

# **Santa Clara County, California ARES/RACES**

## **PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING DAMAGES AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE**

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### **MILD EARTHQUAKE**

In the event of a mild earthquake we need to hear from hams in all the cities within the county. If you are affected by a mild earthquake in the future (if it catches your attention, even if only in a minor way), please tune your radio to **146.115(+)**PL 100.0/R (**AA6BT**), **145.270(-)**PL 100.0/R (**W6ASH**), or **444.625+ PL 110.9/R (N6NAC)** to see if any others are reporting affects of the earthquake. *Control operators; please be sure to link the repeaters as soon as possible, so that a county-wide, as well as a region-wide assessment can be made effectively.*

If you do not hear any traffic on the repeater:

- Announce your call sign.
- State that you experienced what you think was an earthquake.
- Ask if others on the repeater did as well.

You may then decide to be net control, or you can ask one of the others on the net if they would be willing to do so. **Net control should then start recording call signs and Mike Mike summaries (be sure to include the part of the city from which the ham is calling - e.g. "AB6DEF, MM4, downtown Palo Alto")**. (Reference reporting form at: [http://www.scc-ares-races.org/operations/docs/SCCo-ARES-RACES\\_MM\\_Summary\\_v100906.pdf](http://www.scc-ares-races.org/operations/docs/SCCo-ARES-RACES_MM_Summary_v100906.pdf))

- First, ask for reports of injuries, MM7 or higher.
- If none, then ask for reports of MM1- MM6 - this will also be of value when we try to determine the area's most affected by the earthquake.

When a county ARES/ RACES representative comes on the air, give that person the information that you have gathered (if no county representatives announces themselves, please page me at **408-589-5589** or my Cell **408-799-4597** - I might not have felt the earthquake either!). A county RACES representative (ADEC) will usually become net control. One of the first tasks will be to conduct a poll of all the cities in the county to determine extent of damage in each city. If you hear your city called, and no one responds, please announce your call sign, even if only to

report no damage. This way, we can be sure that all cities have been contacted at least in an informal way. If cities are performing an in-city damage assessment net, they should be sure to have one of their hams monitoring the ARES/RACES repeater to let the net control know that information is to be coming from that city. The net should be maintained until all cities have been contacted, and the net control should poll all the cities before closing the net. *(Note to County RACES personnel - if a city does not respond, either by individual hams, or collectively after a city-wide net, then call the EC for that city by telephone. If no answer, call the fire department in that city by telephone to determine the damages (if any) that the city experienced.)*

## **MODERATE TO MAJOR EARTHQUAKE**

If there is a major earthquake, everyone will know that it has occurred. Under these circumstances, please limit your reports to situations where injury or major damage has occurred. If you happen to be the net control, you should ask for, in this order:

- MM7 or higher
- MM1-6
- No Damage reports

Please wait for these specific requests before reporting.

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

When you have a report to make to Net Control, state your call sign, your name, and your location, and then wait for the Net Control to acknowledge. Proceed with your report when Net Control tells you to go ahead.

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# MODIFIED MERCALLI SCALE

The Modified Mercalli, or **Mike-Mike** scale is used by Santa Clara County ARES/RACES to standardize and make more efficient the reporting of earthquake damage. Instead of reporting damage by using general descriptions like "major" or "minor" or "heavy", a **Mike-Mike** value is reported. This value is quick and simple to communicate over the air and equates to a standard level of damage as defined in the scale below.

Mike-Mike-1	Not felt at all
Mike-Mike-2	Barely noticed
Mike-Mike-3	Know it was an earthquake somewhere
Mike-Mike-4	Windows, dishes rattle
Mike-Mike-5	Pictures move, doors swing, small items on floor
Mike-Mike-6	Glassware broken, books off shelf, floor lamps topple
Mike-Mike-7	Furniture broken, cannot stand, chimneys fall
Mike-Mike-8	Buildings collapsed

**An example of a proper response is: "This is <your-call-sign>, Mike-Mike-4, Los Altos"**

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/MMScale.html> (wallet size copies available at this link)