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Shadowing

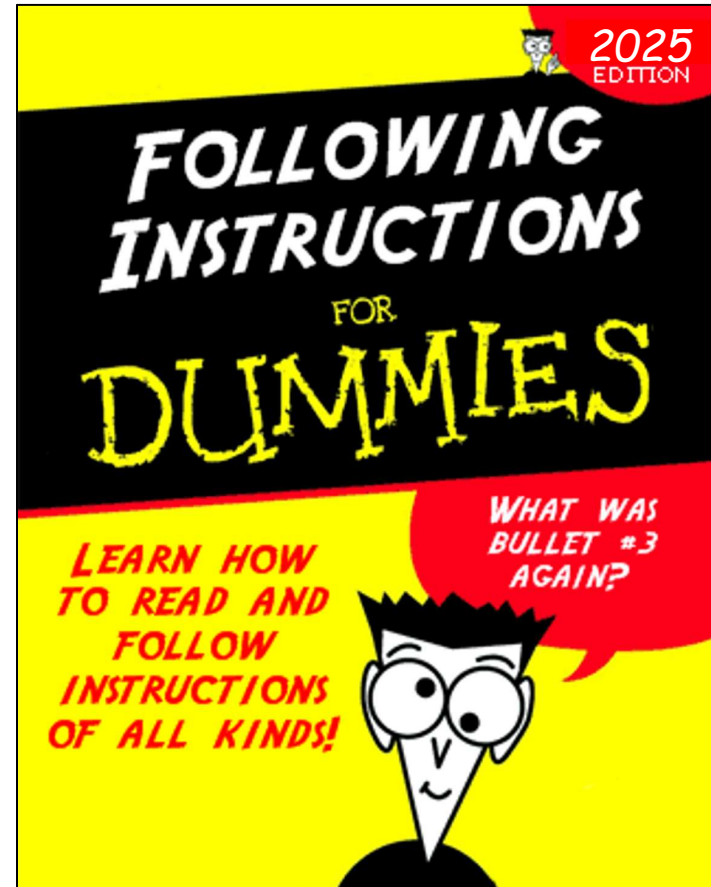


Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES

Last Updated: 05/21/2025

Housekeeping

- Introductions
- Pen/pencil & paper
- Cell phones
- Side conversations
- Questions
- Breaks
- Restrooms
- Do not wander within the building
- In case of emergency



Learning Objectives

- Explain the role of the Shadow Communicator
- Explain the importance of the role
- Explain the proper equipment to use
- Deal with various problems faced by shadow communicators
- Function as a fully independent shadow communicator to
 - Handle personal safety
 - Properly and professionally interact with the principal
 - Effectively and efficiently pass message traffic at a low level
 - Handle and pass emergency traffic
 - Properly document and log all activities
- Explain the Credential Standard for a Shadow evaluation
- Understand the importance of knowing how to program your radio

Agenda

- Roles and responsibilities
- Expectations of your principal
- Capabilities and services a shadow provides
- Types of message traffic handled
- Proper logging, monitoring, and message passing
- Proper shadowing techniques; the DOs and DON'Ts
- Dealing with problems encountered while shadowing
- Personal safety while shadowing
- How to earn a Shadow Credential

What is a Shadow?

- An Amateur Radio Operator (the **Shadow**) who accompanies an official (the **Principal**) during an event. A shadow operator may be on foot or mobile.
- The Shadow provides communications support for the Principal.
- The shadow **MUST ALWAYS** remain in the immediate vicinity of the Principal being shadowed.

Successful Shadowing



How to succeed ...

... without being noticed.

Two Kinds of Shadowing

- **Public Events/Drills**
 - Parades, sporting events, races, etc.
 - Drills are good for gaining experience
- **Incidents & Emergency Activations**
 - Need experience
 - Potential for injury and loss of life in emergencies
 - Need to be ready for anything

Shadow Type III



- **Capabilities**
 - Fully independent operator
 - Has the equipment, training, knowledge, skill, and experience to handle basic assignments correctly, without the need for assistance or coaching
 - Non-Critical, small or low complexity events
 - Low to medium traffic levels
 - Equipment: standard SCCo ARES/RACES go kit, a way to carry your radio while operating portable
- **Typical Assignment – Shadow for**
 - General event staff
 - Shelter Manager / CERT Team Leader

Shadow Type II



- **Capabilities**
 - Type III plus
 - Critical, large or high complexity events
 - More critical assignments
 - Plans small events
 - May have light duty on a second net
- **Typical Assignment**
 - Shadow for primary event official, city or county official
 - Shadow Net Liaison

Shadow Type I



- **Capabilities**
 - Type II plus
 - Most critical, large or complicated assignments, highest traffic levels
 - Plan, design, deploy and manage shadow communications for large events/incidents
- **Typical Assignment**
 - Shadow for senior government or high-profile official
 - Primary liaison for planning shadow comms

Shadow Assignments

- Public Service Events
 - Event Organizer
 - Safety Officer or Marshals
 - Judging personnel
 - Other event staff
- Activations
 - Incident Commander
 - Shelter Manager
 - EOC Staff
 - High profile principal

ASSIGNMENT



Shadowing: Abilities

- Stay focused on your principal
- Polite, friendly attitude
- Can keep up with your principal - critical
- Can juggle multiple tasks and priorities
- “Think on your feet” – literally
- Present and available (*when needed*)
- Can problem solve
- Stay cool under pressure

