

2021 ShakeOut Phase 1: Neighborhood Coordination

KM7TMS 18 Mar 2021

This is KM7TMS. Last week I trained on how a parent with a family who is home on a Saturday morning responds to a 7+ earthquake. That scenario is now up on the club's website (slcarc.org) under the Net Training button. Review it there. That situation is part of our coming earthquake exercise. The disaster statistics came from the Utah Preparedness Now video found at the Great Utah ShakeOut website www.shakeout.org/Utah/why-participate. When last week's material is practiced in SLCARC's ShakeOut exercises, **participants drill 1) earthquake awareness & communications, 2) the drop-cover-Hold on, and 3) a residence check skills.**

This week I will describe important behaviors of a trained S.A.F.E. Neighborhoods (SN) volunteer responder, as seen through the eyes of a communications responder. Basically, this comms person will **4) prepare and leave their residence, 5) note & assist the street response, 6) note & assist their local rally point response, and 7) push on to the Hub and help establish that Hub.** When you participate in the upcoming SLCARC ShakeOut you should drill these basic SN responses as able. Now, from your present pleasant circumstance, travel with me onto the front line of a difficult earthquake disaster.

Drill #4 – Response Ready. As you prepare to go out that front door, you are getting your kit. You think briefly of your school's JIT KIT maps showing nearly every street now in chaos. You are not close to that kit now and even if you were, the Hub Manager might not have a second copy to give you. That is why you have your own kit. One specially designed by you, for this level of initial local neighborhood response. It has the street map(s) you and some of your more preppy neighbors worked up using the online JIT KIT maps and your own, sometimes superior local knowledge of who and what is where. Your map shows every residence on your street and notes the sur name of those in the homes. Being a little over-the-top, as you took COVID leisure walks you often carried a copy of it with you for review. As you leaving your residence you say goodbye to the wife who will have to mind the damaged house and tend the injured daughter's arm today, until you can find additional help.

Drill #5 –Into the Street. You stepping out of the house when your next door neighbor asks for help opening his twisted front fence gate a fallen tree limb bent. It took a few moments. He just need a little more muscle. More importantly, interacting with him gives you a better sense of the response occurring while you were doing our somewhat detailed residence check. The wife is in charge now, has an injured child to tend and you may be away for all day. You learned that Mary is the block Captain - for now. She is your Local Ambassador. Your street is unusual. You know that she'll soon be more valuable over at the Hub, if conditions will permit. **You find Mary down the street and share info.** Basically there is a CERT style street assessment of people and residences occurring as able. Bill who is a CERT is leading a team of three volunteers going down the street, and Randy who had some CERT some years ago is trying to get a group of newbies pulled together one street over. They are using the street assessment forms they learned about in SN Training Module 2 and 3. Like a good comms guy you are keeping notes and beginning to think your street is doing pretty well. That was game plan, You knew your street was one of the best prepared streets in the neighborhood.

Mary says she will soon try to pass her current job off to another and head to the Hub, but first **she wants you to travel down to the rally point and bring her a report before setting out for the Hub to get comms into the EOC** up. You agree to check-out the local rally point, return with a report for her. You also note that Mary has a FRS on 4 with no code. So far conflicting radio traffic is not too bad, but it's

early response. You are presently carrying FRS, CB, & ham UHF/VHF handhelds radios and a bunch of other stuff on your specially build rally point and street field vest/backpack rig.

Drill 6. At the rally point you sort of meet yourself. That is, while not yet coordinated with the Hub, what is happening is early and critically important response. Those bad bleeding injuries can take life away in just a few moments. Knowing that, you have your own IFAK (Individual First Aid Kit) on your rig. Two people are at the rally point. A couple of other streets are similarly checking themselves out. Years ago your neighborhood identified several open area rally point locations around the school district. No one here knows the status of the other three. No one has yet heard from a Hub, or contributed time to it, but some are talking about doing that after they assess the local screams, etc. You note a waterline that was gushing for a while, but has now lost all pressure. You hear of power wires down in more than couple of places. Some of the roads are disrupted with liquefaction utility trenches. Most of the people don't know much about SN, and you think it sounds pretty disorganized as some of the search and rescue they are doing may have to be redone because of poor record keeping, but people are getting checked early and the CERT color codes are going up on some houses.

As you are putting notes on the 214 on your clip board, you are reflecting that this rally point will become a key triage area, as planned. You inquire about any available medical personnel to staff it. Unfortunately, they don't know their local resource people. You verbally pass on Mary's desire to move to the Hub soon, and your intention to set up Hub comms as soon as possible. Whether or not any ham will then be in the HRR is another matter. The guy from 15th East agrees to try to recruit a runner for your station, which person will be sent to the school as available. You tell him you need a runner for every rally point. You mentioned that you would like a portable CB set up here to check in to the Hub on 24 or 32 --if they can get such. You also desire FRS systems coordinated into the rally points as able, and runners as auxiliaries if available. You ask him to get a message to Ron, a ham on 15th east, to come to the Hub as he is able. After all that and more, you are now headed back to your street with a report for Mary, a check on her status, a stop home to check family, communicate your changing location and get the main comms kit and wagon. Then, you are off to the Hub and the next level of the growing response.

Here my narration will end, due to time.

Of course, the above scenario could be much, much bleaker. It certainly would not be this good given our city's level of current SN training and preparedness. That is why we so badly need the new SN Training Program and the Ambassador Training program SLCARC is facilitating. But, what is most presently hoped is that because you hams have heard the above and can revisit it later online, **you are gaining a better sense of the response needed in-between your home and the Hub**. We don't create Hubs magically from the top down in a real disaster. **WE BUILD HUBS FROM THE GROUND UP, USING LOCAL VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.**

In the 2021 ShakeOut's 10-11 am time slot, SLCARC leaders are asking you get your local kit stuff out and use some of it around your own local neighborhood as able. Try to find others with an FRS, CB or Ham UHF/VHF, CERT kits etc. who you can do this stuff with you. Use what you have in various ways between your street, a likely rally point or points, and your Hub. Start earlier than 10 if you want. Do local signal reports around your school district. Use notes and logs. And every year we do this, do better.

After your local effort, coordinate with others in your school district as needed, to prepare a one common very brief 213 style message describing what you did. Your common transmitting Hub station should be set up by 11 on or near the school grounds. It's a not very busy Saturday, but consider a

courtesy call to the principal, to start a ShakeOut dialogue. When ready bring your station up on 448.525-100. Report to the HRR, exchange signal reports and when able, send your 213 traffic. Then monitor others doing the same and noting their signals in your log while being mostly quite. You should probably save those reports for future local reference. I will give a net training on those signal reports soon. Additionally, I expect to intro to the needed forms and logs now on the website. There is much to do.

Are there any questions or comments on tonight's training?