

## After Action Report

**DATE:** 10 February 2009

**SUBJECT:** After Action Report – Carr Canyon

**FROM:** Robert Hollister

**TO:** David Noland, CCSO SAR Coordinator

**CC:** Mike Evans, CC Emergency Services  
Pablo Duarte, CC IT Department  
RACES Team

### 1. PURPOSE:

This report briefly describes the support provided by the Cochise County RACES/ARES Communications Unit to the Cochise County Search and Rescue Unit mission on the evening of 10 February 2009. It does not address any SAR specific operational issues.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The RACES/ARES team was requested to respond to support a Rescue Mission in the at the base of Carr Canyon Falls. The report was that there were three teenagers stuck about half way up the diff near the waterfall. The MCU was dispatched and set up in lower parking lot. There was some urgency due to cold weather and predicted severe storm warnings for the area. The three stranded climbers were quickly located with assistance from the AZ DPS Ranger helicopter. An approach angle was then determined with their assistance. Unfortunately, due to the high winds, they were unable to assist in the technical rescue of the dimbers. Consequently, a high angle technical rescue team was deployed down the face of the diff from above using our own SAR assets and assisted by Fry Fire Department Medics. One of the victims was initially displaying severe symptoms of hypothermia adding to the urgency of the rescue. Once the victims were pulled up they were transported to the hospital for further examination and as of this morning were reported to be OK .

### 3. LESSONS LEARNED/ISSUES:

Coffee Maker - While making the first pot, apparently the filter drain hole was not open and the coffee backed up out of the filter holder and made a big mess on the workbench. It is unclear whether the pot was not properly inserted or there was a plugged drain hole. Bottom line, care must be taken to check both possibilities when brewing coffee to avoid the spillover.

Motorola/Tait Radios - The squelch level on the wall mounted Motorola was reset after the last mission and seemed to appropriate. We were requested

to monitor two channels Cochise SAR and AZ SAR. Two problems surfaced. We chose to monitor AZ SAR on the Tait radio but had difficulty locating what zone had been set up with the SAR channels in it. We have still not been provided a listing of the channel configuration/load of the Tait. This would assist the operators greatly when trying to locate a specific channel. Also, when we attempted to contact CCSO Dispatch with the Tait before switching over to AZ SAR, we were unable to contact them. We could monitor SO-1 but apparently unable to transmit correctly.

#### **4. COMMENTS:**

MCU Utilization - In the very cold weather we were experiencing, the MCU once again became a gathering place for other SAR members remaining at the base camp during the operation. I was reluctant to ask them to leave as there was no other place for them to go, but it did interfere with maintaining an accurate log due to the distraction created by the noise of background conversations.

Weather Warning - Until the Satellite system was deployed, we utilized the Home Unit to access current weather radar information off the Internet for the rescue team. We deployed the satellite and then used it to provide continued weather updates. Point is that the Home Unit Station can be used to perform this key support mission when satellite coverage might otherwise be unavailable.

#### **5. ACTION ITEMS:**

Request assistance from the County IT Department to get listing of the channel load of the Tait radio, instruction on using the Tait squelch settings, and troubleshoot the "Transmit" issue on SO-1.

#### **Appendix – Participants**

CCSO SAR Unit  
FryFire Department  
RACES/ARES Team  
Bob Hollister - MCU Operator/Driver  
Jim Lewis – MCU Operator/Co-Driver  
Mike Bales - MCU Operator/Chase  
Don Saville - Home Unit  
Barb Heck – Home Unit

*Bob*  
Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

*"Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are."*

*Bernice Johnson Reagon*