Shadowing: Skills

- Manage appropriate traffic levels
- Effectively pass message traffic
- Fully independent field operator
- Deployed up to 8 hrs, prepared for 12 hrs
- Prepared to operate in the dark or rain
- Maintain accurate logs and records
- Stay calm and collected even when your principal isn't
- Manage and follow-up on multiple messages

Shadowing: Forms

- ICS 211 – Check In List
- ICS 214 – Unit Activity Log
- ICS 309 – Communications Log
 - Optional for Shadows
- Unofficial Forms:
 - Telephone Message Pad (2 part NCR)
 - Index cards
 - “Form 1”
- ICS 213 – 3rd Party Message Form

ICS 211A CHECK IN LIST (COMMUNICATIONS)	1. INCIDENT NAME: Mummy Race	2. DATE: 10/31/24	3. INCIDENT NUMBER: MBH-24-03	4. CHECK IN LOCATION Gateman, Goodbody		
5. INFORMATION						
PERSONNEL NAME	CALL SIGN	AGENCY	TIME IN	TIME OUT	HOURS	REMARKS
Herman Munster	W6XRL4	City	1830	0010		
ICS 211A SCCo RACES	6. NUMBER OF PAGES: _____ of _____	7. PREPARED BY (RESOURCE UNIT):			8. MISSION NUMBER XSC -	

Phone Call Message Pads

This is a good form for passing informal traffic that can't or shouldn't be done verbally.

Can be used when principal is in a meeting or briefing, without interrupting them.

2-part carbonless preferred

Turned in with other paperwork.

Log it.

The image shows a spiral-bound notebook with four 'PHONE CALL' message pads. Each pad is a form with the following fields:

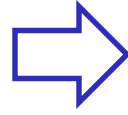
- FOR _____ DATE _____ TIME _____ A.M. / P.M.
- M _____
- OF _____
- PHONE _____ FAX _____
- MESSAGE _____
- SIGNED _____ 1154

On the right side of each pad, there are five checkboxes with corresponding labels:

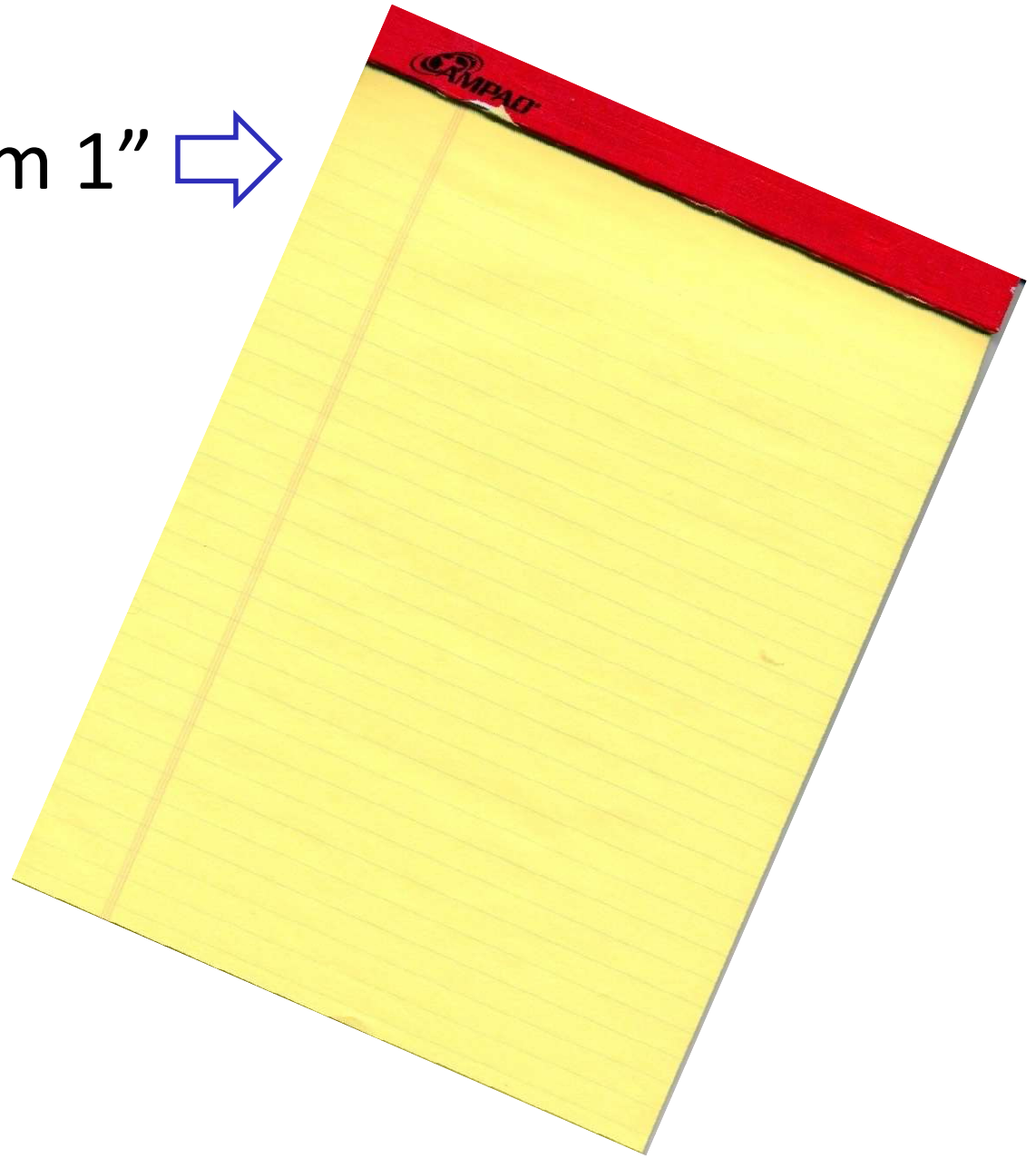
- TELEPHONED
- RETURNED YOUR CALL
- PLEASE CALL
- WILL CALL AGAIN
- CAME TO SEE YOU
- WANTS TO SEE YOU

The top-most pad is highlighted with a black border.

