

May 23, 1989.

To all all Yukon Amateurs.

Recently there was a near disaster in Old Crow where the river threatened to overflow into the town, and it could have been that all the residents would have to be evacuated. Y.A.R.A. was called out on the initial callout to provide communications here and there in Old Crow.

— Since this event it has become apparent that all amateurs in the Yukon should be very concerned that they may be called on to participate in a emergency.

A meeting was held May 25, 1989 at the Y.A.R.A. club station with Yukon Amateurs attending , various subjects were discussed (see attached comments). Since Y.A.R.A. is the official leason with Emergencies Measures Canada. , VY1BE Brian will be putting together a plan and provide training [familerization of the E.M.O. equipment, message handling etc.].

These plans and training sessions are being put in place right now and you will be contacted to attend these.

I cannot stress how important your partipation is to E.M.O., your community and the Yukon in general, in a emergency to provide communications.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT MATTER.

yours truly,



Dave Motley VY1BQ
Presedent Y.A.R.A.

Meeting held 18 May 1989

Present were eleven amateurs.

Topics for discussion.

- Callout system and availability.
- Insurance - reimbursement etc.
- Employer/employee clearance and the law.
- Familiarisation with equipment.
- Training of non-amateurs.
- Schedule of initial contact.

The discussion was informal and largely unstructured, the intent being to get all possible viewpoints from those present.

A rundown was given on what is presently in place and, of course, much of the discussion focussed on recent experiences.

A fanout system is seen to need constant updating and also some person or persons dedicated to initiating the system. A paging system was discussed at length. Such a system could be connected through existing amateur repeaters and would have the same range as these repeaters, ie. all of the Whitehorse area. An informed guess on the cost of this system put the personal units, second hand, at around \$15.00, and the control or calling unit at \$1800.00. The model quoted was ECC 96.

Upon callout the gathering point for amateurs will be the communications centre in the YTG building unless stated otherwise. Much value is placed upon an operator who, by chance, lives in the area of the emergency site. This circumstance would mean a great saving in time of course, but also in the shipping of radio equipment to this location. In this regard emphasis must be placed upon having this operator fully cognizant of our planning, ie. freqs. and procedures etc. Also in this regard, the use of interested non-amateurs is seen as vital in any emergency situation lasting more than a few hours. Special training must be put in place for such people in the communities and also in Whitehorse.

Further to this general topic, it is seen as advantageous to

make use of the camp radio stations in existence around the territory, some of which already have established communications nets, ie. Don Taylor's net.

In the event of an emergency situation the initial contact under less than ideal propagation is vital. Various methods were discussed, and by far the most popular, but not the cheapest, is the scanner system. This system would entail a scanning receiver at the EMO control site, set to scan the established emergency frequencies, 3.782 7.070 14.130 21.205 28.705 Mhz.

It is felt that only a high quality unit should be considered, one example given was the ICOM R 7000 priced at around \$1200.00

A standardised message form has been developed by Yukon emergency planning authorities, and will be used not only by communications personnel but by everyone passing messages during an emergency situation. The form is basic, and I hope not confusing, but some basic training in it's use is desirable.

An inventory of facilities available in each community is now under compilation, and when completed, should save much time and valuable cargo space by not, for example, carrying an emergency generator to a site which already has an abundance of same. All equipment which may have to be taken to a site is to be stored in the new ambulance building now under construction near the Whitehorse hospital.

In the event that the YTG communications centre should be unavailable, ie Whitehorse flooded, the YARA club station will be used as a backup position, but it must be kept in mind that each active amateur has a complete emergency communications station at home, and also that amateurs with HF mobile facility may be of great value in an initial response.

It is felt that all amateurs should make employers aware that they may be needed in an emergency, and in this regard a letter is being drafted which will apprise everyone of the legal ramifications. Incidentally, any amateur working in an emergency will be fully covered for insurance etc.