

Magnetic Declination

Following are the current values for magnetic declinations. SAR members are reminded to update their compasses. More information is available online from Natural Resources Canada at http://www.geolab.nrcan.gc.ca/geomag/magdec_e.shtml

Beaver Creek	24° 52' E
Carcross	24° 45' E
Carmacks	25° 33' E
Dawson City	26° 14' E
Faro	26° 6' E
Haines Junction	24° 32' E
Teslin	24° 57' E
Watson Lake	25° 15' E
Whitehorse	24° 44' E

A Rescuer's Winter Prayer

God, Creator of all
Grant me wisdom, as I answer this call.
Guide me as I look for the lost,
Protect me as I lay it on the line at all cost.
Allow my eyes to follow the right trail,
Give me the strength to accept when I fail.
Should the snow slide from above,
Let it not cover me like a glove.
For what good is a rescuer, should they die,
Bring me home safely, so no one should ask (why).

by Bennett

Thanks to Bruce Harder from Carcross Area Rescue Team Association for sending in the prayer, and to Whitehorse District Search and Rescue for compiling the information on magnetic declination. EMO reminds all Yukon SAR groups that submissions to the quarterly MEMO are welcome!

Remember to visit our website:

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/community/emo>

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Memo Quarterly Newsletter

Quarterly MEMO

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Winter 2004

Yukon Pilot Honoured



A Yukon helicopter pilot who for years has played a critical role in Yukon search and rescue has been recognized by his peers for his

Makkonen has been a pilot with Trans North Helicopters for thirty years and remains accident free. He works closely with search and rescue personnel in the Kluane area and is well-known for his

exemplary record in mountain flying. Last year, Haines Junction-based pilot Doug Makkonen was awarded the Robert E. Trimble Award by Helicopter Association International, an award that gives him the distinction of being the best high altitude helicopter pilot in the world.

role in daring rescues in Kluane National Park. Makkonen is a regular contributor to the local search and rescue scene—thanks also to Doug for taking the time to present a Helicopter Awareness and Safety workshop during last year's SAR fall training weekend.

Yukon EMO and the Yukon search and rescue community are proud of Makkonen's contributions and extend our appreciation and congratulations to this accomplished pilot and colleague.



New Local Sponsor

Yukon's search and rescue community has its first official corporate sponsor! Coast Mountain Sports of Whitehorse recognizes the vital role SAR volunteers play in Yukon communities and has extended its support to the territory's SAR volunteers by offering 'active' Yukon SAR members a 10% discount on regularly priced clothing and footwear. Current membership lists provided to EMO by your SAR Executive have been supplied to

Coast Mountain Sports and will be reviewed annually.

Drop in and say 'hi' to store manager Don and the friendly staff and Coast Mountain Sports. If you require further details on this discount program please contact your SAR President.



Cynthia Friedrich, Treasurer of Whitehorse District Search and Rescue, tries on some gear at Coast Mountain Sports.



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Changes to National SAR Database

The National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) has made major changes to the *Directory of Canadian Search and Rescue Organizations*. SAR groups can now directly access the database of organizations to change, update or delete their own information or add new entries on a password-protected Homepage.

The *Directory* provides Canadian SAR personnel with an inventory of organizations across the country involved in similar activities. All Canadian SAR organizations currently listed in the *Directory* can make their first update by following three easy steps.

1. Go to https://www.nss.gc.ca/sar_directory/index_e.asp
2. Log in with your user identification and password.
3. Click on *About the Directory* on the left panel and follow the step-by-step instructions.

For assistance contact Lynn Tremblay at 1-800-727-9414 or ltremblay@nss.gc.ca

Record Number of JEPP Applications

EMO staff were pleased to see an unusually high number of funding applications submitted by Yukon communities and emergency response services to the Government of Canada, through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP).