“Form 1”



Spiral Index Cards



ICS-213 Message Form

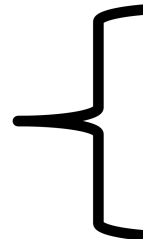
Always have formal message forms with you. You may need them to document a formal message, and even have it approved for accuracy before you send it.

MESSAGE FORM		Origin Msg #: ² _____	Destination Msg #: ³ _____
<small>► For paper: use ballpoint pen – blue or black ink only (See back for instructions)</small>			
Date ¹ : ____/____/____ <small>(mm/dd/yy)</small>	Time (24hr): _____ <small>(0001 to 2400)</small>	Handling ⁵ (✓one): <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate (ASAP) <input type="checkbox"/> Priority (<1 hr) <input type="checkbox"/> Routine (<2 hr)	
This Message Requests You To ⁶ : TAKE ACTION (✓one): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No REPLY (✓one): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, by _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No			
T O	ICS Position: (required) ⁷ _____		ICS Position: (required) ⁸ _____
	Location: (required) ⁹ _____		Location: (required) ⁹ _____
	Name: (optional) _____		Name: (optional) _____
	Telephone #: (optional) _____		Telephone #: (optional) _____
SUBJECT: ¹⁰ _____			
REFERENCE (e.g., Number of earlier msg.): ¹¹ _____			
MESSAGE: ¹² (what, when, where needed; how long; contact name and phone number - KEEP MSG BRIEF)			
ACTION TAKEN: ¹³ (For use by Originator / Recipient) ► USE SEPARATE MESSAGE FORM IF SENDING REPLY!			
CC: <input type="checkbox"/> Management <input type="checkbox"/> Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Logistics <input type="checkbox"/> Finance			
Operator Use Only: ¹⁴			
Relay:	Rcvd:	Sent:	
How Received <input type="checkbox"/> or Sent <input type="checkbox"/> (✓one): <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch Center <input type="checkbox"/> EOC Radio <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Amateur Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		Operator Call Sign: _____ Operator Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____	
<small>Outgoing (Sent): ¹⁵ Message Originator: Send the original to radio. Retain a copy for your reference. Radio: After sending, complete Operator Use Only and file in radio. Incoming (Received): ¹⁵ Radio: Complete Operator Use Only then route to the Addressee. Retain a copy in radio if directed by Supervisor. Addressee: Take appropriate action.</small>			
SCCo RACES ICS Form 213 (01/19/2022)			

What forms do I need?

Standard Go Kit Forms

Go-Kit forms
Common for
Shadows



ICS-205 Communications Plan <i>rev. 2018-07-09 — 5 in Go Kit</i>		
ICS-211A Check In List <i>rev. 2019-04-29 — 5 in Go Kit</i>		
ICS-213 Message <i>rev. 2022-01-19 — 10 in Go Kit</i>		
EOC-213RR Resource Request <i>rev. 2017-08-03 — 5 in Go Kit</i>		with Guide <i>rev. 2017-08-03</i>
ICS-214 Unit Log <i>rev. 2021-04-08 — 5 in Go Kit</i>		
ICS-309 Communications Log <i>rev. 2021-04-08 — 5 in Go Kit</i>		
ICS-314 Windshield Damage Survey <i>rev. 2009-07-00 — 5 in Go Kit</i>		
Allied Health Status (DEOC-9) <i>rev. 2018-02-00 — 3 in Go Kit</i>		
Mike-Mike Summary <i>rev. 2024-02-28 — 2 in Go Kit</i>		
OA Jurisdiction Status <i>rev. 2019-05-28 — 3 in Go Kit</i>		
OA Shelter Status <i>rev. 2019-06-19 — 3 in Go Kit</i>		
RACES Radio Routing Slip <i>rev. 2019-05-27 — 5 in Go Kit</i>		
All Go Kit Forms <i>rev. 2024-03-18</i>		

<https://www.scc-ares-races.org/operations/forms/go-kit>

Where do I get these forms?

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/>

Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES 🔍

SCCo ARES/RACES is an organization of over 350 volunteer radio operators providing emergency communications services to Santa Clara County.

Calendar & Signups >	Profile & Records >	Training & Practice >	Operations >
MAY 14 SARES Member Meeting >	Your Contact Information <i>How we can reach you</i> >	Classes <i>EmComm training curriculum</i> >	Go Kit and Forms <i>Things every operator should have</i> >
MAY 17 ARES/RACES Communications Drill >	Your Activity Record <i>Classes and events you've done</i> >	Submit Class Evaluation <i>How can we improve?</i> >	City/County ARES Info

Operations

Go Kit and Forms

Go Kit Checklist <i>What every operator should have</i> >	All Go Kit Documents <i>Reference material required in kit</i> >
All Go Kit Forms <i>All forms required in an operator's kit</i> >	Role-Specific Forms <i>Resource Net, Hospital, RACES Leader</i> >
Recommended Form Routine >	RACES Radio Routine Slip >

