



Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies

# COPE eNewsletter August 2014

## It Is Time for Drilling!

For the past two years we have been starting new Preparedness Teams, talking to residents about preparedness, and training radio communicators in walkie-talkie and ham radio use, obtained new dual band radios for our fire stations and are getting them installed. Now it is

time to put this whole program together and start practicing. It is one thing to have knowledge; it is another thing to put that knowledge into reality. To get this new phase of our program started, we will be offering a 'Train the Trainer' class for Emergency Preparedness Teams

and Neighborhood Leaders. This class will explain the 'chain of command' for reporting to the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) through the local fire department; how to complete a Windshield Survey; and will give the leaders materials to

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## September is Preparedness Month!

This September is [National Preparedness Month](#) (NPM). NPM, now in its eleventh year, is a nationwide, month-long effort hosted by the [Ready Campaign](#) encouraging households, businesses, and

communities to prepare and plan for emergencies. "People often ask how they can help out first responders in an emergency," said Regional Administrator

MaryAnn Tierney, "well one of the best ways is to be self-sufficient following an emergency, that takes pressure off of responders and they can focus on the most critical situations."

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## COPE Presenter Given Military Honors



Pete Peterka is a very well known Emergency Preparedness worker in Sonoma

County. However, not everyone knows about his 'past life' in his military career.

Pete was honored recently

by being inducted into the Army's Hall of Fame.

Pete's military career included over 1600 parachute jumps. He helped develop and tested a parachuting technique called High Altitude Low Opening (HALO).

Following retirement after 32 years of active military service (having served in

both the Marines and Army) Pete was the Director of Emergency Services for Sonoma County where he trained over 250 volunteers in Search and Rescue.

We are proud to have Pete involved with the Santa Rosa COPE Program and congratulate him on this well earned award.

## What Does COPE Do?

This is possibly the number one question that I get from people I talk to who are not familiar with COPE. I hope those of you who are familiar with COPE are sharing this information, as well.

This is what I tell those who ask: Facing substantial risk from wild land fires and earthquakes, Santa Rosa citizens need to prepare for the aftermath of a large-scale emergency or disaster.

The Red Cross and other emergency organizations often take 3-5 days to mobilize so individuals need to be able to take care of themselves until help arrives. The mission of Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies (COPE) is to help residents, families, and neighborhoods to be better prepared to respond to, and recover from, emergency situations

together. This includes developing individual and neighborhood response plans, maintaining individual emergency supply kits and reaching out to neighborhoods in our community, neighborhood by neighborhood, street by street, and block by block.

Each neighborhood develops a designated meeting place where every one will gather after an emergency to count heads and see who needs to be checked on. COPE team members stockpile supplies to deal with injuries and provide water, food and comfort to their neighbors. COPE encourages neighbors to socialize and hold 'preparedness parties' which is one of the most popular features of the program. COPE leaders encourage their neighbors to have fun and

become part of the preparedness efforts.

A new element added to our neighborhoods is radio communications. We presume that all communications will be disrupted and cell phones and computers will be rendered useless, so other means of communicating needs to be in place.

Do you know of a neighborhood who would like to join the COPE family of prepared neighborhoods? Have them contact [ibeckley@srcity.org](mailto:ibeckley@srcity.org) for their own presentation.

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## It Is Time for Drilling!

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take back to their neighborhoods to teach backup leaders and others who could not attend the training, and to start the process to prepare for involvement.

**Our ultimate plan is to have an All Neighborhood Disaster Drill that will include:**

~COPE neighborhoods who want to participate in this drill

~COPE Radio

Communicators—walkie-talkie users, community licensed radio operators

~COPE Radio Communicators assigned to local Fire Stations

~COPE Radio Communicators assigned to the City of Santa Rosa Emergency

Operating Center (EOC).

For those communities who do not yet have a licensed radio operator, the original plan of walking, running, bicycling their damage assessment report to the local fire station will be in effect.

*The Train the Trainer class will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at the Finley Center (West College and Stony Point Road) —*

*Cypress Room, from 6:30—8:30 pm. Please contact **Iola Beckley, COPE Coordinator** at [ibeckley@srcity.org](mailto:ibeckley@srcity.org) for registration in this training class or with any questions you might have regarding this training.*

The All Neighborhood Disaster Drill will be held on

Saturday, October 18th in conjunction with the California ShakeOut that happens on October 16th (a Thursday).

Other trainings will be held in preparation for the drill:

⇒ Thursday, September 18th, 6:30—8:30 pm for newly licensed ham radio operators and

⇒ COPE Radio Communicators Organizational & Orientation meeting, Thursday, October 9, 2014, 6:30—8:30 pm

Locations for these two sessions will be announced at a later date so watch your COPE eNewsletter or don't hesitate to contact Iola with your questions.

## Internet Links

The following is an internet link to a recent Press Democrat article that will be of interest. If the 'link' does not work, you may have to cut and paste the addresses.

With our concern with wild

land fires, it is good to know that the City is doing all it can to create fire brakes to help contain or prevent wild fires from starting in the first place.

- ◆ <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/state/2393494-181/park-agencies-landowners-gird-for#page=1>

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Preparedness is a shared responsibility that takes input and work from the Whole Community. A resilient community is one that's prepared for an emergency and that preparation can't be done solely by local officials. It takes individuals, families, business, schools, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations getting involved and joining together. Residents should also talk to and

We're on the Web:  
[srcity.org/cope](http://srcity.org/cope)

Your closest family  
is your neighbor.

**RADIO CORNER**

In the next three months we will be concentrating on training and placement of COPE Radio Communicators to take charge of local fire station ham radio's. Background checks and two courses will be necessary for all radio operators and will be prerequisites for all EOC Radio Communicators who will be required to complete further training (to be announced).

These are free mini-courses that can be taken online at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>. ICS-100 (IS-100.b) (Introduction to the Incident Command System)  
[IS -700](http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp) (National Incident Management System)

We will also offer these courses to be taught by Lee Dibble, COPE Radio Communicator. Further information will be available shortly.

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work with their local emergency officials. By talking to local officials, citizens gain valuable insight, lend input, and develop relationships for planning and communicating before an emergency strikes.

There are many different ways to get involved especially before a disaster occurs. The Whole Community can participate in various programs and activities to make their families, homes and communities safer from risks and threats. Community leaders agree the formula for ensuring a safer homeland consists of volunteers, a trained and informed public and increased support of emergency response

agencies during disasters. Major disasters can overwhelm first responder agencies, empowering individuals to lend support.

FEMA is encouraging everyone to take steps to become better prepared for an emergency, whether it's at home, at work, at school, or in the community, there's a lot that you can do to be ready and help others be ready too. Simply put, this September, we're calling on you to be a local hero.

For more preparedness information, visit [srcity.org/cope](http://srcity.org/cope), [fema.gov](http://fema.gov) and [ready.gov](http://ready.gov).

A FEMA prepared article.