



PIMA COUNTY
OEMCOMM



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Emergency Communications

General Membership Meeting
June 26, 2014

Welcome

- Emergency Exits
 - Don't run, walk
- Restroom
 - Don't run, walk
- Run Rules
 - Robert's Rules of Order (loosely)
 - No personal attacks
 - Lessons learned – not history bashing
 - Problems + possible solutions (brainstorm)
 - Orations: *Give written copy to secretary first*



Agenda

- Welcome
- Announcements Greg
- Calendar Greg
- Safety Briefing Bob
- Elections Jay
- New PCOEM Structure Jay
- After Action Review, Sierrita Mine Fire Greg/Scott
- Director Minute Don
- OEM Minute Jay
- Questions /Final Thoughts Greg
- Break Out Session ALL
- Dismiss Greg



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Calendar

Calendar

- Field Day June 28th – 29th Local Clubs
- Independence Day July 4th
- OEM Comm Meeting July 24th
- OEM Comm Leadership Meeting August 14th
- OEM Comm Meeting August 28th
- State of Arizona COMEX November 18th-19th A.D.E.M.

Weekly

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------|
| • Pima County NBEMS Digital | OVARC Repeaters | Wednesday (7:00 pm) | KD7XP |
| • Southern Arizona HF Net | 3.865 / 7254 LSB | Saturday's (7:15 am) | W6IK |
| • Southern Arizona VHF Net | 146.880 (PL110.9) | Saturday's (1:00 pm) | KE7DX |
| • Arizona RACES HF Net | 3.990 LSB | Sunday's (7:30 am) | K7GH |



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Safety Briefing

Bob Campbell

Five Common Accident Causes

- *Consider these statistics:*
 - 80 of every 100 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident.
 - Unsafe acts cause *four times* as many accidents and injuries as unsafe conditions.

*"It's better to be careful 100 times than to get killed once."
Mark Twain*

1. Taking Shortcuts

- It's common to make decisions that make the task faster and more efficient.
- But do time savers ever risk your own safety, or that of others helping? Think about it...
- Short cuts that reduce your or others safety on the job or at home are not shortcuts... *but in reality increase the chance for injury.*

Five Common Accident Causes

2. Overconfidence

- Confidence is a good thing.
- Overconfidence is too much of a good thing.
- "It'll never happen to me" is an attitude that can lead to improper task procedures, tools, or methodology.
- Any of these can lead to an injury.

3. Starting a Task with Incomplete Instructions:

- To do the job safely and correctly the first time you need complete information.
- Don't be reticent about asking for explanations about work procedures and safety precautions.
- It isn't dumb to ask questions; it's dumb not to.

Five Common Accident Causes

4. Ignoring Safety Procedures:

- Failing to observe safety procedures can endanger you and your helpers.
- You *cannot* make your own rules.
- Being "casual" about safety can lead to an accident!

5. Mental Distractions:

- Stay focused on the task.
- Dropping your 'mental' guard can pull your focus away from safe work procedures. Don't become a statistic because you took your mind away from your task even momentarily.



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Elections

Jay Hand

Elections

- To be eligible to vote or hold a position you **MUST** have;
 - Completed ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 Courses
 - Submitted a PCOEM Comm Application
- Self nominate
 - Submit name(s) to Mr. Jay Hand (jay.hand@pima.gov)
 - Nominations need to be submitted by Friday, July 11th
- Positions are open
 - Base Comm, Hospital Unit and Home Unit



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PCOEM Comm Structure

Jay Hand



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After Action Review

Sierrita Mine Fire

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- **OVERVIEW**

During a summer monsoon storm, lightning strikes the 71 transformer at the main substation. Primary side breakers trip. Fire caused transformer to leak oil, which also ignites causes, the fire to spread to the other neighboring transformers. Fire is out of control and substation is still energized.

- **OBJECTIVES**

Evaluate PCOEM Comms ability to respond to a No Notice Call Out in a timely manner.