Fourteen JEPP applications were received by the December 15, 2003 deadline. Projects range from emergency planning, training and exercises to emergency equipment acquisitions. Funding decisions should be received by April. Thanks to all the organizations that sent in applications:

- Champagne Aishihik First Nation
- City of Dawson
- City of Whitehorse
- Town of Watson Lake
- Village of Carmacks
- Village of Mayo
- Village of Teslin
- Yukon Fire Marshall's Office
- Yukon Health and Social Services
- Yukon Ambulance Services
- YTG Information and Communications Technology
- YTG Emergency Response Services, Whitehorse Airport
- Yukon Hospital Corporation

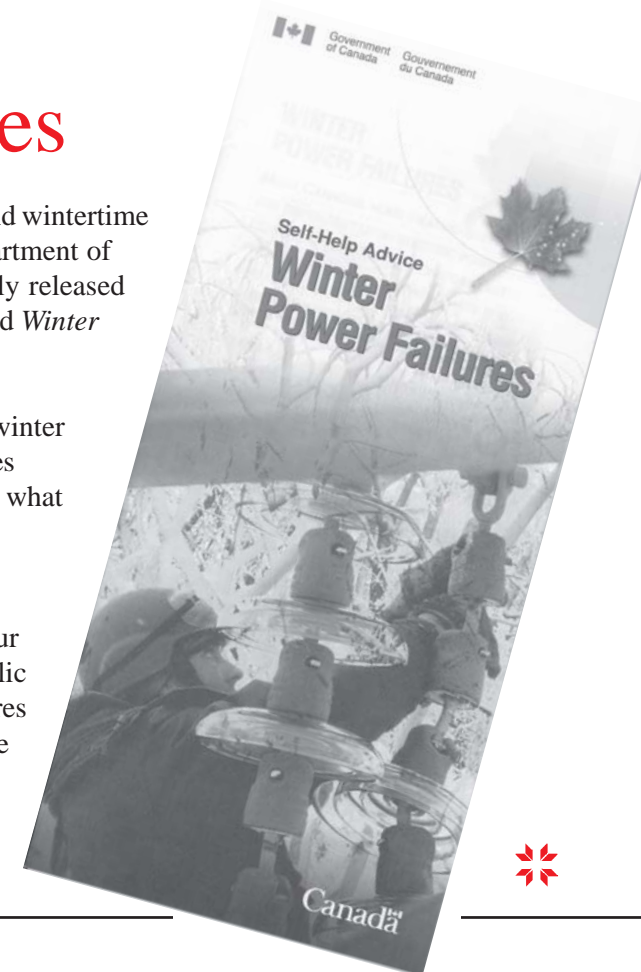
EMO thanks Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, who administers the JEPP program, for their ongoing support of Yukon emergency planning initiatives.

Planning for Winter Power Failures

Power failures occasionally occur in Yukon communities, and wintertime failures can lead to serious consequences. The federal department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (PSEP) recently released a new brochure in their series of self-help publications called *Winter Power Failures*.

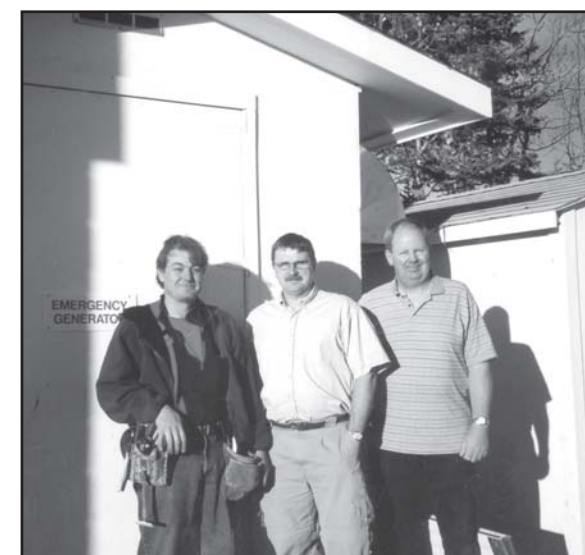
The brochure is a useful tool to help the public prepare for winter power failures. Available in both official languages, it outlines precautions to take, what to do in case of a power failure, and what to do in case of evacuation.

Copies of *Winter Power Failures* and other emergency preparedness publications can be obtained by contacting your local EMO Coordinator, Yukon EMO or calling PSEP's Public Affairs office toll-free at 1-800-830-3118. Self-help brochures and other publications are also available electronically on the Internet at http://www.ocipep.gc.ca/info_pro/self_help_ad/index_e.asp.



Emergency Preparedness Begins at Home!

