

# M Quarterly E M O



A quarterly publication of the Yukon EMO


Spring 2003



Information materials such as posters and a wide range of emergency how-to literature designed for family use is available to distribute to residents in your community.

Suggested activities designed to involve people in your community's EP Week include:

- giving safety presentations in local schools
- open house tours of your local fire department and ambulance stations
- volunteer recruitment drives
- static and active equipment demonstrations
- safety award presentations
- safety inspections for the home and work-site

So gather your local community response agencies together and plan for an educational and activity-filled EP Week in your community. Contact your local community Emergency Co-ordinator or Yukon EMO for more information on Emergency Preparedness Week. 

## EP Week Coming in May

The week of May 4 – 10 is *Emergency Preparedness (EP) Week* in Canada. EP Week was conceived in 1995 as an annual program to build public awareness of Canada's emergency preparedness principles and systems. This is accomplished through the common and collaborative efforts of governments and other organizations in the emergency preparedness community.

Over the years, EP Week has garnered widespread support as the première event related to individual, community, territorial and national preparedness for emergencies or disasters. Today, every province and territory

participates in Emergency Preparedness Week. Governments, responders, emergency managers, private industry and non-governmental organizations all develop activities in conjunction with EP Week.

We encourage your organisation to become involved with EP Week this year. A wide variety of activities can be conducted in your community to explain how Yukon emergency response is delivered. Static displays as well as demonstrations and presentations are effective ways to create awareness of emergency preparedness and response capabilities in your community.

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# Coming Events

## SAR Training Weekend

Kluane Search and Rescue is pleased to host a weekend training program for search and rescue personnel in Haines Junction from May 2 – 4. Participants will include RCMP, SAR groups from communities throughout the territory, non-SAR volunteers and EMO

personnel. Some participants will have little or no SAR experience, while others have many years of expertise in search and rescue.



*SAR weekend training in Haines Junction will include a bear awareness workshop.*

On Friday evening and Saturday

morning, participants will register and attend sessions at the Haines Junction Community Hall which will also double as kitchen and sleeping facilities for visitors. Information sessions will include search theory and procedures, field preparedness, bear safety, and search management team scenario set-up.

From Saturday afternoon until early evening participants will take part in a search scenario. On Sunday the search and rescue exercise will continue until approximately noon followed by lunch and a debriefing at the community hall. For more information call Brian Bakker in Haines Junction, (867) 634-2329.

## EMO at Trade Show

Yukon's new Protective Services Branch of the Department of Community Services will be occupying a double booth at the Lions Trade Show at Mount McIntyre, May 2 to 4. The three partners in Protective Services—EMO, the Fire Marshall's Office and Forest Fire Management—will be on hand to answer questions, provide information and meet the public. Drop by the booth to obtain posters and brochures promoting Emergency Preparedness Week (May 4 – 10) and information about Yukon's fire management program.

## Exercise Mercury Shaking

On May 8, the City of Whitehorse is conducting Mercury Shaking, the final of three mock disaster exercises that are designed to test the City's Emergency Plan. Participants will be engaged in the exercise throughout the day, and it will involve the City and its emergency response partners, the RCMP and several YTG departments (Health and Social Services, EMO, ECO, Justice, Infrastructure). Mercury Shaking will combine activities at mock sites with simulated telephone inputs. A thorough evaluation will also be conducted.

For more information on Mercury Shaking, contact Blaine Rapp at the City of Whitehorse.



## First Annual Yukon Emergency Management Conference

After a brief hiatus, the Yukon Disaster Committee will be reuniting! The Yukon Disaster Committee, an umbrella group representing the wide range of emergency response and management organizations in Yukon, last met in May 2001. Emergency Measures is pleased to host the spring Yukon Emergency Management Conference in Whitehorse on May 29, 2003. The objective is to

provide a forum to create new opportunities for information sharing and shaping the territory's emergency management landscape.

