



Santa Cruz County ARES Membership Meeting Agenda



Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 1900;

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88939432656?pwd=CL1afCp1G5PG6tgK2nF3Yr34yZRYkT.1>

Welcome

John N6QX (jfgerhardt@gmail.com)

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New member introductions

Alex AJ6QY (AJ6QY@slvares.org)

- Tisha, KO6CYM
- Jarod, KM6KNI
- Moses, KN6TXF
- Kirk, KG6KHR
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Storm Reports

John N6QX (jfgerhardt@gmail.com)

- Discussion of ARES members recent experiences – Bonny Doon was impacted greatly with the storms at the beginning of February. 5 days without power, no cell coverage, multiple trees down and road closures. Dawn, KM6RME used the local repeater W6TUW to request a few phone calls to be made.

Location-Location-Location

Jim N6EWP (N6EWP@arrl.net)

- Refer to attached powerpoint: How to succinctly report a location over the air
- Stephen, KM6NEP suggested always keeping a whistle and penlight available.
- Dawn, KM6RME reminded us that we have a great resource that was developed (for the Power Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)) to capture appropriate details needed for reporting emergencies. Keep a few copies in your go-kit. <http://63.249.81.58/plesk-site-preview/xczcomm.com/https/63.249.81.58/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PSPS-Emergency-Report-Form-v4.pdf>
- Martin queried if there is a standard way for ARES to report Latitude and Longitude. Currently there is not but the easiest is using the decimal degrees system (i.e. 37.1042, -122.0417)

SAFE Exercise

SAFE committee

- Rescheduled for February 25th 10am – 12pm
- Potential to still find issues with locations due to recent storms. If so, report and request a new assignment.

Net Control Recruitment

Roberta AJ6KN (AJ6KN@slvares.org)

NET Date	ARES Group	Repeater NET Controller
Wed, Feb 28	SLV	Allison, KM6RMN
Thurs, Mar 7	Coastal	Gary, W6GMG
Wed, Mar 13	SLV	Ad hoc
Thurs, Mar 21	Coastal	Jim, KN6NCG
Wed, Mar27	SLV	Roberta, AJ6KN

Reporting Hours Prize Drawing

John N6QX (jfgerhardt@gmail.com)

- Congratulations to John, KN6DCA who was selected as January’s winner. He will be contacted by John, N6QX to select his prize.



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Member additional

- Roberta, AJ6KN shared that there is work undergoing to establish being able to call 911 via radio to report an emergency. She will share more details when the process is more concrete.
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Next meeting March 20, 2024 at 1900.

LOCATION...LOCATION...LOCATION

- Santa Cruz County ARES
- Meeting Training 2/21/2024

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Last night around 7:30P.M., a car went an estimated 200 feet down the embankment of Felton Empire Road near Kiln Road. Responding firefighters couldn't see anything due to pitch black conditions in the forest and heavy rain, but they could hear faint yelling. They determined the location of the vehicle by the sound of that yelling and the tire tracks. They quickly set up a rope rescue system, and in the cold downpour surrounded by potentially compromised trees in the slippery mud, they lowered firefighters to find the vehicle which had landed in a creek. They pulled one patient up to safety. The patient had minor injuries and was taken to the hospital. There were no injuries to the rescuers. The incident was terminated around 9:20P.M.

CAL FIRE, Santa Cruz County Fire, Felton Fire Protection District Santa Cruz Mountains State Parks CHP - Santa Cruz and CDCR crews all participated in this rescue.

This is why our firefighters constantly train rope rescue techniques in a variety of locations. Our firefighters maintain the highest level of skill and constantly adopt the latest methods so they can facilitate difficult rescues in challenging conditions like this one.