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that the Yukon is well prepared in case of emergency, Emergency Measures section of Protective Services routinely tests equipment and procedures in our own offices. Last fall, a Yukon Government facilities technician aided EMO's Ron Adams and Tonny Jansen in a test of the EMO emergency generator located at EMO. This generator will provide emergency backup power to



the Yukon's Joint Emergency Operations Coordination and Communications Centre in the event of a large scale power outage. The generator passed with flying colours—all systems are a 'go' here at EMO.

Please make sure equipment that supports infrastructure in your community is regularly checked and properly maintained. For more information contact EMO at 867-667-5220.

Partners in Skagway

The Skagway Fire Department recently upgraded their mobile radios in their emergency response vehicles. They approached Canadian emergency services agencies about working more closely with our personnel by adding Canadian frequencies. Yukon EMO and related agencies have entered into an agreement with the Skagway Fire Department that will be of mutual benefit to Skagway and Canadian emergency responders in cross-border rescue situations.

Skagway personnel now have a total of 16 Canadian radio channels programmed into their radios. This arrangement is expected to greatly increase the ability of our U.S. partners to work with Yukon's services personnel when the need arises.



Our partner in Skagway, Fire Chief Martin Beckner with his newly programmed mobile radio

TRAINING ROUND-UP

Fall 2003 saw a considerable number of training opportunities for the Yukon's emergency services community. Throughout the territory, people gathered for workshops, exercises and seminars covering a wide range of topics related to emergency preparedness and response. For more information on these or other training programs contact EMO at 8667-667-5220.

Congratulations to four Yukoners who recently traveled to Ottawa to participate in Emergency Preparedness College courses. Participants were Tom Matthews (Carmacks Fire Chief), Andrea Buckley (YTG Executive Council Office), Dan Boyd (YTG Protective Services), Michael Swainson (Yukon Ambulance Services), Shawn Pike and Richard Cashen (RCMP-M Division) and Ron Adams (Yukon EMO).

More than forty people gathered in October for the SAR Fall Training Weekend held at the Whitehorse Cadet Camp and Mount McIntyre recreation facility. The annual workshop brought together emergency personnel from agencies and search and rescue teams around the territory including Haines Junction, Whitehorse, Carcross, Teslin, Faro, Carmacks, Mayo and Dawson. In addition to a full itinerary that included games, drills, networking and a mock SAR scenario, a weekend highlight was a search exercise after dark.

Special thanks to Mike Gladish and the Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club for the use of the Wax Room at Mount McIntyre, the Whitehorse Cadet Camp and WDSAR members for hosting the event.



Fall was a busy time for training, with EMO staff on the road to many Yukon communities to deliver workshops. Erin Deacon, Manager EMO and Ron Adams, EMO Planning/Training Coordinator delivered the Elected Officials Course in eight Yukon communities: Dawson, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin, Watson Lake, Whitehorse and Carmacks.



Elected Officials Course, Mayo



Elected Officials Course, Dawson City



Elected Officials Course, Teslin



The Emergency Telecommunications Course was presented to participants from Mayo ambulance, fire department, nursing station and Mayo SAR.



Photo: Gord Dumas

RCMP and Wildland Fire personnel participated in a three-day Search Commander workshop in October. Here they practice new GPS skills outside the classroom. The GPS course was instructed by Jim Gilpin and the Search Commander course was delivered by Wayne Merry.

Upcoming courses

Basic Emergency Plans and Operations Course – TBA

This general two-day course provides an introduction to emergency planning and operations. Participants gain skills to work more effectively with the emergency management community in an emergency. **For more information or to register, contact EMO at 867-667-5220.**

Avalanche Awareness Course – February 21, Haines Junction

Kluane SAR is hosting an avalanche awareness seminar that will involve a full day of practical avalanche training. Yukon SAR groups are invited to participate. Members should have completed training in avalanche theory. **For more information or to register contact Brian Bakker at 867-634-2329, ext. 262.**

SAR Spring Training Weekend – Tentatively set for May 15 & 16 (dependent on lake ice breakup).