Voice Operations

Voice Frequency Lists <i>County, cities, regional, state</i> >	
Message Handling Procedures <i>rev. 2024-06-28</i> PDF	Field Operations Checklist <i>rev. 2022-11-13</i> PDF
Resource Net SOP and Scripts <i>rev. 2024-08-28</i> PDF	Resource Net Template <i>rev. 2024-08-21</i> PDF

Equipment: Go-Kit

- S3
 - HT dual band (2m/70cm) radio (5 watt) dual VFO, dual receive is preferable
 - Spare Batteries for minimum of 12 hours of operations
 - Small backpack, vest, or chest harness for carrying HT and other items
- S2
 - All S3 and F2 equipment and a second HT
- S1
 - All S2 and F1 equipment

Equipment: Go-Kit

- **Headset** - headset (or ear bud) with boom mic (speaker mic not recommended)



Equipment: Go-Kit

- **Magnetic mount dual band (2m/70cm) antenna**
- **Adapters** to connect to your radio (HT and/or Mobile)



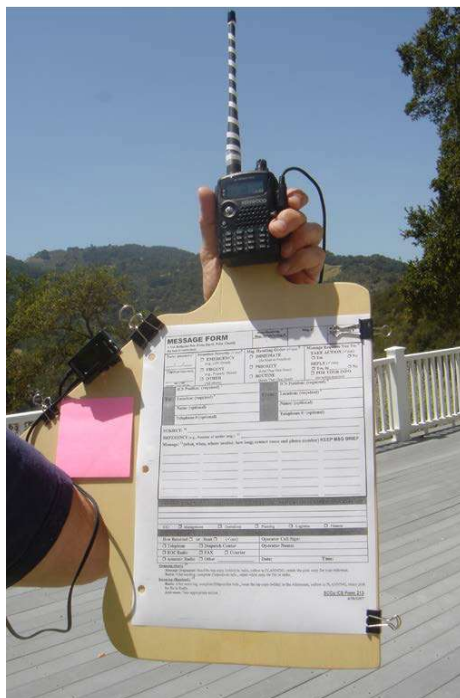
Equipment: Go-Kit

- Chest Pack, harness, pocket for radio and equipment so your hands are free



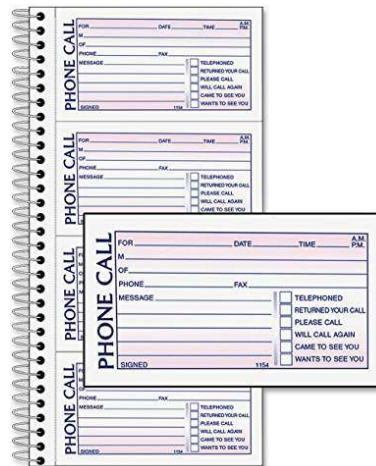
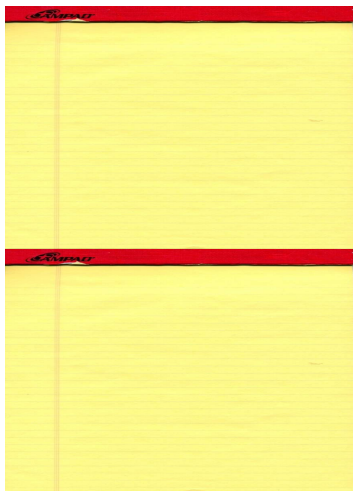
Equipment: Paper Mgmt

- Good writing surface
- Forms Storage - Clip board w/storage or plastic folders



Equipment: Paper Mgmt

- Pads of paper or spiral bound steno pad notebook (form 1) for informal messages
- 2-part phone message pads
- Multiple binder clips of various sizes



Equipment: Paper Mgmt

- Forms
 - ICS 214 SCCo RACES – Unit Log
 - ICS 309 SCCO RACES (optional for Shadows)
 - ICS 213 SCCo RACES – Message Form

Equipment: Personal

- **Several pens** or your favorite writing implements
- Sturdy **comfortable shoes** or boots
- **Hat or helmet** (depending on assignment)
- Clothes (dress in layers), anticipate assignment
- **Gloves** (still need to write, use radio, and handle forms)
- **Jacket or windbreaker** to match anticipated weather conditions.
- **Safety vest, ANSI Class 2, safety yellow/lime yellow with pockets for carrying items while operating portable**

Equipment: Personal

- Personal Supplies
 - Water or juices
 - Power or energy bars
 - Sunscreen
 - Sun glasses
 - Easy to read watch or clock
 - **Small flashlight** with at least one set of spare batteries.
 - **Book light** – Great on clip board
 - **Head Lamp** – Don't blind people with your light

Shadowing: First 5 minutes

- Set mutual expectations
 - Introduce yourself
 - Ask if they have any questions
 - First time assigned a shadow?
 - Explain the capabilities and services you and Net Control can provide.
 - Explain we are communicators, not assistants. You are limited to and insured for communications.
 - Write down their full name and title
 - Exchange cell #s if appropriate

Shadowing: First 5 minutes

- Understand the equipment they expect you to use.
 - Your own
 - A commercial or other radio provided by event
 - Their cell phone
- Ask what type of traffic they need you to handle/monitor.
 - Listen for and keep them informed of significant events and activities they care about.

