

After Action Report – VILLAGE DRILL 3-28-2020:

[This is in addition to the scheduled Thursday night practice nets]
(OTHER AREAS CAN CONSIDER FOR THEIR OWN DRILLS)

Yes, the Village drill had been cancelled for today. And yes, I did it anyway. Surprise!

We will not get advance warning of an emergency. If you don't have a radio, or your radio is not on, then how are you going to ask for help or know what is going on in the neighborhood? And yes, we can all handle everything on our own, until we can't. Please don't tell me about Face Book, Twitter, cell phones, reverse 911, internet, etc... The response to those comments is as follows: remember February, 2019 - Shingletown complete communications blackout; and "Paradise".

RESULTS OF DRILL:

1. 7 Village Stations Reported into DRILL NET - WHICH WAS NOT PLANNED. I expect to be doing other drills without notice. These will be for instruction and have specific learning points and preparedness lessons. Learn by doing the Plan. Have questions, call me at 474-3267.

2. During Drill, a Welfare Check was requested on a station which had not provided the family street address for the Village listing.

Negative Result: This welfare check was aborted due to failure to provide home address. Status of family not known. Were they trapped, and unable to evacuate? Not known. Did they have a medical emergency? Not known. But, the Welfare check had to be cancelled as there was no ability to perform the welfare check due to failure / refusal to provide street address for neighborhood.

3. Drill – 15 vehicles were attempting to evacuate Village but blocked by fallen tree (South of Thumper) preventing access to Highway 44. No one could get out of Village. Line of vehicles grew to 25 + and those in line without radios did not know the situation. Those without radios in Village and leaving home, did not know that the only exit road was blocked and that they would become trapped in a line of parked vehicles.

4. Chain saw crews were requested to remove blockage.

Positive Result: two stations responded advising they had chain saws (with gasoline, oil), trucks and rope to respond. Action: we need many stations with chain saws with minimum of 15" to 18" bars, gasoline, oil, trucks with ropes, safety equipment, gloves, and mobile radios with mag mounts on vehicles. They must be at the ready 24/7. We need many stations because stations that otherwise are willing to help may be out of town. During an actual evacuation with blockage, Chain Saw Crews will need to move to location and clear blockage. In a real situation, do not stop to explain situation to those who want to know what is going on. They don't have a radio, that was their decision, and now their problem. You are wasting time "talking" to them.

Lives depend on your actions to remove the blockage. Chain saw Team Communications would be on Channel 3 after initial contact on Channel 1.

5. During drill “evacuation” another station advised of an unknown evacuation route off of Bambi.

Negative Result: Potential confusion and entrapment due to route not mapped, location not known, and only high clearance vehicles can use it. Thus, risk of vehicles blocking such route and becoming trapped. Do not advise of speculative matters. Keep Transmit down to less than 10 to 15 seconds. Release PTT and pause. Reason: blocking anyone else from transmitting.

Positive Result: Station is going to contact land owner of the other potential evacuation route to determine if it can be improved. If so, such route needs to be placed on village map Format Romeo 21 – Village. **We are learning by doing. So please take all comments in a positive light.**

8. FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE STATIONS THAT RESPONDED INTO THE DRILL NET – YOU RECEIVE A GRADE OF “A”. THE CHAIN SAW RESPONDERS RECEIVE A GRADE OF “A+”.

9. FOR STATIONS THAT WERE NOT HOME DURING DRILL – NO RESPONSE WAS EXPECTED.

10. FOR STATIONS THAT HAVE A RADIO AND DID NOT RESPOND INTO THE NET, OR PERSONS THAT DO NOT HAVE RADIOS – YOU RECEIVE AN “F”. This means we MUST improve.

11. RELEVANT FORMATS SHOULD BE PRINTED OUT AND NEXT TO YOUR RADIO. DURING AN EMERGENCY, THERE MAY BE NO POWER AND NO ABILITY TO PRINT. ALSO, NO TIME, etc... .

12. IF YOU ARE MERELY MONITORING, THEN SOMEONE MAY WANT TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE OKAY. THUS, A WELFARE CHECK MAY BE REQUESTED. BUT, THERE MAY NOT BE ANYONE AVAILABLE TO DO THE CHECK (THEY ARE TRYING TO SAVE THEIR OWN FAMILY / AND OR COORDINATING COMMUNICATIONS FOR EVACUATION). YOU CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY CHECKING IN. THAT WAY EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR SITUATION.

13. DURING NET, THERE WAS SOME DOUBLING (TWO STATIONS TRYING TO TALK AT THE SAME TIME). RESULT NEITHER STATION HEARD. We need to practice by actually being on the radio.

14. Outside antennas are a must. No discussion. Just because you hear, doesn’t mean others can hear you. Bad communications during an emergency only add to the confusion. No discussion. If someone can’t afford, possibly anonymous contributions can be made. But, recipients must actually participate.

15. All must pitch in and be active in the radio plan. Those leading the nets today, may not be here during an emergency. Are you prepared to jump in and follow the plan?

The good news is that a failing grade for this drill is better than what may have happened to you and your family during a wildfire evacuation where you were trapped, and didn't even know what was happening.

Positive: This is an opportunity for all in the village to become **more prepared**.

The Village needs to set up teams (resources - equipment; resources - medically trained persons and medical supplies; resources – supplies, etc.). We need people to step up and do it. My focus is the radio plan.

Thank you.

Nathan 73