanced services too (such as regional weather warnings, automatic crash notification and help summoning, and stolen car location/reporting). Your on-board GPS based map system will be able to find the nearest gas station or mini-market and guide you there via the shortest route, using its color moving map display.

Not only will Location Technology reach Cellular handset users



and vehicular applications, but it will also offer personal tracking. Some may say that this is more information than anyone should have, particularly those wearing the Pro Tech Monitoring system personal tracking bracelet or wrist band. Pro Tech Monitoring uses the SMART (Satellite Monitoring And Remote Tracking) system, and Advanced Business Systems employs its ABS Comtrack system, with both offering personal location tracking services based on the GPS system. These service providers offer 24 hour tracking of parolees and probationers. People wearing the tracking bracelet can be monitored within 168 ft. of their actual location. Such personal location devices are effective in providing automatic monitoring of persons with restraining orders. If they wander near a victim's home or workplace, an alarm goes off. The victim can also have their telephones or pagers automatically called, with warning messages. In Batavia, N.Y., a pilot tracking/location program is in place using GPS to monitor adult sex offenders, adult domestic violence types, and children under the age of 16 who

American Red Cross

Weekend Radio Communicators Course

Qualify for your Red Cross I.D. card and join other Operators in emergency communications between the Orange County Chapter in Santa Ana and emergency shelters and sites across Orange County.

When?

Saturday, December 11, 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
and
Sunday, December 12, Noon – 4:00 P.M.

Sunday at 4:00 P.M., I.D. cards will be passed out.

Telephone (714) 835-5381 x140 to enroll!

- 📻 Two day class for your Red Cross ID card
- 📻 All radio operators invited
- 📻 Increase your operating skills during live equipment demonstrations
- 📻 Learn about the Red Cross 462 MHz "Ops" Channels.
- 📻 Learn to use the 47.42 MHz inter-chapter communications equipment
- 📻 Tour the Chapter communications room and "ERVs" and see how you can be of assistance for communications support over ham, GMRS and commercial

ESP FOCUS

Your home may house dangerous gases!



Carbon Monoxide and Radon

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but it can be a se-

rious threat in your home as well as in your automobile. Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is a colorless and odorless gas. It is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide can result if appliances are working improperly or are used incorrectly. Even more people are affected by CO produced by idling cars.

Fetuses, infants, the elderly and those with anemia, breathing or heart problems are at increased risk. Carbon monoxide symptoms may include nausea, headaches, dizziness, increased pulse and respiration as well as confusion; severe poisoning can result in brain or

heart damage and even death. If you think you may have been exposed to CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately by opening the doors and windows, turn off the suspected appliance and leave the house. Seek immediate medical attention.

Wherever you live, work or play, use the recommendations on the *Focus Sheet* on page 6 to help you reduce your risk of death, injury and property losses from carbon monoxide and radon poisoning.

Each month, ESP (Earthquake Survival Program) will examine a different hazard that could affect Californians and offer suggestions on how to reduce its impacts. These hazards are not limited to the month featured in the ESP Focus Sheet and can occur at any time.

Carbon Monoxide and Radon Focus Sheet

Prevention of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

To avoid problems, consider the following **Do's and Don'ts**:

Do's

- ⊕ Inspect all fuel-burning systems, gas appliances and fireplaces annually.
- ⊕ Make sure the flues and chimneys are connected, in good condition and not blocked.
- ⊕ Choose appliances that vent their fumes to the outside. Read and follow all instructions enclosed in any fuel-burning device. Have the appliance properly installed and maintained.

Don'ts

- ⊖ Charcoal should never be used indoors, even in a fireplace.
- ⊖ Gas ovens or ranges should never be used to heat a room, even for a short time.
- ⊖ Gasoline-powered engines (e.g. lawnmowers, chainsaws, weed trimmers, etc.) should not be used in enclosed areas.
- ⊖ Idling the car in the garage should not be done, even if the garage door is open to the outside and if you expect to do it for only a short time.

Carbon monoxide detectors are available on the market, but they have their limitations. If you consider buying a detector, use it as a warning and not as a replacement for the proper use and maintenance of your fuel burning appliances.

Radon

Radon, much like carbon monoxide, is a gas that you can't smell or see. It is a radioactive gas emitted through the natural breakdown of uranium in the soil, rock and water. It's also everywhere as part of the natural environment, but usually in insignificant amounts. Since this gas comes to the earth's surface from underground, it may build up to harmful levels in poorly ventilated basements. It enters your home through small spaces and openings such as unsealed crawl spaces, cracks and wall/floor joints in the basement, floor drains, pores in hollow block walls, sump pumps and other plumbing penetrations.

Radon also can seep into ground water and harbor there. Therefore, a radon problem is more likely if your home's water supply comes from a ground water source.

Health Effects from Radon Exposure

Over time, radon can be harmful to your health. As you breathe in the radon in enclosed areas, small amounts of radiation that can damage your lung tissue are released. This damage can eventually cause lung cancer. Lung cancer can result from an annual level of four picocuries per liter of air, which equals smoking 10 cigarettes a day. Smokers are at higher risk of developing radon lung cancer.

What Can You Do?

Fortunately, sealing a home can help reduce radon levels, and radon test kits are available. The key to getting accurate test results, however, depends on your understanding of the ventilation process in your home. Since fresh air dilutes radon, when your home is closed up for winter heating and summer air conditioning, radon starts to build up.

Consider doing the following to obtain the most accurate radon test results:

- ⊕ Test during the winter and while the house is occupied. Make sure the home has had some daily activity. Unoccupied homes trap and build up much higher levels of radon than lived-in homes.
- ⊕ Test for radon in the lowest area of the home such as the basement or, if there is no basement, the first floor. Radon tends to settle in the areas closest to the ground.
- ⊕ Test your tap water for radon levels if you use a ground water source. This usually requires that a water sample be sent to a laboratory analysis since no home kits are available.

Acceptable Radon Levels

Radon is measured in units of picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). A home may contain an average of one to two picocuries per liter of air. Levels between four and 20 require some action. You may be able to take care of the problem yourself, however, when this is not possible, you may need to consider the use of a trained professional. Consult with local, county or state government agencies for guidelines when seeking a qualified contractor to assist with a radon problem.

Extracted and adapted from "Protect Your Family and Yourself from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning", EPA, Cincinnati, OH, "Checklist for Prevention of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning," CDC, Atlanta GA, and "Basic