

For Immediate Release

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST IS HUGE SUCCESS; PUBLIC WAS INVITED AND PARTICIPATED

MOBILIZATION, COOPERATION AND READINESS ARE PARTNERS AS LOCAL REACT TEAM 4252 TESTS RADIO CAPABILITIES AND MEMBER SKILLS IN "MOCK" EMERGENCY SCENARIO

Corona, CA., August 25, 2001 -- Crest Communications today held its simulated "mock" emergency throughout the Southland from 09:00 to 11:00 a.m. REACT teams and amateur radio operators joined forces to support Crest Communications during its Simulated Emergency Test (SET2001) conducted earlier today.

The drill started promptly at 09:00 hours after "Net Control" (Crest 25/Ed) for the exercise had notified Corona Police Department and other local agencies regarding the planned communications exercise. At 08:45 hours, Crest 94/Wayne reported in from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to indicate the team's special e-mail address for the exercise was activated.

After the official announcement of the emergency by Net Control, members of Team Crest began checking in. Additional units from Santiago Communications REACT Team, Yucaipa Amateur Radio Club, Industry Hills and Riverside County REACT teams and KB6JAG, an amateur radio operator from Hemet, also contacted Crest during the exercise by radio or e-mail and provided support.

The Scenario:

Telephone contact was made to Net Control shortly before 09:00 hours to report a train had derailed in the canyon near Featherly Park, just off the 91 Freeway near the 241. Shortly after announcing the emergency, a radio operator reported a "cloud of smoke coming from the canyon area." Throughout the next two hours, various radio operators and e-mails received by the Emergency Operations Centers reported wind direction, notifications to law enforcement and emergency services agencies, traffic conditions and other status reports.

Rules of Engagement:

All transmissions related to the simulation were specifically identified as a "test" by Net Control. Throughout the simulation, announcements were made for any genuine "emergency" traffic to have immediate priority. Any request, however, would immediately dictate all participating radio operators to suspend operations until the emergency was finished. Fortunately, none occurred.

Special attention was given to radio discipline, proper radio procedures and coordination of resources. A full range of communications options was deployed during the "test" scenario, to include GMRS, Amateur and FRS radios. Cellular phones, electronic mail and other team resources were available and proved invaluable during the 2-hour period. The results will now be analyzed and evaluated to develop future training materials and additional testing scenarios for future use by the team.

RADIO EMERGENCY ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATIONS TEAMS

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Internet e-Mail: info@CRESTCOM.org | Team Web Site: www.CRESTCOM.org

The Public Participated

SET2001, or Simulated Emergency Test, featured a special e-mail account that was activated by the team during the test. Team members broadcast selected messages received from the public during the drill over their radios. E-mail messages reported additional teams on "standby deployment mode" and contact numbers for notifications regarding river contamination due to the train derailment scenario.

Also known as Crest REACT Team #4252, the all-volunteer group is affiliated with REACT International, Suitland, MD. Since 1962, REACT has been "on scene" at various locations throughout the world. It is an international organization of radio operators, who join local teams because they "love radios" and are "dedicated to public service using two-way radio communications."

About REACT International

REACT International (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) was founded in 1962 and is the recipient of The President's Volunteer Action Award. With headquarters in Suitland, Maryland (U.S.A.), members are dedicated to improving their neighborhoods and believe in public service through voluntary two-way radio communications. Although first use involved CB radio, which still exists, most teams now also use GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service).

There is an extensive network of GMRS repeaters throughout the country. In a typical year members may monitor CB, GMRS, Amateur, VHF and Marine frequencies over 3 million total hours. Approximately 170,000 calls will be taken and \$39,000,000 will be saved by taxpayers because of this volunteer work.

About Crest REACT

Crest Communications, Team #4252 is one of the largest REACT teams in the world, has provided communications in southern California since 1978. While many members also have their amateur radio licenses, the team uses GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) as their primary communications tool. Members purchase and maintain their own equipment, and volunteer their time to promote public safety, maintain their radio operator skills, and provide communications services during an emergency.

The team has established a repeater network for their communication's activities. Using licenses issued by the Federal Communications Commission, this resource is shared with other REACT teams and to REACT members visiting southern California. Contact Crest via e-mail at info@CrestCom.org or the team's web site: <http://www.CRESTCOM.org>.

For More Information, Contact:

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Membership Auto-Reply InfoBox: membership@CRESTCOM.org
Monday Night NET @ 2000 Hrs [8:00 p.m.] on 462.675 MHz
Crest Communications/CREST REACT is an IRS 501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit organization.