

M Quarterly E M O



A quarterly publication of the Yukon EMO

Summer/Fall 2003

Yukon rocked by major quake

The city of Whitehorse hosted, “Mercury Shaking”, the third of a three part emergency simulation exercise on Thursday May 8, 2003.

“Mercury Falling” – a paper exercise; “Mercury Rising” – a table top exercise; and “Mercury Shaking” – a full mock disaster, were designed to test the city’s municipal emergency plan.

“Mercury Shaking” tested the ability of the City’s Emergency Planning Team, City and YTG on-site resources to mitigate the effects of an earthquake.

City and YTG resources were mobilized to several

sites around Whitehorse and Carcross and the city’s Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and the territory’s Joint Emergency Operations Co-ordination Centre (JEOCC) were activated.

Mitch Moroziuk, the Director of Operations for the City of Whitehorse, acted as the



TO THE RESCUE...City firefighters were kept busy all day rescuing mannequin and human mock victims. **Photo:** YTG



ALL SHOOK UP...This downed power line along the Alaska Highway was just one of many emergency simulations throughout the day. **Photo:** YTG

Chairman of the City’s Emergency Planning team during all three of the city’s exercises. He is pleased with the exercises. “The city of Whitehorse has exercised its Emergency Plan a total of three times in the last year and at least six times in the last five years. The detail of the plan keeps getting better and better and the players have a very good understanding of their responsibilities.”

EMO would like to remind all Yukon communities to revisit their emergency plans and ensure contact numbers and operational procedures are current and up-to-date. If you require further information on emergency planning please call your local community Emergency Measures Co-ordinator or EMO at 867-667-5220.



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YUKON RIVER QUEST 2003

In June, the 2003 Yukon River

Quest was held and saw 13 Yukon SAR members take to the river to patrol the waters. Touted as one of the most difficult and adventurous races in North America, Whitehorse District, Carcross, Carmacks, and Dawson SAR organizations provided members and equipment to support Quest participants.



All were kept busy monitoring cold and tired paddlers from Lake Laberge to Dawson City. Special recognition to Al Ekholm of WDSAR for co-ordinating the SAR efforts and a big "THANK YOU!" to Brent Eby, Al Ekholm, Phil Ford, Bruce Harder, Elaine Henderson, Graham MacCannell, George Matthews,

Thomas Matthews, Valerie Picard, Geoff Rushant, Karen Sosnowski, and Dianne Villesch for volunteering their time and representing Yukon SAR so professionally. ❀



Photos: Graham MacCannell

JEPP Funding

Yukon Emergency Measures, in conjunction with the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection & Emergency Preparedness (OCIPEP), are pleased to announce that up to \$190,000 will be spent on emergency preparedness programs in the Yukon in 2003/04.

These projects were submitted by Yukon communities and government agencies through the Joint Emergency Prepared-

ness Program (JEPP). JEPP was introduced by the federal government as a cost-sharing arrangement with the provinces and territories to encourage them to undertake emergency preparedness projects that support national objectives and priorities.



Successful projects awarded this year consisted of disaster exercises, preparedness awareness programs, and telecommunication upgrades.

Application packages for 2004/05 will be sent out this fall to incorporated municipalities, First Nations, and territorial government ministries. If your community is interested in cost-sharing an emergency preparedness project under JEPP, please call EMO at 867-667-5220 for more information. ❀

2003 YUKON FIRE SEASON

Yukon Fire districts	Fire totals	Hectares burned
Beaver creek	1	150.00
Carmacks	4	0.86
Dawson	20	9,426.20
Haines Junction	3	0.04
Mayo	2	0.75
Old Crow	7	20,628.50
Ross River	2	1.50
Teslin	1	0.30
Watson Lake	1	0.61
Whitehorse	28	2,202.43
2003 WILDFIRE TOTAL	69	32,411.19
2002 SEASON	69	37,051.00



Photos: Wildland Fire Management





NEWS FROM EMERGENCY MEASURES

Spring was very busy for the crew at EMO, especially in May! The month saw the Search and Rescue spring training exercise in Haines Junction, Emergency Preparedness Week 2003, the Lion's Trade Show, "Mercury Shaking", and the Emergency Management Conference all take place.

June was equally exciting as EMO and the newly resurrected Klondike Search and Rescue organization welcomed 10 new and successful Basic Search and Rescue members. Wayne Merry, Context North President and SAR Instructor and Tonny Jansen, EMO SAR Training Co-ordinator, hosted a Basic Ground Search and Rescue course in Dawson June 6-8, 2003.



