



DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS

Radio Spectrum Refarming Project

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DID YOU KNOW that Industry Canada has an on-going project to "facilitate the introduction of more spectrum efficient radio equipment and systems"?

What does this mean for St. John Ambulance? Essentially, this project will make St. John Ambulance's current stock of radio equipment (operating in the frequency range of 100-500 MHz) non-standard and not licensable.

The project entitled "Redeployment Plan for Spectrum Efficient Land Mobile Equipment in the Frequency Range 100-500 MHz" will permit greater "overall traffic capacity of the [frequency] bands" to meet increasing spectrum needs.

What can you do?

- Discuss this matter with your Brigade Units and your radio communication needs (consider partnering with an amateur radio club. Members are equipped with radio equipment and could be teamed up with patient care providers).
- Do not purchase any new radio equipment unless it meets the minimum standard of 12.5/15 kHz.
- Of your current inventory, determine what can be modified to meet the current standard (12.5/15 kHz) and what will need to be replaced by the year 2010.
- Determine the costs associated with replacing and/or retrofitting your current inventory of radio equipment.
- Create a list of all St. John Ambulance radio frequencies licensed in your Province/Territory.
- Keep copies of any notifications received from the Department of Industry/Industry Canada regarding this issue.

The project has been broken down into two phases:

Phase 1:

Mobile systems operating in large urban centres will be required to change equipment to conform to the new 12.5/15 kHz channel spacing standard. Most St. John Ambulance radio equipment currently operates on 25/30 kHz. This phase must be completed by January 1, 2004.

Phase 2:

Existing equipment that uses 12.5/15 kHz will need to be replaced with 6.25/7.5 kHz channel spacing technologies if they are operated in large urban centres. All equipment that does not meet this requirement will be deemed non-standard as of January 1, 2010.

This refarming project affects all Councils and will be on the agenda for discussion at the Annual Brigade Committee meeting. Further information may be obtained from <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>



Celebrate volunteers! National Volunteer Week 2001, April 22 to 28.