



How to join the Rancho Mirage HOA Monthly Radio Drill

Thanks for taking the important step in considering participating in the City's HOA Monthly Radio Drill (the "Drill"). The Drill is conducted monthly on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Drill tests communication capabilities between the City and HOAs in the City. During a major disaster such as an earthquake, most experts predict no landline or cell phone service leaving radio communications as one way for the City to directly communicate with its residents about medical emergencies and damage assessment and rescue.

HOAs participating in the Drill purchase a UHF hand-held radio (digital-analog capable) and have it tuned to the City's HOA channel (Duplex - Transmit 458.38750, receive 453.38750, and Simplex - Transmit 453.38750, receive 453.38750; both use PL Tone 127.30000). The photo on the left shows a sample radio (Motorola Mag One BPR40). You can Google UHF hand-held radios and try to buy on line or, you can use a local vendor. Although the City can't make specific recommendations on any particular company or radio, the City has recently used Airwave Communications (760) 702-7852 and Advanced Electronics (760) 772-4265 or 994-9804. If you buy on line, you will have to have your radio tuned to the City's HOA. The cost for the radio would be in the range of \$275-300 (2017).



Once you buy a radio, just contact the City with the name of your HOA (e.g. *Mission Hills*) and provide the City with the email of the person(s) who might be participating in the Drill. Each month- usually 24 hours in advance of the Drill – the City will send out an email blast to you and all the other HOAs reminding you about the Drill. When the City calls out your HOA on the night of the Drill, you respond by saying "read you loud and clear Rancho Mirage". The City will respond back to you so you know that we heard your transmission.

During an actual event, your HOA would call in on the radio to communicate critical information to the City about the status of your community (e.g. 2 injured, 3 houses collapsed, etc.). The information will be collected by the City and resources will be deployed to help you when available.

Thank you again for considering joining the HOA Monthly Radio Drill and we hope to be communicating with you soon! For more information about emergency preparedness, please visit Ranchomiragepreparedness.org (3/2017)