Congratulations to Myste Anderson, Janet Bell, Elaine Henderson, Sonya Kranzl, John Mitchell, Richard Nagano, Valerie Picard, Vern Spangler, Mike Taylor, and Mark Verdonle who successfully completed the course which included the basics in map and compass, rope work, modern ground search techniques, and basic search theory.



Jean Murray and Carole Smith of the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) were in Whitehorse on June 20, 2003. SAR representatives from Whitehorse, Carcross, Kluane, Carmacks and Faro participated in an afternoon discussion on SAR in the Yukon. Several issues (MDMRS, SAR storage facilities and support, Yukon SAR promotion & awareness, co-ordinated community Emergency Response teams, New Initiatives Funding) were discussed. NSS representatives were impressed with the work being done by Yukon SAR teams in the territory and look forward to seeing some representation at SAR-SCENE in Kingston, October 15-18, 2003.

EMO would like to wish its Emergency Planning and Training Co-ordinator, Kevin Wallinger all the best on his one-year secondment with the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIEPP). Kevin and his wife Heli are doing well in sunny Victoria and EMO looks forward to his return in June 2004.

Congratulations also goes out to Administration Assistant Linda Kitchen on her recent marriage. Linda and John Lemphers were married in Whitehorse in July.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions for MEMO please send your submission to EMO. We're always interested in hearing what is happening in the Emergency Management community! Please drop by, give us a call at 867-667-5220, fax 867-393-6266 or email us at emo.yukon@gov.yk.ca. We can also be viewed on the web at: www.cts.gov.yk.ca/depts/community/emo



NEW RECRUITS... (left) Search and Rescue trainees are instructed in Dawson. (Above) Students are given the opportunity to practice what they've been taught. **Photos:** EMO (below) Yukon College drama students do their best victim impersonations during the Takhini arena scenario. **Photo:** YTG

Emergency Measures Conference



Over 60 members of the Emergency Management community attended the first Emergency Management Conference in Whitehorse on May 29, 2003. Glenn Hart, Minister of Community Services, provided opening remarks re-confirming the need to work together as a cohesive emergency management community and to ensure a prepared emergency response community is in place in

the North.

The full-day event included special guest speakers from the Yukon Government's Communicable Disease Unit, Industry Canada, Fire Management, State of Alaska's Division of Emergency Services, and the City of Whitehorse. Topics included: Global Threats to Public Health in Yukon; Disaster Mitigation; Lessons Learned from the City of Whitehorse Mercury Shaking exercise; Introduction to Protective Services; and Yukon's new Marine Distress Radio System – Channel 16.

A special presentation was made to EMO's Emergency Planning and Training Co-ordinator Kevin Wallinger, who has moved to Victoria to take a one-year assignment with the Federal Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIEP). ❀



Photo: EMO

SPEEDY SUPPRESSION FROM ABOVE

By George Maratos

On

May 29, Yukon Wildland Fire Management Air Operations staff were in Haines Junction for annual air attack training. The exercise allowed staff to go through the same procedures that would be initiated if a forest fire, requiring aerial support, occurred.

Under the guidance of air attack officers, pilots flew their Conair Fire-cats over a mock forest fire area and proceeded to drop several loads of retardant. This year's target was the dump located just south of town.

A unique aspect to this year's training was the incorporation of the mobile retardant unit, a device designed to reduce flying distance and cut suppression time. This occurs because the mobile retardant unit allows airtankers to be refueled with retardant on site as opposed to having to fly all the way back to the airtanker base in Whitehorse.

"The mobile retardant unit cuts a minimum hour off our fire fighting time," said Lorne Harris, Director of Air Operations. "Instead of having to travel all the way back to Whitehorse, the reloading can be done at the closest airport to that particular fire.

"The training was a 100 per cent success and we were all very pleased."



Depending on the fire activity, the mobile retardant unit is moved to the closest airport to where the fire is burning, added Harris.

This year marked the first time the exercise was based out of Haines Junction. Harris points out that the Haines Junction airport isn't currently suited to house the mobile retardant unit for more than two weeks.

"Some airports just don't have the airstrip space necessary for some of our large aircraft," said Harris. "We are currently in the process of developing more suitable sites. If we could have a unit in every district we would."

Throughout a fire season, Yukon Fire Management uses a variety of fixed and rotary wing aircraft to help suppress fires. The fixed-

Continued on page 5

Speedy suppression...continued

winged aircraft contracted by Fire management are the Conair Douglas DC6 airtanker, which can hold over 11,000 litres of retardant and are primarily used to "box-in" remote fires before fire fighters arrive.

