



Amateur Radio to Play a Supporting Role in a Disaster

Date: Thursday, May 6, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Imagine...Victoria has suffered a major earthquake. Landlines and cell phone service are down. The entire city is without power and main roads are damaged. The Victoria Emergency Management Agency's (VEMA's) Auxiliary Communications team of volunteers will provide back-up communications should emergency personnel require assistance.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

To coincide with Emergency Preparedness Week (May 2 to 8, 2010), the media are invited to tour VEMA's Auxiliary Communications Centre, learn about the various types of Amateur Radio equipment used, and meet the community volunteers who will play a supporting role in a large scale emergency.

What: MEDIA OPPORTUNITY – Victoria's Auxiliary Communications Team
When: Thursday, May 6, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Where: Victoria Fire Station #1, 1234 Yates Street

Media are asked to meet at the main entrance of Victoria Fire Station #1. Parking is available on-street or in the Station's parking lot located off Yates Street.

Amateur Radio operators, often called "hams," use various types of radio and wireless communications equipment to communicate with other ham radio operators as a hobby and to help support their communities in an emergency.

VEMA's Auxiliary Communications team provides an emergency method of communication to assist the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in communicating with the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC), other municipalities and their EOCs, incident sites, local Emergency Social Services and local Reception Centres. This group of dedicated volunteers trains regularly and participates in public events to maintain equipment and practice operating procedures.

- 30 -

For More Information:

Rob Johns
Emergency Coordinator
Victoria Emergency Management Agency
Cellular: 250.888.3594