

Briceland Beginnings Earthquake Drill A Hugh

Success!!!

Spear headed by Jerry Wilson, KM6IBP, with Steven Greel, KF6WLH, acting as local Disaster Preparedness Net Controller, and in conjunction with the Beginnings elementary School authorities, Sharc Club participated in an earth quake drill on April 15, 2003 at 1 pm.

The scenario: A 7.5 earthquake has hit Southern Humboldt, its epic-center is Briceland.

To get the feel, or the idea of the drill, please envision this for a moment.

You are enjoying a peaceful walk through the forest with your

Dog and two cats. You notice the air seems unusually heavy and the forest is deathly quiet. This seems little strange. Even your own pets are a bit skittish. Nevertheless, it is the first sunny day after a long rain, the smell of wild flowers are in the air, and the sun feels good on your face so you keep walking drinking in the essence of the Earth's beauty with each step. Suddenly the Earth begins to tremble and roll violently beneath your feet.

For a moment you stand there, stunned, frozen in your tracks as you listen to the deafening sound of the trees as their branches bend and break under the sudden pressure. Hugh redwood, madrone Bay and oak trees are swaying like so many belly dancers under the Earth's force. Few of them crashing to the ground dangerously close to your feet. Large splits erupt on the Earth's surface, making commonly trod paths impassable and bringing small slides of mud careening down the hills above You.

Your dog bolts on his leash. It takes all your strength to hold him at bay. In terror, your cats run off into the angry forest, desperately-seeking shelter. Then an after shock causes the Earth to move once more. Worried for their safety, you frantically call them back to your side, but they run farther and faster away, disappearing into the groaning trees. Their action of panic matching the fear you now feel deep within your soul.

With your dog now under control, and in tow, you head for home at warp speed. Your body numbed by shock, your mind switches to autopilot, you begin to formulate a plan for survival. Old drills and lessons return to your consciousness with no memory effort, giving you the proper tools to work with.

Once home, you tether your dog in a safe place. Quickly you grab a wrench to shut off the gas mains leading into your house and check on the status of you is the electrical wiring in and around your house. You then pull out your stash of emergency food and medical supplies. Having done all this, you turn on your ham radio tuning it to the local frequency. Once contact is established, you begin to report what you have seen.

In this drill, Steve Greel, KF6WLH, is acting as local Net Control for Disaster Preparedness Hq. in Eureka. He would be, in a real scenario, relaying the situations and needs of each community to Command post in Eureka, in order to obtain help in an expedient manner.

After you have told him what you have seen, he asks pertinent questions that will help in assistance/ rescue efforts. What is your location? Are the roads passable for emergency vehicles? Are there any fires due to gas leaks? Are all the gas mains shut OFF? Can you assist your neighbors in shutting them OFF? Are the phone and electrical wire down? If so, where? Any injuries? How serious? Any property damage? What can be done by the community members to help each other while they wait for emergency aid?

While you are monitoring you hear other hams reporting.

Jerry, M6IBP, reports from Beginnings school in Briceland, that there is a child with a head wound that has wisely been placed in a splint board awaiting transport to a hospital. Net Control, Steven, KF6WLH