Evaluate PCOEM Comms ability to plan and execute plan on an as needed bases.

Evaluate PCOEM Comms ability to provide communications.

Deploy communications assets.

Provide communications for Sierrita Mine use within the mine and to agencies outside the mine.

Do all deployments and demobilizations safely and professionally.

Note: All appropriate ISC forms should be used as the exercise progresses by available personnel.



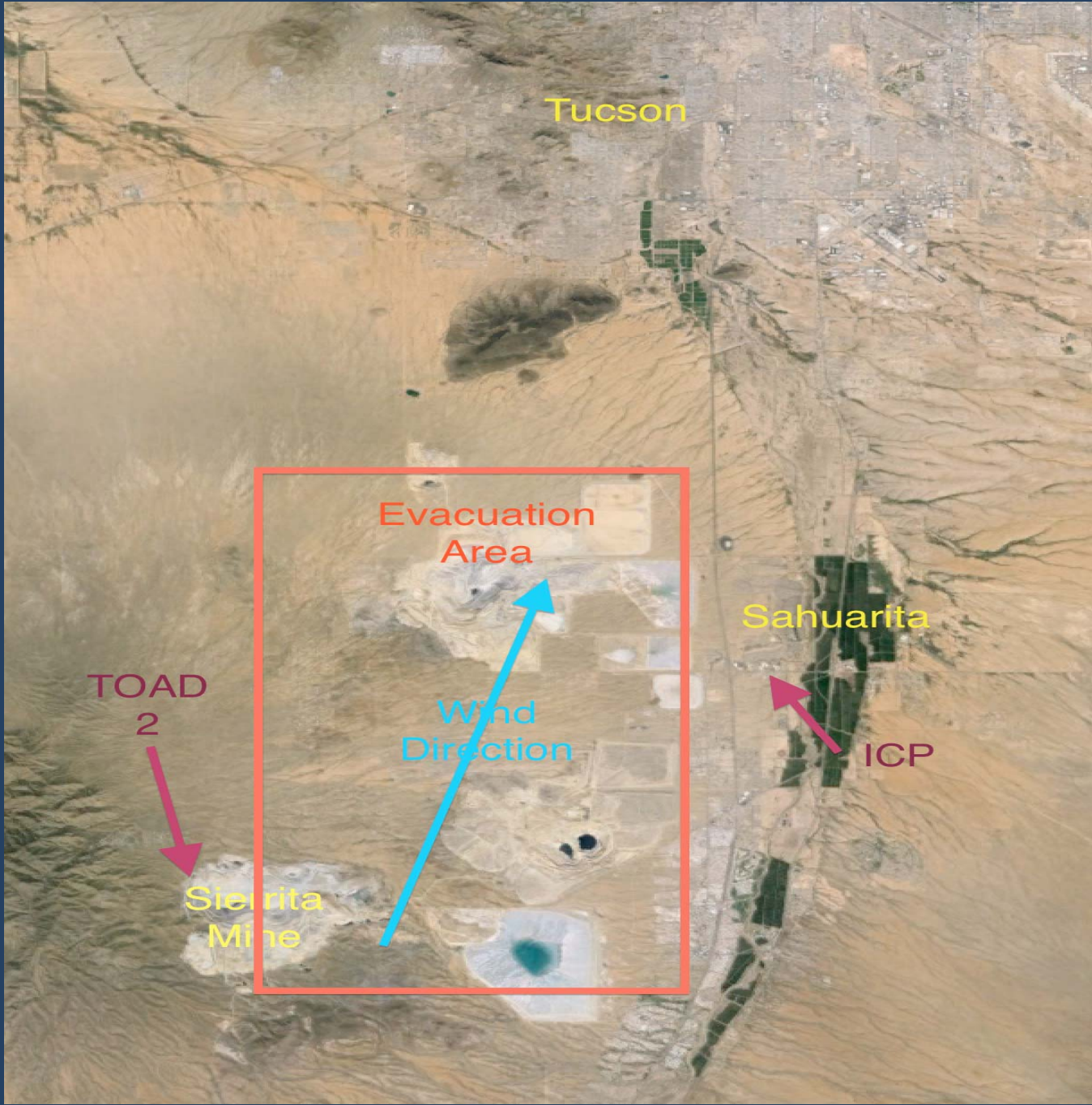


Plant

Mine Offices

Electrical Substation
Site of Fire

Main Gate



Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- On June 14, 2014, at 9:00 am, request for comm support came from Sierrita Mine
- At approximately 9:10 am, Mr. Jay Hand (PCOEM) initiated a PCOEM Comm call through State of Arizona Communicator System...

“This is an exercise. This is an exercise. P C O E M Comm has been activated to support this drill. Please follow your call in procedure. First available operator please establish a net on 1 4 6 8 8 and see who is available for deployment. This is an exercise.”

- Participants included; Sierrita Mine, PCOEM Comm (Base Comm, Home Unit, Hospital Unit, Home Unit and Mobile Units)
- Personnel that were called through the communicator, are those that fulfilled the requirements for PCOEM Comm.
 - 40 personnel

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- **CALL OUT**
- Members were not familiar with the Communicator system and therefore did not recognize the phone number, leading some to ignore what they believed to be a telemarketing call.
- Not everyone received a notification from Communicator!.
- The callout message was not sufficiently detailed to make it clear that the exercise was confined to PCOEM.
- The canned Communicator! lead-in to a message states that it is from the State notification system, thus leading some to believe that this was an anticipated statewide exercise.
- Callouts should be disseminated via both ADEM's Communicator! and the primary/alternate PCOEM Comm repeaters.
- Net control didn't have updated information concerning the incident and assumed and transmitted information without confirming with PCOEM Comm's COML for the incident.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***HOME UNIT***

- When stations are checking into the net, they need to announce their availability, location and what unit they are available to work. It is important that we know all stations that respond to the call, not just the available ones.
- Net control needs to keep control of the frequency by periodic announcements that the frequency(ies) are in use for an exercise.
- There were times of many minutes of dead air.
- There appeared not to be a protocol for net control change.
