

PH CERT Scenario Evaluation Guidelines for Radio Communications

Pleasant Hill CERT has developed scenarios to exercise PH CERT members' search and rescue, first aid, medical, decision-making, and radio communication skills.

The PH CERT Area team (generally a search team) evaluates the scenario as follows:

- Uses the Scenario and Structure sections to determine whether the area is safe to enter and what actions to take.
- Uses the Victims section to determine the triage status of the victim(s) and what medical assistance is needed.

After the PH CERT team (generally, a search team) has evaluated the scenario and taken appropriate action, the team will compose an **actionable** radio message(s) to the PH CERT Area ICP.

In most cases, the team **WOULD NOT READ** the scenario word for word.

Actionable messages contain a minimum number of words, generally 25 words or less, to communicate the following:

- The location of the incident
- Danger to **life** or property – and what is **needed** to address the danger, such as medical transport, victim extraction, fire department, water company, PG&E
- When there is danger to life, the number of victims with red and yellow RPM status (not the RPM values themselves) and what is needed to address the danger such as medical transport or another PH CERT Area team to help extricate a victim
- When there is danger to property, the type of danger (e.g., fire) and what is needed to address the danger (e.g., fire department)
- When there is an obstruction that will impede the ability of first responders to respond, the location of the obstruction, the nature of the obstruction (e.g., tree across the road at a specific location), possible alternate routes, if known

The scenarios have the following format:

Scenario #	Structure	Victims
Description of incident, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence • Auto accident • Water main break • Fire • Tree across road • Etc. 	Description of structure or structural damage, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate damage to house • Masonry chimney fell • House off foundation • Soft story construction 	Description of condition(s) of victims, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42-year-old female <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bone sticking out of right forearm ○ Breathing once every 3 seconds ○ Color returns to fingertips in more than 2 seconds ○ Responds to verbal commands
Address of the incident		

The PH SARASSESS form has checklists to help with damage and RPM assessments.

Examples of scenarios and evaluations:

Note that the evaluations described below are for formulating radio communications and may not include other actions such as 360° assessment, turning off the gas, etc.

Scenario #13	Structure	Victims
Residence	2-story Bricks from pillars of front porch have fallen Broken windows	55-year-old man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large piece of wood in left thigh ● Breathing once every 2 seconds ● Color returns to fingertips in 3 seconds ● Alert and responsive
Address: 524 McGrath Court		

Evaluation:

- Structure has minor damage, and it is safe to enter. Damage could progress to moderate.
- Victim fails RPM (R = 30, P >2, passes M) and is classified as RED.

Actionable message:

- Location: 524 McGrath Court (spelled out)
- One red victim
- Need medical transport

Scenario #10	Structure	Victims
Tree blocking major east-west road and road is impassable.	None	None
Address: Boyd Road between Soule Avenue and Poshard Street		

Evaluation:

- No immediate danger to life or property.
- First responders cannot get around obstruction.
- Provide first responders with alternate route (e.g., Gregory Lane or Oak Park Boulevard).

Actionable message:

- Location: Boyd Road between Soule Avenue and Poshard Street (spell street names)
- Road is impassable due to a fallen tree. Open alternate routes are Gregory Lane and Oak Park Boulevard.

Scenario #8	Structure	Victims
House fire	Single story house on fire, possibly due to gas line break	Residents tried calling 911, but couldn't get through
Gas line break		All residents got out safely and are sitting on the front lawn
Address: 205 Stevenson Drive		

Evaluation:

- No immediate danger to life (all residents got out safely).
- House fire – need fire department; gas line break – need PG&E.
- The gas line break may affect the ability of first responders to respond.

Actionable message:

- Location: 205 Stevenson Drive
- House is on fire – need fire department
- Gas line break – need PG&E

Other actions:

- Since the situation is very unsafe, ask the residents and other neighbors to move far away from the site.
- Since the residents were uninjured, there is no need to report their condition via radio communication. Write down the status of the residents and turn in this information at the CERT Area ICP in case someone (e.g., a relative) asks about their condition.
- Document all your observations and submit the documentation to the CERT Area ICP when you return.

Note:

The scenario above is similar to the table-top exercise that was distributed during the PH CERT training.