

News Release

For Immediate Release

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(Cupertino, CA, June 1, 2012) – CUPERTINO CARES ON THE AIR

How prepared will you be when disaster strikes? The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) predicts a magnitude 8.0 or higher earthquake will happen in Cupertino in the next 30 years. Disasters can also come in other forms, including fires, wind, flooding, or terrorism.

On Saturday, June 23, Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES, www.cupertinoares.org) will participate in the annual Field Day, a 24-hour exercise in amateur radio emergency communications. Every year the American Radio Relay League (ARRL, www.arrl.org) sponsors this national event to test amateur radio's ability to set up for an emergency, and to practice message-passing capability. A scoring system allocates points for each type of contact, including communication with different regions around the country.

On Field Day, CARES will operate in emergency mode at a temporary Emergency Operations Center (EOC), using generators and batteries on the front lawn of the Cupertino City Hall. The Cupertino communications van will be operational and available for public viewing.

All are invited to come and see what amateur radio is all about, from 11 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, June 23, on Torre Avenue in Cupertino, between City Hall and the library. We will demonstrate various modes of communication including HF voice, Morse code, digital communications, Amateur TV, and VHF digital packet as well as satellite operations (using earth-orbiting satellites for ham radio communications).

More information about Cupertino emergency preparedness is available at www.cupertinoares.org, including how to volunteer for various groups and how to obtain an amateur radio license.

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