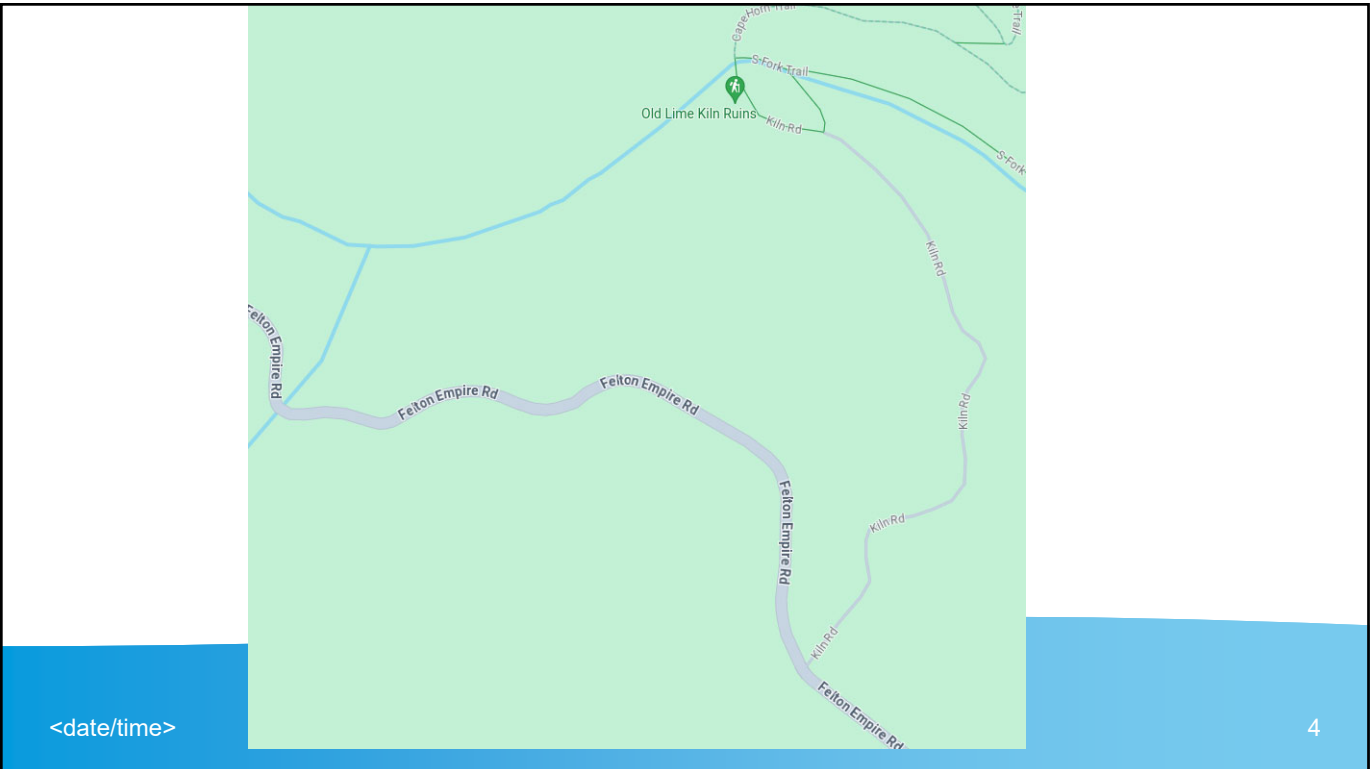
Hats off to all who participated.

County of Santa Cruz Calfire CZU San Mateo-Santa Cruz unit on Facebook

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Think it through – like a journalist

- Who
- What
- Why
- Where
- When
- How

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Who is needed at that location?

- Self? ARES member? Fire? Medical? Tow? Law? PG&E? Roads? State Parks? Coast Guard? . . . ?
- Are they likely to be familiar with the area . . . or from outside?
- Who might be assigning and directing them? IC, county dispatch (911), company dispatch . . .

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What is the reason?

- Smoke report, accident, road blocked, communication point, staging area . . .
- Who might be assigning and directing them? IC, county dispatch (911), company dispatch, ARES . . .
- What personnel or equipment might need to go to the location?

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Why?

- Why is someone going to that location? This is closely related to the “What” is happening.
- Resources are limited and the “Why?” question needs to be answered before they are assigned.
- Is this the location of an injured person? Or is it the place where they will be brought to meet medics? Or is it the place where road transport runs out and medics will have to walk in to the real location of the injured? (Just one example of many situations)

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Where?

- Most useful way to describe the location and access:
- Street address is the best known and easiest for most people. Cross streets help in finding it. Further building information may be needed.
- Google maps is common and versatile especially with GPS
- Latitude and longitude are needed for ocean and air locations.
- Map coordinates are good if everyone is using the same paper map

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When?

- Urgent emergency – life and death
- Priority – ASAP when the situation is deteriorating
- Priority – routine when an expert needs to evaluate, could be hours or days, depending
- Scheduled shift personnel will need to know travel times for getting to the location with the present conditions.

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How?

- What works for getting there? Regular car, 4 wheel drive with high clearance, helicopter, ship, hike in only . . . ?
- Are the roads of any kind even usable on the regular routes, or are back roads and detours necessary?
- Resources on access – 911 staff have these and use them regularly. AAA road service operators have excellent software. Tow truck drivers are used to finding alternate ways to get places.

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Wrap-up

- It takes a team. It takes resilience. It takes persistence.
- Locations are just one part of emergency resources, and often have to be figured out on the spot. It is far from cut-and-dried procedures, but benefits from forethought and planning done as best as possible.
- Think it through, then make it happen. Help as a communicator to get the needed people and equipment to the place of need.

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