

Kaiser Permanente Amateur Radio Network (KPARN)

The Future is Now

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COMMITMENT

- Amateur Radio has long history with KP providing emergency communications
- Proven technology in Katrina and other disasters – more communications modalities (multi mode and frequency) well suited to healthcare
- Leadership for “SYSTEM” linking facilities will be model for KP
- Consider N CA, Hawaii and Oregon in communication planning

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“SYSTEM”

- Voice Infrastructure
- Standardized radio communications equipment at all critical facilities
- Staffing
- Training
- Long Range (HF)
- Digital Infrastructure
- Without these components – there is NO “SYSTEM” and no communications

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VOICE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Mountaintop Antenna “Rental” Contracts
- Regular Professional Maintenance of Mountaintop Equipment
- New 6 Meter Repeater on Santiago Mountain
- Additional Linked Radio Repeaters on other mountaintops (N – S Link) and KP facilities

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FACILITY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

- Most installed radios are over 15 years old - parts, etc no longer available
- Antennas at end of life due to weather, UV, etc
- Lack of requirements in new construction and radio infrastructure in “template” hospitals
- No equipment in new hospitals (Downey, Pan City, Irvine)

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FACILITY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

- Standardize all radio installations
- Identify hospitals and other key locations
- Program all radios, features, the same (Common equipment and channels)
- Assure redundant (multiple radios) and multiple communication paths.
- Staff portable radios.
- Provide support to other hospital communications as appropriate (800, HEAR, etc) in an emergency

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STAFFING

- KP employee amateur radio operators?
- Who is able to participate?
- Reach via KP web, newsletters, etc
- Employee families, Members, Local Amateur Radio Clubs.
- Core group at each facility. Same operators routinely at same locations, multiple deep resources.

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TRAINING

- A standardize “core” curriculum: ICS, emergency communications, etc via on-line courses
- System overview training and documentation
- Overview of local equipment, locations, etc for facility radio rooms
- Written OPS MANUAL
- Website, quarterly newsletters, drills, etc

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LONG RANGE (HF) INFRASTRUCTURE

- Communicate nationwide and worldwide
- Consider this and other links from S to N California, Hawaii, Oregon
- Installed only at select locations – Walnut Center, San Diego and ? (Previously South Bay and Bellflower).
- Standardized and maintain radio equipment
- Consistent periodic practice and drills.

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DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Use KP 1.2 Gigahertz Repeater currently licensed
- D-Star technology demonstration
- KPARN D-Star goal is email like communications via radio
- System built on successful demonstration

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***The SYSTEM is the
solution***