- Net control needs to maintain radio discipline both during actual and exercises.
- When the first net control opened the net and then transferred net control to another operator, there was no net list given to the incoming net control.
- Home unit operators need to be aware of the propagation conditions during the time of day of operations.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***BASE COMMUNICATIONS***

- Unlinking the 147.300 and 146.880 machines was an interesting part of the exercise. However, if the hospital unit is not deployed to the various hospitals, why lose the coverage?
- Changing repeaters or configuration of an operating net without a compelling reason causes confusion.
- Community Status Report (CSR) was sent to PCOEM, it was indicated that the computer crashed and unable to receive CSR. An operator continually needs to check for WINLINK messages.
- Only after an operator deployed to the base arrived there did he learn that the incident occurred in the same general area as his residence. If he had known this, he could have responded directly to the incident site to help with communications instead of reporting to Base Communications.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***HOSPITALS***
- Radio at St Joseph's Hospital was not programmed properly.
- There was a long period when there were no messages or traffic for the hospitals.
- Disappointing that only three hospital teams reported in to use and only two of those hospitals had operators in the radio rooms.
- Packet systems in the hospital(s) were not working. They didn't know what frequency to use to send the packet message.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***MOBILE / TOAD***
- Meals in the Toad are out of date.
- Did not report their location when transitioning from PCOEM to the incident site.
- Need to have a procedure for checking out cached radios prior to deployment.
- No programming cables or instructions were in the cached radio box for deployment.
- Mobile team member lacked key card access to PCOEM.
- Except for the Mobile Comm Unit, there was insufficient staffing for more than one shift.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- **GENERAL**
- All operators on the net need to talk slowly, keep transmissions brief, and refrain from using acronyms and three-letter codes.
- Confusion about the extent of activation: it was announced only that PCOEM Comm had been activated, but somehow the Hospitals Unit thought it was on standby.
- It was unclear what, if any, was the PCOEM involvement with the exercise?
- Net control closed the net prior to Toad's return to PCOEM.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- **COMMENTS / OBSERVATIONS**