Shadowing: First 5 minutes

- Establish procedures to reconnect when separated.
 - Bathroom breaks
 - Sensitive meetings
 - You lose them (it happens)
- Cell phone contact
- Arrange a meeting place if you lose each other

Shadow “First 5 Minutes” Checklist

Name, FCC Call Sign:	Tactical Call Sign:	Date and Time:
Event/Incident Name:		Activation Number:

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Principal (Name, Title, Tactical, etc.): _____

3. Explain role of shadow, capabilities provided:
 - a. To ensure you can always be reached.
 - b. I am able to get information for you while you attend to other matters.
 - c. I can take messages for you at times you don't want to be interrupted.
 - d. My services are limited to providing communications.
 - e. Any questions?
4. In addition to using my personal ham equipment, I can use principal/event supplied equipment, too
 - a. Mobile Phone Commercial Radio FRS/GMRS Other: _____
5. Roles and Responsibilities of principal: _____

6. Is there any specific message traffic, or particular events, that you would like to be kept informed about? __

7. Reconnect plan if separated: _____

8. Principal's mobile phone number: _____

----- Fill out -- Tear Here -- Give to Principal -----

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Phone: _____

Notes: _____

Break Time!



Effective Shadowing

- Stay within an effective distance of your Principal
 - Typically 5-10 feet away
- Remain with your Principal until relieved
 - By Replacement
 - By Net Control
 - Or released by your principal or other authority

Effective Shadowing

- Multi-tasking:
 - Monitoring your net
 - While communicating with your Principal
 - And logging traffic and events
 - While not losing sight of your Principal
- When passing verbal traffic:
 - Do not use Q-codes or 10-codes.
 - ID with your Tactical Call and FCC Call Sign
 - At the end of an exchange or at 10 minutes
 - This is Dracula's shadow ... W6XRL4

Effective Shadowing

- If the principal takes a break, you should too.
 - Never pass on bathrooms, meals or rest.
- Do as you are told
 - You may be excluded from meetings, briefings, or private conversations.
- Do as you are told... unless
 - It involves your personal safety, and you find it questionable

Effective Shadows ...

- Know their Principal's position and title.
 - You may be called by either one.
- Know function of other principals being shadowed and the Tactical Call of the other Shadows
 - Who to call for information your principal wants
- Remain composed and positive
 - You are there to help the Principal be successful
- Monitor **all** traffic for information that might be useful to their Principal. Anticipate their requests.
 - If they ask for a status on something frequently, pay attention to those events.
 - Record significant events and activities to anticipate what they may ask about later

Effective Shadows ...

- Ask clarifying questions before transmitting or relaying information
 - If it doesn't make sense to you, it may be incomplete
 - Clarify timeframes on requests before relaying.
 - What priority / how critical is this request?
- Listen for direct traffic, not from Net Control.
 - Normally a Shadow Net is an Open Net
- Prioritize traffic to/from Principal, to avoid monopolizing the net.

Effective Shadows ...

- Are mindful of Principals' personal space.
 - If they are uncomfortable, step back.
- Ask NCO to be relieved if you cannot keep up the pace.

Shadows: What to log?

- ICS 214 (Unit Log)
 - When assigned, relieved
 - “First 5 minutes” information
 - Notes, questions, significant events
 - Messages, inquiries
 - Every time you transmit or receive
- ICS 309 (Communications Log) **Optional for Shadows**
 - A Shadow needs to be mobile working from a clipboard
 - OK to log all messages on ICS-214
 - But, you do need an ICS-309 for a second net

Shadows: What to log?

- Examples:
 - *0813 : First runners started.*
 - *0822 : To all checkpoints - Principal needs to know when first runner passes each checkpoint.*
 - *1413 : Asked parking detail to close South parking lot. Confirm when done.*
 - *1433 : Parking detail says South lot now closed.*

Shadows: What to log?

- Informal/Operational message traffic
 - Logistics requests
 - Most message traffic will be informal. Very seldom will you get any formal messages.
- ICS 213 (3rd Party Message)
 - Use ICS 213 when you want to precisely document a message or critical information.

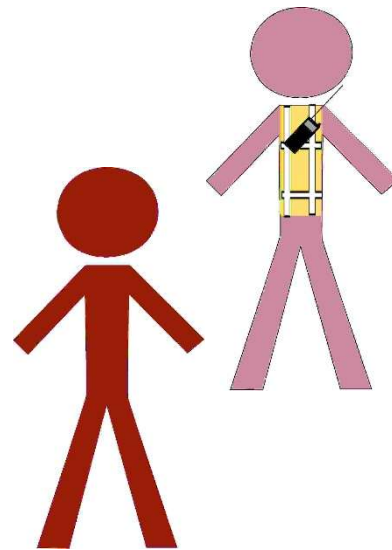
Shadows and Traffic Mgmt

- You could get **EMERGENCY** traffic for your Principal, pay attention.
- **ALWAYS** keep track of your traffic.
 - You could have 3-4 messages out waiting for responses, and several incoming messages or questions coming in.
 - Mark “open” questions, check them off.
 - Be prepared to go back through logs to answer previous questions.
 - Example: *Did the South parking lot ever get closed?*

Effective Shadows...

- Leave a **GOOD** impression.
 - It takes a lot more effort to overcome a bad impression.
 - You are an ambassador for SCCo amateur radio communications.
- Blend in and don't "stand out".
 - Best crew is never seen - same for a shadow.
- Work to solve the Principal's problems
 - Principal's concern and problems are yours as well.

Don't Socialize Don't lose your Principal



Effective Shadows...

- **DON'T** stand around and chat with other shadows. Focus on your Principal.
- **DON'T** lose track of radio traffic.
 - Requires focus and attention to detail.
- **DON'T** interrupt unless it's an emergency or requested to do so by calling party.
- **DON'T** lose your Principal.
- **DON'T** chat with people around them.

Shadows: Safety First!

