

Our 2021 ShakeOut Context & Initial Three Drills

KM7TMS 11 Mar 2021

This is KM7TMS. Last week's pre-ShakeOut training asked you to visit the SLCARC website and see some of the new changes evolving there. I mention it now as a reminder. Considerable S.A.F.E. Neighborhoods (I call it SN for short) info is being added to the site. Basically our city's EM staff has been very busy with many other things beyond SN for the last few years, so a few of us volunteers, principally myself and Susan, have been working up additional SN instructional material. This material needs to be more widely distributed. As it is a fundamental purpose of the SLCARC to pursue SLCEMs emergency and disaster communications needs, it is appropriate that this volunteer disaster response plan training goes up on the club's website. Club leaders have been very involved in SN practices for years and have considerable experience.

Utah's annual ShakeOut exercise practices basic response to our states foremost natural hazard. – a big quake. The SN Disaster Response Plan typically uses this hazard as its principle training context. Tonight's pre-ShakeOut, training primarily highlights three things: First, the environment context of the exercise, second, our personal situation within such, and third, a series of drills within the first of three drill units comprising our 2021 ShakeOut plan. It draws upon SN protocols and considerable hazard detail from "Utah: Preparedness Now", which can be views at www.shakeout.org/utah/whyparticipate.

The general context of SLCARC's 2021 ShakeOut exercise on 17 April, is as follows. It is a typical early spring Saturday morning. More people are in their residences because it is Saturday and they are not at work. The sun rose about 7:30, so it is daylight. You are not particularly concerned when you feel a modest tremor around 8 am. It was unusual, but people don't begin to respond, indeed many did not even notice this 3 magnitude tremor. Having had some training you know that there may be both more and worse tremors, so you're more alert than normal, **AND you begin this exercise by feeling this tremor and mentioning that tremor to those around you. This is your first drill to be practiced within the Residence Drills Unit. Some disasters just happen fast. Others give us clues they may be coming. We should practice watching for clues & discussing them.** For clarification, exercises are bigger than drills. They are not equal. Drills are subunits of exercises. Within drills we practice a single or many skills. Exercises are large complex entities. Drills are smaller complex entities.

A half-hour later, **at 0830, the strong wave hits and lasts about 1 minute and you drop, cover and hold on for over 1 minute. –This is your second drill to be practiced in this ShakeOut exercise.** Just a few seconds is not be enough for this drill. As the shake stops or at least pauses, you are ok and now up and about, knowing that there can be more at any time. If this was the main shake, many tremors can follow. In a few moments some of your untrained neighbors are out and about, having exited their house for a look. You are still conducting your immediate post-shake property and family assessment activities as you were trained to do. **This residence check drill is your third drill to be practice within the Residence Drill Unit.** Take some time and involve various skills. Involve others. Think about what you have to check and what could go very wrong, or go ok.

For the purposes of this exercise, this is your personal situation. Most of you are the typical married people with family. Your significant other, was in a good place when you did your drop cover and hold on, so you two are shaken, but not injured. Because you have adopted some of the prepper lifestyle, your first layers clothing are good for the CERT response event that you now face. Other folks are not so fortunate. Bathrobes and floppies are not good

response clothing. One in your family of four was not so lucky. Your small daughter was reading on the floor near your heavy unsecured bookcase. When it tipped over, it clipped her, perhaps breaking her forearm as she was doing her drop, cover, and hold. She is now screaming with pain and there will be no quickly arriving ambulance nor speedy trip to an ER. Mother begins to comfort her as she can, as you proceed with your standard residence checkout. You find that you have some broken windows that are venting your residual heat. The house is habitable but the electricity is off, there is no water pressure, and because you smelled a little natural gas inside, you shut off the gas flow at your meter. You anticipate the feeder line is no longer serviceable as well. Unlike when you did this check for the 5.3 Magna quake just a few months back, you have some serious residence damage. Now for those that are single living alone or with roommates, you have a similar serious personal situation.

With the complicated inside residence check done, the perimeter and outbuilding look done, some of your EM kit location checked, the conversations with the wife and kids made, your thoughts now turn more toward your neighborhoods. The wife agrees to tend the house and family while you have a tour of the street. You know that you are able to be away from home awhile, being particularly concerned about life threatening injuries and other threats to the neighborhood. ***Going outside for a period of volunteer street and rally point response opens your second Drill Unit of this exercise. I will unfold those activities in the next training.*** The SN Training Program offers Module 3 on these response activities, but in this year's ShakeOut field event, we will accent just certain skills which I hope you can practice, if you so desire.

Going outside, you know that some neighbors are away from home doing Saturday errands, and in the wider valley there are thousands of Saturday workers at their jobs, whose activities were just seriously changed. Almost all of those away, will now likely be away for several days or longer. Later today, you will learn the quake was about 7.2. It is the big quake SLCARC and SLCM have yearly practiced for since 2012. More importantly, its epi center was within the Salt Lake Segment of the 240 mile long Wasatch Fault. That is, the quake hit strongest right where you live.

Because you had somewhat prepared yourself though SN training, you already know that in this valley this quake can collapse about 10,000 buildings and damage 285,000 others. Many utilities will remain out for at least weeks, any transportation is problematic, fires can be expected and some will become uncontrollable, 30,000 people are likely injured, 350,000 people are now likely displaced and civil unrest is possible and in a few days probable. On the positive side, you know that able bodied people like you are now S.A.F.E NEIGHBORHOODS First Responders. You are the best help that is currently available and you begin activation as per your training. Indeed, you now wish you had trained more often and stocked stores more abundantly. This is your context & early drills. *Train well.*

Before concluding tonight's training, I note that if your current serious training is limited to just comms events, a couple of times a year, you will not be "appropriately" prepared for this disaster. I say appropriately with quotes because no one can adequately prepare of this catastrophe. That is one of two reasons why more SN training is now appearing on the club's website. The second reason is that like it or not, because you are an emergency comms person within SLCARC and have a little SN background, you are currently one of your neighborhood's best SN disaster responders. Maybe you are the most knowledgeable SN person in your elementary school district. You folks are also considered by me, to be great SN Local Ambassador candidates. In particular, club members who have previously participated in elementary school Hub level, ShakeOut exercises are not far from certification level required of

Local Ambassadors Of Record. More information on the Ambassadors Training Program is now available on the clubs website – slcarc.org. Please take a look.

This year's SLCARC Shakeout exercise will prompt you to view your SN Hub communications responsibilities from both a) an internal Hub perspective, and b) a Hub to HRR perspective. Next week, we will again have important training for the upcoming ShakeOut. Until then, continue to study the website, etc. Good luck and 73s.