

EMRG Exercise Debrief Meeting
Thursday Nov 13, 2003 - Algonquin College

Start Time: 7:20 Attendance: 11 (Includes John Senez)

GENERAL

- The pace was steady, not overwhelming, but busy.
- Ken Halcrow was not present, so there was no one to comment on the activation by phone and how it went.
- Headphones are important to hear the radio and block out background noise.

RANDALL NCS

- Add a PC for logging might make it easier to operate
- Spread out the operator positions
- The site has good clean RF, no noise
- Stock up on office supplies; pens, paper (pads of ruled paper)
- If there is a requirement to move a lot of traffic between a couple sites, move it to another frequency.
- There was some discussion about the NTS and how to use it.

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

- There was confusion about where to report, so the decision was made to meet at Tim Hortons rather than wander around Algonquin. There was concern that Security might not be fully familiar with what was going on and no one wanted to create any problems for those making the site available.
- The use of FRS at the site might be confusing to anyone else listening. General radio precautions like saying "This is an exercise" will help
- Listening to more than one radio is difficult, when you need to answer one, but keep an ear out for others. One shelter had three radios; UHF to crossband, VHF for local shelter to shelter and FRS to communicate with the shelter manager. Trying to keep one radio per person is a good idea.
- Is there a requirement for EMRG members to own a UHF radio? The use of UHF for shelters is becoming common due to the need to crossband. The build up of a supply of "EMRG" equipment should help fill in any gaps in what EMRG members own and what is required.
- The Algonquin site was difficult to get into the repeater, making it a true crossband site which helps make the exercise believable.
- Suggestion made to have some smaller exercises that get people out in their area and on the radio. For example, having people check in from the corner, where they must use something other than their home base equipment.
- Closing the shelter was a point of conflict, because net control said to close, but the shelter manager was not ready to close. The shelter manager is responsible for a site, so they should be consulted to decide when to close.