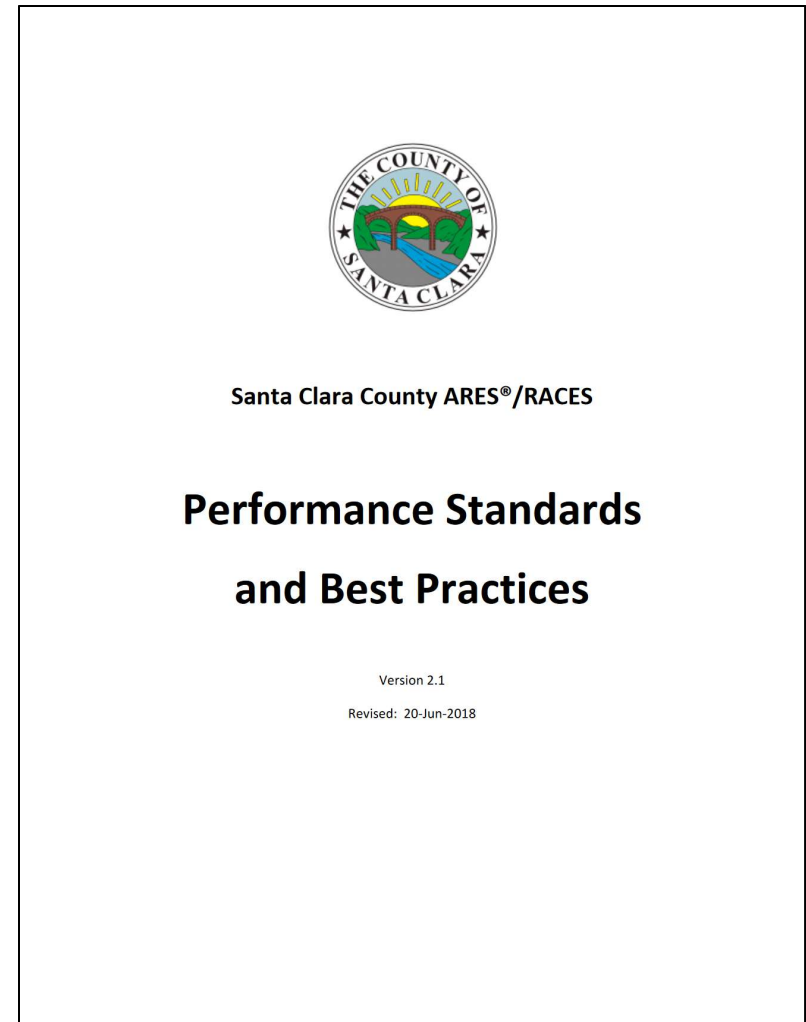
- Dead heroes don't count
- Maintain situational awareness
 - Know your surroundings and situation
 - Disaster and Emergencies are unpredictable, don't turn your back
- If you believe it's unsafe, it's OK to say so
 - “This is as far as I go, I'll be here IF you come back.”
 - You can back out but do so gracefully, don't just leave. Inform NC and/or supervisor.

Shadow Credential Evaluation Criteria



Good Operators Follow Performance Standards and Best Practices

- Covers all performance aspects of operating in ARES/RACES
 - Professionalism and Training
 - Communications Technique
 - Safety
 - Methods and Procedures
 - Equipment
 - Documentation
- Applies to all operators
- Standard used for credential performance evaluations



https://www.scc-ares-races.org/operations/SCCo_Perf_Std_v2.2.pdf

Earning a Credential

- **Equipment**
 - Standard 12-hour go kit, plus more as appropriate
- **Training**
 - SCCo ARES/RACES courses: technical and role-specific
 - ICS/SEMS/NIMS courses
- **Knowledge**
 - Able to explain key concepts (general and role-specific)
- **Experience**
 - Participation as a Shadow at events and incidents
- **Performance**
 - Peer-reviewed, based on Performance Standards
 - Conducted at regular events (no special circumstances needed)

Prerequisites

	Type III	Type II	Type I
Prerequisite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Comm Type III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadow Comm Type III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadow Comm Type II

Required Training

	Type III	Type II	Type I
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCCo Shadow Comm Type III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type III, plus • SCCo Cross-band Repeat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type II, plus: • ICS-300 • SCCo Event Planning
Participation & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 drill or public service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type III, plus: • 1 drill or public service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type II, plus: • 1 drill or public service • Plan Shadow Comms

Shadowing: Equipment



	Type III	Type II	Type I
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Comm Type III, plus: • Backpack, vest or harness for portable operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Comm Type II, plus: • Backpack, vest or harness for portable operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadow Type II, plus: • DC supply • Battery charger • Sustained power > 12 hrs

Knowledge



	Type III	Type II	Type I
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HT radio familiarity • Performance Standards For Shadows • Managing problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type III, plus: • Mobile radio familiarity • Cross-band repeater ops • Managing problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type II, plus: • Radio familiarity • Manages problems

Knowledge

- Can effectively deal with loss of:
 - Loss of Principal
 - Repeater
 - NCO
 - Just plain lost



Loss of Principal

- Did you make prior arrangements
 - Exchange Cell Phone #s
 - Arrange a place to meet
- Ask other Shadows for help
- Ask Net Control for help



Loss of Repeater

- How do you know?
 - Have not heard any traffic
 - No courtesy tone
 - Can not contact NC or other Shadows
- Actions
 - Is your radio working?
 - Battery OK
 - Did you accidentally change radio settings (lock keypad)
 - Use the Repeater Output frequency with tone
 - Is there a backup frequency on the ICS-205