- Mike Boger (K7BUM) did an outstanding job opening the net as soon as he received the callout from Communicator!. Good handoff to Bob Campbell (W6IK).
- Bob Campbell (W6IK) handled having net control dropped unexpectedly on him without missing a beat. He takes his responsibility for the Home Unit seriously.
- Gary Keck (KE7DX) did a great job taking net control once established at PCOEM Base Communications.
- Ron Kalish (N7SPW) and Dan Donnelly (KC7VDA) did a good job maintaining control of the Hospitals Unit. Ron did not hesitate to ensure activation instructions were clear and understood.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***COMMENTS / OBSERVATIONS***

- Scott Boone (K7ADX) was in his element. What a great asset (and example) he is to the team.
- Greg Peters (KC5ZGG) did a great job. Handled the speculation with patience and kept the exercise on track. Comfortable that he is in our group if the balloon should ever go up for real.
- Good call by the TOAD operators to move to Oro Valley repeater 146.620 when the coverage was lost on PCOEM's primary repeater 146.880 MHz.
- Good call by Base Comm net control to announce that there would not be a weekly 1300 hour net since we were in a middle of an exercise.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***ACTION ITEMS***

- Ensure all PCOEM Comm personnel know the Communicator! origination phone number so that they recognize it as same in the future.
- In a callout message, clearly state that it's a Pima County exercise/emergency.
- Callout recipients: Listen carefully to callout messages to be sure facts have been understood correctly.
- Develop a net control procedure/script to follow for an actual/exercise callout to include how to transfer net control to another operator.
- PCOEM/Base Comm: Keep net control informed of developments during the actual/exercise incident. Be cognizant of the location of the incident relative to that of the operator(s).
- Train personnel to report their status to net control when checking in.
- During monthly hospital drills, have operators ensure that radios are programmed properly in accordance with the current PCOEM Comm quick reference radio sheet. Report any discrepancies to Unit Leader for clarification and/or reprogramming.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***ACTION ITEMS***

- During monthly hospital drills, continue to train and have each hospital conduct a packet test by sending a message to Base Comm (N7OEM-10).
- Develop a procedure for times when there is only one operator at a hospital and he/she needs a break or to be released from duty.
- Continue to cross-train PCOEM Comm personnel on all functions of PCOEM Comm.
- Check the self-ID timers on the repeaters. It was noted that the 146.880 MHz machine is not meeting specifications.
- Develop a list of southern Arizona repeater owners in case it is necessary to move to one of their repeaters while Toad is deployed.
- Purchase programming cables for all radios used by PCOEM Comm or issued during an incident.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***ACTION ITEMS***

- Develop instructions on how to check out cached radio/equipment from Base Comm prior to deploying.
- Develop a coverage map on local repeaters that might be used during deployment.
- Develop training on the proper use of Amateur Radio Operator call signs as related to the use of tactical call signs.
- Develop recruitment strategies to attract more members.
- This exercise demonstrated that PCOEM Comm lacks the depth to staff even one complete Hospitals Unit shift at a moment's notice and can barely staff two no-notice shifts in other Units.

Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

- ***FINAL COMMENTS***
- Special Thanks...
 - Sierrita Mine
 - Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club
- Planners...
 - Scott Boone (K7ADX)
 - Gary Keck (KE7DX)
 - George James (KD7XP)
 - Bob Molczan (KA7VPR)



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Sierrita Mine Fire Exercise

Questions



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PCOEM Comm Director Minute



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Final Thoughts
Questions