Organizers expect that the Yukon Emergency Management Conference will become an important annual event for Yukon's emergency response community. Examples of topics being considered for conference presentations include:

- Public Health contingency planning
- National Disaster Mitigation Strategy and Program, and
- Yukon emergency exercises.

For more information about the conference, or to make recommendations on topics or speakers, please contact Kevin Wallinger at EMO at (867) 667-5220 or email at [emo.yukon@gov.yk.ca](mailto:emo.yukon@gov.yk.ca).



# REVIVAL!

## Community SAR Groups Back in Action

Given how much time and dedication is required to be a member of a search and rescue team, it's not surprising that SAR groups in the Yukon's smaller communities are sometimes challenged to stay active. Team members have families, jobs and other interests, and it's understandable when demanding SAR-related volunteer work takes its toll.

So EMO is particularly excited that two community SAR groups in Dawson City and Watson Lake are reviving interest and trying to re-launch their programs. With the support of EMO and the RCMP, these new organizations hope to provide dedicated search and rescue training opportunities and offer current search and rescue theory teachings to all of its members.

### Dawson City

Dawson City had an active SAR group until 1994. Since then, volunteers with the Canadian Rangers have provided assistance to the RCMP. Last fall a small group of interested Dawson City SAR volunteers came to Whitehorse and participated in the fall Whitehorse SAR training session. Their continued enthusiasm has led to the resurrection of KSARA (Klondike Search and Rescue Association), and members are currently engaged in basic training.

Organizers have been overwhelmed by the interest, with almost 40 community members now involved. The skills and expertise represented in the group varies widely, with members coming from the Rangers, fire departments, medical clinic, people with strong bush skills and many others keen to start their training. Dawson's RCMP liaison, Greg McHale, attends the meetings and provides valuable input. The contact person for Klondike Search & Rescue Association is Elaine Henderson: (867) 993-6333.

### Watson Lake

In March, members of the Southeast Yukon Search and Rescue (SEYSAR) held a meeting to discuss the revival of the SAR group based in Watson Lake. SEYSAR has been somewhat dormant for the last two years, a common experience for many communities where SAR members move away from the community or choose to focus their volunteer efforts on other

activities. SEYSAR has existed for about 10 years and was started primarily by Rick and Linda Harder along with Dale and Sue Rudd. SEYSAR would like to salute them for the hard work and energy they brought to the group.

The first order of business for members of SEYSAR will be to re-activate their society and reorganize.

Already, members are looking into training

opportunities, and with EMO's help SEYSAR hopes to host an in-house training weekend this summer. Currently there are about 25 people in the Watson Lake area who would contribute to a search, with a strong core of 6 doing the leg work to get SEYSAR up and running. These include Jan Adamczewski, new equipment manager Jason Strudwick, RCMP Constable Ryan Currie, Richard Potvin, Ted Murphy-Kelly and Barry Hinde. The contact person for Southeast Yukon Search & Rescue Association is Jan Adamczewski: (867) 536-7365 (w) or (867) 536-7150 (h).

EMO congratulates the resurrecting organizers for their perseverance, and sends a HUGE thank you to all Yukon SAR volunteers for their dedication, participation and commitment! For more information about SAR groups in the Yukon, contact EMO.



*KSARA, Front L to R: Andy Sigurdson, Irene Davis, Mark Verdonk, Sonya Kranzl, Katrina White, Elaine Henderson and Simon Nagano. Back L to R: Vern Spangler, Myste Anderson, Bruce Taylor, Natasha Ayoub, John Mitchell, Barry Hunter, Steve Geick, Peter Johnson, Mitchell Strid, Ian Fraser, Mark Wickham.*



# Yukon Marine Safety Radio System (YMSRS)



*A Bell 206 helicopter airlifts YARA's antenna into position at the Mount Decoeli radio site in August 2002.*

Yukon boaters are close to having a marine distress system activated for the southern Yukon. About two and a half years ago the Yukon Amateur Radio Association (YARA) was able to secure funds from the Coast Guard's National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) to set-up this radio system in four of YARA's mountain-top radio sites.