Details will soon be released about location and the SAR spring training weekend agenda. **Contact EMO for information.**

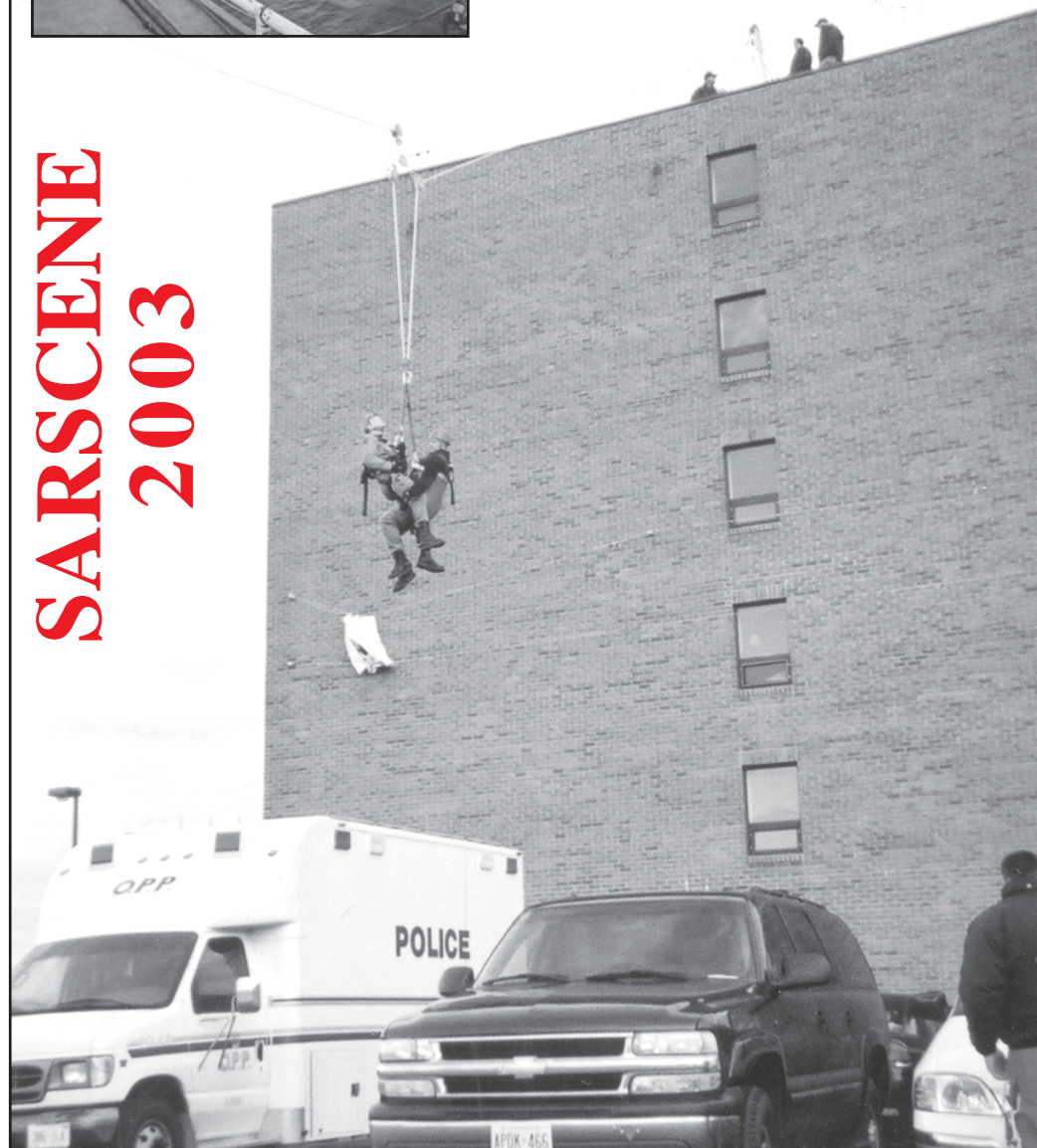
GPS (Global Positioning) Course – April 24 and 25, Whitehorse

Al Ekholm is instructing the standard GPS course for SAR members. Basic map and compass skills are mandatory. The course runs from 9:00 to 4:00 on both days. Register through your SAR President or local EMO coordinator. **For more info contact EMO at 867-667-5220.**

Tracking Fundamentals Course – June 2004 (dates TBA)

Debbie Brewster will be offering a two-day course that covers basic tracking theory and lots of practice in tracking. Cost is \$65. The instructor is certified by NSS to teach this workshop. **For more information contact Debbie at paradisealley1998@yahoo.com.**

SARSCENE 2003



In October EMO's Erin Deacon attended SARSCENE 2003 in Kingston, Ontario. The conference featured workshops and networking opportunities with SAR members, organizations and agencies from across Canada. Some of the workshops Deacon attended included Police/Volunteer Relationships, Civil Emergency Response, Glacier National Park: Lessons Learned, Tracking Using Angles & Light, Working with the Media, Arctic Survival, and Ice Safety on the Rideau Canal.