Additionally, Forest Fire Management contracts Conair's Firecat air tanker group which consists of three planes and a bird dog support plane. The Firecats each hold 3,295 litres.

Light-engine aircraft or "birddogs," direct the aerial tankers to drop locations for their retardant and direct any other fire-fighting aircraft within the fire zone. During a fire action, the birddog has airspace authority over a five-mile radius.

Fire In The Valley

By Sigrun Maria Kristinsdottir

The smoke from Whitehorse fire # 9 that filled the air on the warm evening of June 11 night was without a doubt one of the draws to a Mount Lorne community meeting titled "Fire in the Valley." Despite the lovely weather, about 30 residents (including one MLA) attended this joint community meeting with Emergency Measures and Wildfire Management Protective Services.

"The object of the evening was for the residents to be prepared to take care of themselves in the case of an event," said EMO Manager Erin Deacon. "After this evening, we wanted them to have a basis to establish a community plan that listed resources and plans for several different scenarios they may experience in their community."

Fire Management Prevention Coordinator David Milne gave an overview of the Fire Management program, and how Fire Management, Emergency Measures, and the Fire Marshal office complement each

other in the new Protective Services branch of the Yukon Government's Community Services department. Milne introduced the

1998 Annie Lake Road	2002 Robinson Subdivision	2003 Wheaton River
Fire! <i>in the Valley</i>		
The Hamlet of Mt. Lorne has been identified as one of the HIGHEST RISK AREAS FOR WILDFIRE IN YUKON!		
INFORMATION SESSION		
WED. JUNE 11		
7 P.M.		
LORNE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CTR.		
Facilitators:		
David Milne Fire Prevention Co-ordinator	Erin Deacon MGR. E.M.O.	

FireSmart program, and gave a Power Point presentation on the 1996 Miller's Reach, Alaska, fire. This case study was very effective as the area around Miller's Reach is very similar to that of Mt. Lorne. Deacon followed with a short introduction to Emergency Measures

Patrol planes fly pre-determined routes to locate lightning-started and other fires.

"The training was a 100 per cent success and we were all very pleased," said Harris. "When needed, our air resources are fully-trained and ready to go." ❀

FAST RELOAD ... (over) A firecat drops retardant on the Haines Junction dump. **(below)** mobile retardant unit in Haines Junction. **Photos:** George Maratos



and the government's role during an event. She encouraged the residents to be prepared to look after themselves for the first 24 to 72 hours during an event, as outside circumstances may affect the response time of emergency personnel to their area. Towards the end of the evening, community members began structuring an emergency plan and thinking of which resources they have at hand, such as water pumps, hoses, ATV's, ladders and HAM radios. They identified some safe zones in their area, and discussed mutual aid resources, as well as the possibility of neighbour call-out/fan-out lists. It was also suggested that during an event the community pinpoint 'gatekeepers' to record residents leaving the area, their destination, and contact numbers. This would help response personnel, when they arrive, to determine if the area has been fully evacuated.

"We felt the meeting was very successful," said Deacon. "The community was very engaged and concerned, and they are well on their way to establishing a very realistic and workable emergency plan for their community." ❀

SAR Spring Training

May 2-4, 2003 saw over 40 Search and Rescue members descend into Haines Junction for the Spring Training weekend. Kluane Search and Rescue (KSAR) and EMO hosted the weekend, which included refresher topics on Bear Awareness, Radio Protocols, SAR theory and Manage-



ment, Field Preparedness, Emergency Procedures, Rescue and Extrication procedures and Helicopter Evacuation and safety. Saturday and Sunday a mock, full-scale search was launched to locate and evacuate one adult and two youth. Energetic and enthusiastic dog handlers, local RCMP and SAR members from Haines Junction, Carmacks, Faro, Mayo, Dawson City,

FLIR back in the Yukon

RCMP "M" Division have acquired a new FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) camera this year. Personnel from M Division Headquarters and Yukon Wildland Fire Management completed a training course enabling them to operate the camera. FLIR cameras, mounted on the underside of a helicopter, pick up heat signatures and are often used in search and rescue operations. Detection of hot

spots after a forest fire has been extinguished is another common use of the FLIR. For more information, contact the M Division SAR coordinator Sgt. Pat Egan at 633-8616. *

Looking for a logo and motto

At the recent National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS), meeting held in White-



TRAINING A SUCCESS... (above) Territorial SAR members in Kluane Country for training. (left) SAR members try to pinpoint who's responsible for the muddy suburban. **PHOTOS:Denise Norman**

horse, and Watson Lake took to the task while base camp was established in the heart of Kluane Country.