Jeff Stanhope, who is involved with YARA as a technical advisor, has worked on this project on a volunteer basis for about ten years. By using existing YARA radio sites, the system will benefit a large number of Yukon boaters. Action Answering has volunteered to receive the calls from the system and sponsorship is being secured for operations and maintenance for 2004 and beyond. Advertising for the YMSRS will start this spring with the inaugural start-up happening June 30th. **In future years, the system will normally be operational from June 1 to November 1.**

Many thanks to Jeff Stanhope for his continued commitment to this project. For further information please contact Jeff Stanhope at: (867) 667-5102 or e-mail him at [stanhope.jeff@ic.gc.ca](mailto:stanhope.jeff@ic.gc.ca)



## CASARA Seeks Training Volunteers

The Yukon Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) is made up of volunteer aircraft, crews and spotters in Whitehorse, Teslin, Carcross and Watson Lake who support the Canadian Forces during searches for missing aircraft.

Last year, CASARA launched a successful training initiative that involved Yukon ground SAR teams in CASARA's aerial training exercises. Some teams acted as active targets signalling search aircraft for rescue, while others set out cloth airplanes and ELTs (emergency

locator transmitters). CASARA extends its thanks to Carcross Area Rescue Team Association, Whitehorse District SAR and Kluane SAR teams for their assistance in 2002 exercises.

This year, CASARA looks forward to continuing to work with ground SAR teams. If your ground SAR organization would like to partner with CASARA's aerial search volunteers in a training exercise please contact Gerry Whitley (Training Officer with Yukon CASARA) at (867) 668-2903 or email [whitley@yukon.net](mailto:whitley@yukon.net), or Tonny Jansen at EMO (867) 667-5220.



# JEPP Applications Funded

Thanks to funding made available from the Government of Canada, through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP), a number of important emergency preparedness projects took place during the 2002/2003 fiscal year. In total, JEPP supported \$201,904 in projects. These projects included:

- Year Five of partial core funding for Yukon Emergency Measures Organization.
- Battery for the Inter-Agency Repeater in Dawson City was purchased for Yukon Department of Infrastructure.
- Communication systems for EMO rescue personnel for Yukon search and rescue societies.
- Inter-agency Drop Repeater for Emergency response personnel communications in the Klondike Valley.
- ESS/EHS Basic Training, Plans, and Critical Incident Stress Management training for Yukon Emergency Health & Social Services personnel.
- Emergency exercises, table top and communications exercise for the City of Whitehorse.
- Mercury Falling, a mock disaster 'paper' exercise for the City of Whitehorse's emergency management team.
- Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) equipment for potential responses to hazardous events



*One of the CBRN suits acquired with JEPP support*

EMO thanks the Office of Critical Infrastructure, Protection & Emergency Preparedness (OC�PEP), who administers the JEPP program, for their ongoing support of Yukon emergency planning initiatives.



## REMINDER

**Emergency response agencies and organizations are reminded that the next deadline for applications to the JEPP program for projects is November 15, 2003. For more information contact EMO.**

# Canada Post Honours Canadian Rangers

In March, Canada Post honoured the Canadian Rangers with a limited edition, domestic, 48 cent stamp. The image that appears on the stamp—a red-capped Ranger looking through binoculars, with snow-capped peaks reflected in the lens—is a familiar sight in the Yukon where for decades the Canadian Rangers have supported the Canadian military.

The Rangers are the ‘eyes and ears’ of the community, and vital members of the Canadian Forces. According to the designer of the stamp, the image communicates the Ranger’s motto ‘the watchers’, and highlights the organization’s critical role in defending remote areas of northern Canada.

EMO recognizes the very important role that Yukon’s past and present members of the Canadian Rangers play in the north.