Loss of NCO

- Net Control is generally a liaison to another net or a monitor
- Is another Shadow near the NC location, can they investigate
- Can another under-utilized shadow listen to two nets and serve as liaison



Just Plain Lost

- Actions
 - Do you have a map or other briefing documents
 - Ask another shadow if any are in sight
 - Ask Net Control for help



Knowledge

- Can effectively deal with difficult physical environment



High
Temp



Noisy



Rain/Wind



Cold

High Temperature

- Situation
 - Operating in very high temperatures
- Actions
 - Use shade whenever possible
 - Trees, edge or eave of building, pop-ups
 - Try to keep your radio(s) out of direct sunlight
 - Stay Hydrated
 - Use sunscreen and hat
 - Watch for signs of heat exhaustion in yourself and others



Rain/Wind

- Situation
 - You need to operate in the rain
- Action
 - Protect your paperwork and equipment from rain
 - Plastic bags for radio and clipboard
 - Waterproof paper (Expensive), waterproof ink
 - Binder Clips to hold papers/forms
 - Enclosed clipboard to protect papers
 - Always have appropriate clothing for conditions



Cold

- Situation
 - You need to operate in the cold
- Action
 - Dress in layers
 - Hat, gloves, good footwear, hand & toe warmers
 - Watch for signs of hypothermia in yourself and others
 - Hydration and food, your body needs fuel



Noisy

- Situation
 - You need to operate in loud conditions
- Action
 - Use a headset
 - Use noise cancelling mike
 - Pay extra attention to radio – it is easy to miss someone calling you
 - Just because it is noisy is not a reason for you to talk loudly. It only makes things worse.



Break Time!



Operator Skills



	Type III	Type II	Type I
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Standards • Low-to-medium traffic • Multiple informal msgs • ICS-211, ICS-214, ICS-309 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type III, plus: • Medium-to-high traffic • Multiple informal msgs • ICS-205 • 2 nets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type II, plus: • Plan, design, setup an event • ICS-201, ICS-202

Operator Skills

Operator skill will be evaluated by observing performance in all of the following areas:

- Effectively manage traffic for the assigned principal for at least one hour
- Accurately and effectively passes message traffic
 - Multiple informal messages - fill out, log, pass, and track
- Properly and accurately maintains logs and records:
 - ICS 211A-SCCo Communications check-in form for all operators at the location
 - ICS 214-SCCo Unit Activity Log, including briefing, time on scene; messages sent/received; actions taken; events that occur; and time when assignment ends
 - Submits logs and records to supervisor at end of shift/event

Operator Skills

- You need to be able to program your radio in the field without assistance from others or a computer
- Configure radio to perform each of the following without hesitation or delay without the use of documentation
 - Program frequency with
 - Simplex without tone
 - Simplex with tone and tone squelch
 - Repeater with offset and CTCSS tone
 - Save configurations to and recall from memory
 - Lock keypad or mic controls, if so equipped
 - How to do a full factory reset

Operator Skills

- Identifies with Tactical call
- Ends communication with FCC Call
- Calls other Shadows by their Tactical Call
- Listens, Listens, Listens

Type 2 Skills

- Set up and use a crossband repeater
- Ends communication with FCC Call
- Calls other Shadows by their Tactical Call
- Handle light communications on a second net
- Listens, Listens, Listens

Lessons Learned



Problem Solving

- When what you are doing just isn't working
 - Maybe information is not passed fast enough...
 - Maybe a directed net isn't called for
 - Switch to an open net for faster information exchange
 - Someone has an open mic
 - Locate the problem by checking with everyone
 - Have two frequencies: one for normal traffic and one used for H&W. Monitor both all the time
 - Tactical calls are too long and cumbersome
 - Shorten them to something that can be expressed more quickly

Problem Solving

- You can't reach the shadow you need to talk to.
 - Ask Net Control to relay the message.

- You have a radio (or other) problem that you can't fix quickly.
 - Get word to Net Control that you need a replacement.
 - Ask a nearby operator to inform Net Control
 - Phone someone who can contact Net Control

Problem Solving

- Your principal is getting irritated with you and taking it out on you.
 - Ask for help from Net Control.
 - Ask for the Comms IC's help
 - Ask to be replaced

- The environment is so noisy you really can't hear.
 - Try a different headset
 - Use an ear bud under a headset or earmuffs

Problem Solving

- You're exhausted and just can't keep up with your principal
 - Ask for a replacement
 - Ask to have a principal that's more stationary
 - Try to anticipate this ahead of time
- Your radio isn't working correctly
 - Did you lock your keyboard?
 - Know your radio well
 - Ask another shadow for help
 - Take an extra radio, just in case

Examples

- Check In To Shadow Net



:23

- Meet Up with Principal



1:27

- Health & Welfare



1:15

Examples

- Released/Check-Out



:25

- Not Using Tactical Call



:24

Example

- What do you hear?
What would you do differently?