The camp cooks kept everyone well nourished and fun was had by all. Hats off to Brian Bakker, KSAR President and the rest of the KSAR team that made this weekend a great success!

EMO would like to continue having the spring camp hosted in the communities and looks forward to your support and participation. If your SAR group (communities are welcome to join forces!) is interested in hosting Spring Training 2004, please contact EMO at 867-667-5220. *



horse it was discussed that a logo would be helpful to identify and distinguish Yukon SAR members who are participating in training exercises or events. EMO is looking for logo designs and motto's to assist this project.

Submissions will be taken to the review board before a final design is chosen. Please submit your ideas to EMO by email, fax, mail or in person.

Deadline for submissions is October 21, 2003. *



EMO Sit reps & upcoming events

April

- Dawson's EMO Co-ordinator John Mitchell and EMO kept close tabs on the Klondike River flood.



Photo: Water Resources

May

- During spring break-up, the Porcupine River thaw in Old Crow caused a flood alert. Communication was initiated between local EMO coordinator Roger Kaye, RCMP, Water Resources staff and EMO.

June

- Four members of Dawson SAR were put on alert to search for a missing child. The child was safely located prior to the team being dispatched.
- Three members of Carmacks SAR were requested by the RCMP to assist two people who were having trouble canoeing the Yukon River.

July

- WDSAR participated in Canada Day Celebrations.



Photo: WDSAR

- Whitehorse and Carcross SAR team members participated in a successful search for an Atlin resident who became lost after being separated from his partner in Atlin's back country.

- Carcross Area Rescue Teams Association (CARTA) were requested by local RCMP to search for an adult in Little Atlin Lake after a boating accident. The deceased was found six kilometres from the sunken craft.
- Old Crow RCMP initiated a search for an Old Crow resident.
- Kluane SAR was called into action to assist two overturned canoeists on the Dezeadeash River.

August

- Kluane SAR on callout standby for Dezeadeash Lake Rescue.

September

- Parks Canada Table Top Exercise.
- Yukon Amateur Radio Association participating in 2003 Klondike Road Relay

October

- 4th, 2003 - Basic Map and Compass Course. Register with Whitehorse District SAR. Ph. 867-667-5220.
- 8-18th, 2003 - SARSCENE Kingston, Ontario. website—www.nss.gc.ca
- 24-26 - Yukon SAR Fall Training Weekend. Register with Whitehorse District SAR Ph. 867-667-2727 ❀

COMING SOON... SAR Fall Training

Support Yukon Search and rescue and have some fun! October 24-26, 2003 will see the Whitehorse District Search and Rescue (WDSAR), host the fall training/exercise weekend with sponsorship from Emergency Measures. Accommodation is slated for the Whitehorse Cadet camp and the events will take place up at Mt. McIntyre. Activities planned for the fall weekend will focus on navigation, communication, and teamwork and will offer short workshop sessions on tracking, rope work, evidence protection, and winching. Saturday afternoon the SAR Survivor Challenge will kick off and a search will round off Sunday. Forty-five of us had a great spring session in the Junction so please mark your calendars and join us for the fall. For further information please contact WDSAR President Debbie Brewster at Debbie_wdsar@yahoo.ca or call WDSAR at 867-667-2727 and leave a message. Registration forms and details to follow in mid-September. ❀

RCMP & SAR Join Forces

RCMP SAR Coordinator Pat Egan and EMO are pleased to announce the following detachment members who will be dedicated to working with the SAR organization in the following communities.

Carcross - Cst. Jeff Monkman
Haines Junction - Cst. Walter Wallingham
Teslin - Cpt. Steve Alexander
Watson Lake - Cst. Ryan Currie
Faro - Cpl. Ken Alderson
Ross River - Cpl. Myron Friesen
Mayo - Cpl. Tom Wyers

Pelly Crossing - Cst. Dave Morin
Whitehorse - Sgt. John Sutherland
Old Crow - Cst. Mark London
Dawson City - Cst. Greg McHale
Beaver Creek - Cpl. Eric Hendricks
Carmacks - Cst. Russel Blackjack

Our goal is to foster a stronger working relationship between the RCMP and our SAR groups in the communities. Please invite your RCMP SAR liaison officer to your meetings and training events.



REMEMBER TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

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

Additional copies can be obtained by writing to:

Emergency Measures Branch
Community Services
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon, CANADA
Y1A 2C6
Phone: 867-667-5220
Fax: 867-393-6266
Email: emo.yukon@gov.yk.ca



Mercury Shaking photos May 8, 2003

Photos: YTG

