

Using Radios

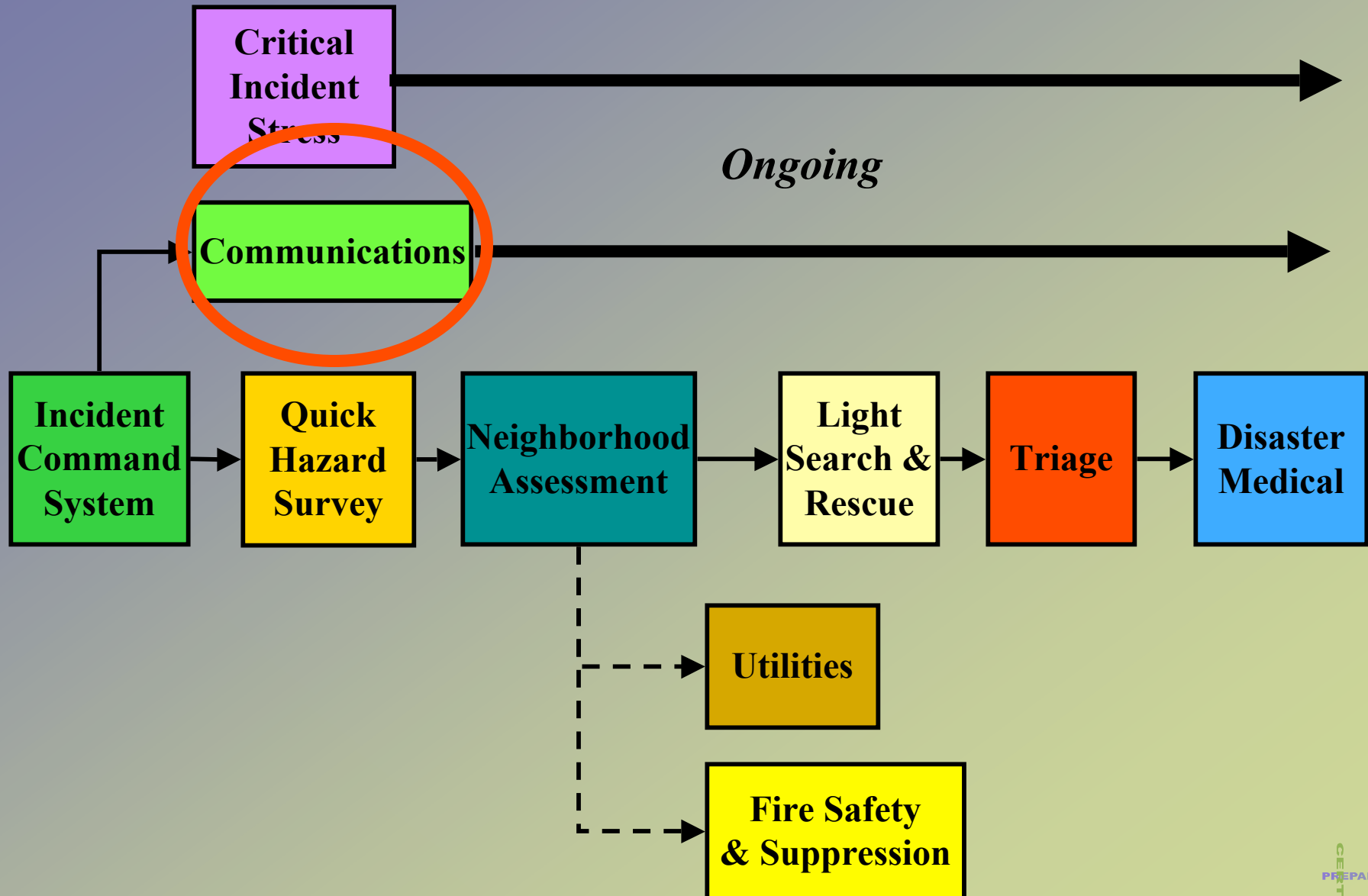
PREPAREDNESS

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(SARES)

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SNAP Neighborhood Response Overview



Objectives

- ★ Discuss Radio communication concepts
- ★ Identify features of the demonstration radio
- ★ FRS Radio Demonstration

Basic Concepts

★ Channel (Frequency)

- ★ An accepted place in the radio spectrum to communicate

★ Push to Talk (PTT)

- ★ If you are talking, you aren't listening

★ Private Line/CTSS/DCS

- ★ Something to avoid for now, unset it

★ Squelch

- ★ Ignore weak signals, save battery, preserve sanity

★ Monitor (MON)

- ★ Listen to whatever is out there (opposite of Squelch)

Basic Concepts

- Listen Before you Transmit
- Press, Breathe, Talk
 - The radio takes a moment to transmit
- Short range radio is line of sight
- Stuff absorbs and/or reflects Radio waves
Air (mostly) doesn't

Radio Services

- ★ Family Radio Service (FRS)
- ★ General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)
- ★ Amateur Radio
 - ★ Voice
 - ★ Packet (computer)
 - ★ <http://www.arrl.org>

Radio “vs” Cellphone

- ★ It's all Radio, Cell phones radio cell towers
- ★ PTT/Simplex vs Duplex
- ★ Channel (Frequency) vs phone number
- ★ Line of sight vs Cell tower

Other Factors

★ Range

- FRS – up .5 mile, maybe not far enough?
- GMRS – up to 3 miles, maybe too far?

★ Discipline

- Talk only when needed
- Check in regularly (30 min – 1 hr)
 - More frequent during S+R
- Remember Priorities, can your message wait?

To Make Radios Useful

- Radio Plan
 - Which groups need to talk via radio?
 - How many channels to use?
 - Isolate “noisy” activities
 - Issue pre-programmed radios
 - Document and distribute plan
 - “who's on what channel?”

To Transmit

- ★ Listen

 - ★ you can not interrupt

- ★ Press PTT

- ★ Breathe once

- ★ Say your message clearly and calmly

- ★ Release PTT

To Receive

- ★ Listen
- ★ Copy down pertinent details
- ★ Acknowledge transmission
- ★ Repeat key information to minimize error

Demonstration Radio Buttons

- ★ Power button
- ★ Display
- ★ Up/Down arrows
 - ★ Volume, channel, PL tone
- ★ CH button
- ★ MON button
- ★ PTT
- ★ Don't use SCN, MENU, CALL
 - ★ Don't use

Exercise

- ★ Turn Radio on
- ★ Monitor Static, adjust Volume
- ★ Chose Channel (chose a "lo"/FRS channel)
- ★ Disable PL/CTSS/DCS (for demonstration)
- ★ Listen, stand 6 ft apart or so
- ★ One at a time, transmit your name
- ★ All talk at once, see how effective it is...n't

Two-Way Radio for SNAP?

- ★ Two way radios are useful tools
- ★ FRS radios
 - ★ 1/4m useful range; no license necessary
- ★ GMRS radios
 - ★ 2m useful range; buy a license
- ★ Amateur radios
 - ★ Flexible range options; pass a 35 question test

Join SARES and Become Involved

- ★ An entry level Amateur Radio License is easy to get and “Ham Radio” is fun.
- ★ Talk to a SARES member



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Questions