5:20

Nancy's Shadow-NS Debbie's Shadow-DS Sammie's Shadow-SS
NS wants to get a message from SS that was unsuccessful over event radio

NS calls SS, NC tries to answer, DS answers & cuts off part of her Tactical

After a short while NS realizes he is talking to DS and not SS

NS again calls SS and asks for SS to relay message to NS

SS appears to think NS is going to send him a message and is waiting

NS clarifies that he is standing by for message from SS, SS misses that

NS calls SS to say he is still standing by for message from SS

SS is confused about direction of the message

NS tries to clarify

SS can't copy NS due to background noise

SS radio cuts out due to low battery

NS ask for help from Net Control (NC)

Lessons

- Have the correct Equipment
 - Headset or ear bud, no speaker mics
 - Noise cancelling microphone
 - Batteries to last entire event, check them frequently.
If batteries are low you can still receive, but transmit will be affected.
- Procedures
 - Listen, listen, listen. Pay attention
 - ID with Tactical Call
 - Don't talk loudly to overcome noise
 - Ask for help from Net Control or others

Theory vs Experience

- Two parts to learning: Theory and Experience
 - Focus of the classroom is on theory/procedures
 - Experience comes at drills and public service events
- Just like lecture vs. lab in college, both are needed to master the subject

LECTURE LAB

Experience

- Shadowing opportunities range from ones with very little traffic to quite busy.
- You can let the event organizer know you are new to Shadowing and they can then assign you to an easier position.
- For drills you might be assigned to a Principal who has been a shadow themselves and can help coach you.

QUESTIONS

Final Assignment

Please complete the Class Evaluation within one week.

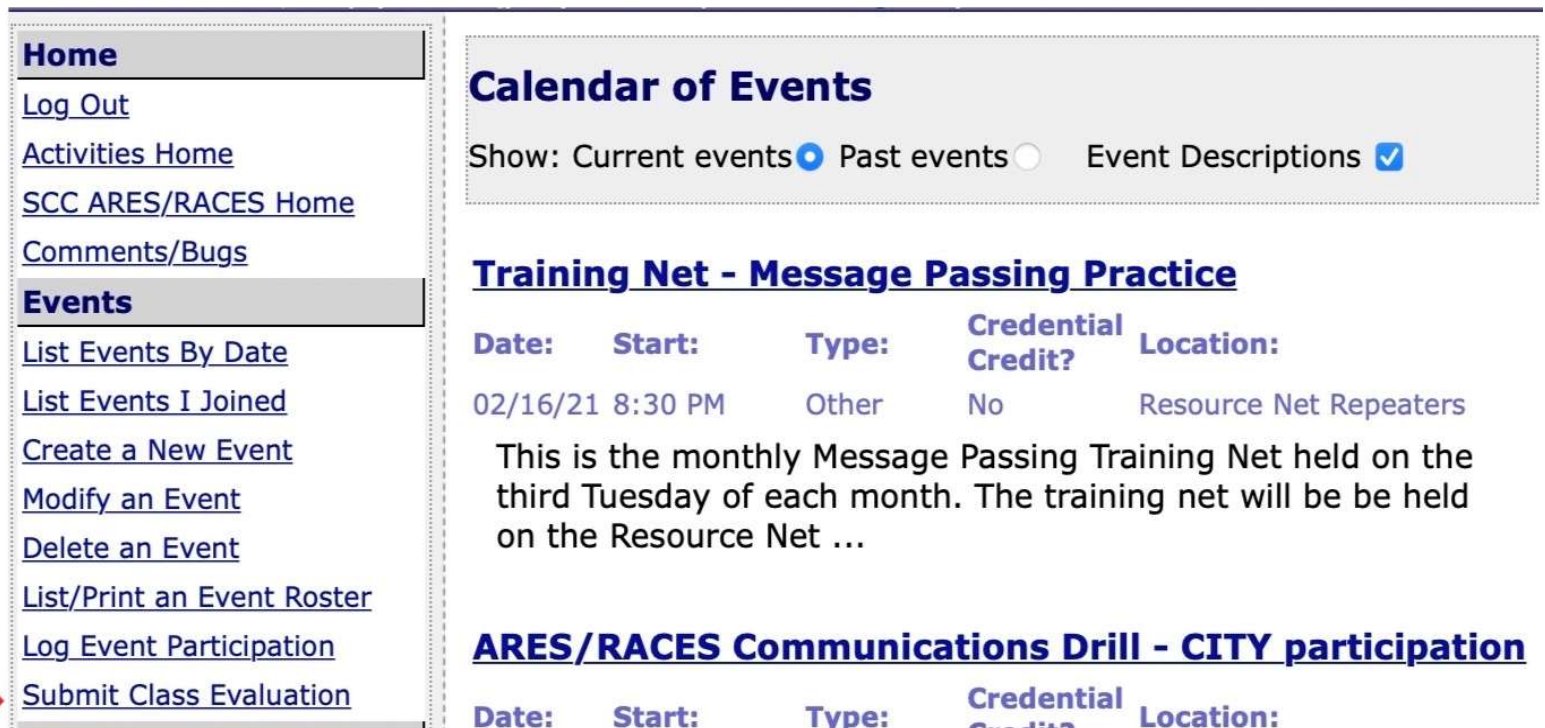
To receive course credit, you need to

- Attend at least 90% of the class
- Participate in class
- Complete the class evaluation

If you do these, you will get credit for the course.

Online Class Evaluation

Log into <https://www.scc-ares-races.org/activities/events.php>
Click “Submit Class Evaluation” in Events



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Calendar of Events
Show: Current events Past events Event Descriptions

Training Net - Message Passing Practice

Date:	Start:	Type:	Credential Credit?	Location:
02/16/21	8:30 PM	Other	No	Resource Net Repeaters

This is the monthly Message Passing Training Net held on the third Tuesday of each month. The training net will be held on the Resource Net ...

ARES/RACES Communications Drill - CITY participation

Date:	Start:	Type:	Credential Credit?	Location:
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Thank You!

If you have questions or feedback about this or other training activities, you can join our Training discussion group.

<https://scc-ares-races.groups.io/g/training>

This is a moderated group.