She also recorded some of the special demonstrations and events on film. The Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) 'Golden Helmets' motorcycle brigade staged a thirty minute performance showcasing a series of complex patterns that demonstrate rider skills and the maneuverability of their Harley Davidson Police Specials. The Golden Helmets were first formed in 1963 and is comprised of regular patrol officers from detachments across southern Ontario.

Toronto Heavy Urban SAR Team staged a demonstration of their special work rescuing victims in dangerous urban setting while keeping the area secure.

The O.P.P Tactical Unit and Kingston Police Service Tactical Unit teamed up to provide a high-angle rope rescue demonstration with SARtechs rappelling from the rooftop of Kingston's Ambassador Hotel.

The Canadian Coast Guard was also on hand to showcase equipment.

Exercising Yukon Plans

As the territory's emergency services personnel know, planning is just the first step in preparing to respond to major emergencies. Exercises form a critical part of the preparedness equation and at least three emergency exercises were conducted in different Yukon communities in recent months.

Last September, Parks Canada hosted a tabletop exercise in Haines Junction with Kluane region emergency services personnel. Designed to improve relationships between Parks Canada and other emergency response agencies, the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) sponsored workshops delivered across Canada to Parks Canada staff and their local emergency services partners.

Participating in the exercise were Neil Wortley (EMS), Rick Staley and Ray Breneman (Parks Canada), Peter Upton (Kluane SAR), Bruce Binder (Aviation Branch), Ron Adams and Erin Deacon (EMO), Cpl. Tickie Hayes (RCMP), Grace Noel and Wenda Lythgoe (Nursing Station), Bob Gates (CASARA), Major Chuck Grenkow (JRCC Victoria), Claude Auger (NSS Ottawa) and Paul Riopel (workshop consultant).

On October 4, the federal Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIPEP), now known as Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Canada (PSEPC), conducted a nationwide exercise of the 'CLOVER' system and the Canadian Forces Amateur Radio System. The Yukon participated in this exercise.

CLOVER was established prior to Y2K as a last-ditch system of emergency communication in case all other normal methods fail, such as telephones, computers and satellite communications. The CLOVER system operates on High Frequency (HF) and was provided to every province and territory in Canada. In the Yukon, CLOVER is maintained and monitored by Yukon Amateur Radio Association HAM operator



David McWhinnie, and includes a backup power supply. The exercise was initiated late in the evening, and the scenario involved a mock catastrophic earthquake in the Vancouver area that cut off communications with the Lower Mainland. Each participating jurisdiction tested their CLOVER system, ensuring equipment functioned properly and messaging protocols are in place.

The Village of Mayo conducted their own tabletop exercise in December. 'Silver Raven' was designed to practice and update Mayo's emergency plan. The real-time exercise simulated an earthquake that damaged local infrastructure in winter with temperatures below -40° C. Participants activated the Village Emergency Operations Centre, and the day unfolded with a wide range of inputs from residents and responders, followed by a thorough debriefing.

The players in Silver Raven included Shanon Cooper (Mayor), Margrit Wozniak (CAO), Constable Rene Bouchard (RCMP), Calvin Hoogland (Fire Chief), Barb Barchen (EOC coordinator), Linda Heasley (Nurse in Charge), Joshua Klassen (Social Services), Ian Spencer (Mayo SAR) and Kerri Santo (Village of Mayo administration).

Many others participated in the simulation, including Erin Deacon (EMO), Corp Tom Wyers (RCMP),

William Hummel (Public Works), John Ewing (Mayo Deputy Fire Chief), Craig Ovens (YEC Mayo), Christine Paradis (Social Services), Tanya Salvin (Mayo Ambulance), Bruce McGregor (Mayo school), Nancy Hagerman (NND First Nation), Debbie Moses (Social Service), Hans Raczk (YTG Airports) and consultant Tom Paterson.