“We are pleased to see their achievements and contributions to search and rescue recognized across the country with this tribute,” says Erin Deacon, Manager of Emergency Measures.



## What’s New at EMO?

Through the Renewal process, EMO became part of the new Protective Services Branch, along with the Fire Marshall’s Office and Forest Fire Management. Protective Services is directed by Dan Boyd, who many people know as a past City of Whitehorse councilor and President of Yukon Housing



*Headquarters of YTG Protective Services*

Corporation.

A number of changes have also taken place at EMO in the past year. At the end of 2002, Erin Deacon joined EMO as Manager of Emergency Measures. Linda

Kitchen returned to EMO after a secondment with Dept. of Environment. Tonny Jansen, Training Officer, has been extended until September 2003 and will be responsible for SAR training/exercises, and coordinating municipal emergency courses. Kevin Wallinger is now responsible for emergency and contingency plans, and serves as the Municipal Emergency Plan liaison.



*Dan Boyd, Director of Protective Services*

EMO’s main objective is to get back into the communities and reunite with Emergency Coordinators, and search and rescue (SAR) organizations.

Visits to Yukon communities over the past few months have been extremely productive, and the staff at EMO looks forward to working on a long-term training calendar and community emergency preparedness initiatives.



# Calendar

## April 26 & 27 – GPS Course

**Location:** Whitehorse

**Prerequisites:** Basic Map and Compass course

**Contact:** Tonny Jansen at EMO (867) 667-5220

## May 2, 3 & 4 – SAR Training Weekend

**Location:** Haines Junction

**Contact:** Brian Bakker (867) 634-2329

## May 2 to 4 – Lions Trade Show

**Location:** Mt. MacIntyre, Whitehorse

*Come out and visit us at the EMO booth!*

## May 8 – City of Whitehorse Disaster Preparation Exercise

**Location:** Various locations throughout Whitehorse

**Contact:** Blaine Rapp, City of Whitehorse

## Tentative – Tracking Awareness Course

**Location:** Whitehorse

**Contact:** Tonny Jansen at EMO (867) 667-5520 for further information

## May 23 to 25 – Embankment Rescue Course (Tentative)

**Location:** Whitehorse

**Contact:** Tonny Jansen at EMO (867) 667-5520 for further information

## May 29 – Yukon Emergency Management Conference

**Location:** Whitehorse

**Contact:** Kevin Wallinger at EMO (867) 667-5220

## October 15 to 18 – SARSCENE

**Location:** Kingston, Ontario

**More information:** [www.nss.gc.ca](http://www.nss.gc.ca)

## Oct. 24 to 26 – Fall SAR Training Weekend

**Location:** Cadet Camp, Whitehorse

**Contact:** Tonny Jansen at EMO (867) 667-5220.



*SAR members from around the Yukon congregated at the Cadet Camp in Whitehorse in October 2002 for an intensive weekend of training.*



# Web Resources

**In addition to disaster planning information and related resources, EMO's website has a list of useful web links to EMO organizations in neighbouring jurisdictions as well as the following national and international groups:**

Canadian Emergency Preparedness Association  
Canadian National Seismograph Network  
Canadian Wildfire Information System  
Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness  
Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council  
Emergency Preparedness - Health Canada  
Environmental Emergencies - Environment Canada  
Transport Canada  
Emergency Preparedness Info Exchange  
International Committee of the Red Cross  
North American Center for Emergency Communications  
US Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA)  
Western States Seismic Policy Council

***Check it out!***

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

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**Remember to visit our website:**

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

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Writing by Teresa Earle.

Design by Leaf Marketing & Coordination Solutions.

The editors gratefully acknowledge the support and contributions made by numerous members of EMO to this issue of the Yukon's Emergency Measures Organization Newsletter.

Additional Copies can be obtained by writing to:

Emergency Measures Branch,  
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**Yukon**  
Community Services

ISBN # 1198-9807