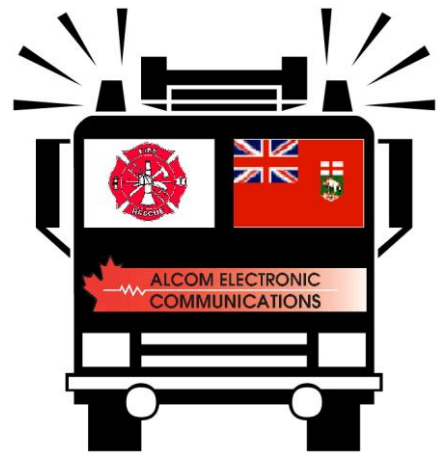


# FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

September 2011



## Enbridge Helps Three Fire Departments Invest in New Technology

Three fire departments serving communities in the Enbridge right-of-way area have recently been able to make significant investments in new radio technology thanks to the Enbridge Safe Community grant program. Enbridge donated funds to the Winkler Fire Rescue Service, Altona/Rhineland Emergency Service and the Gretna Fire Department. All three Alcom customers invested these funds in new Motorola radio equipment for on-scene and E911 communications.

Altona/Rhineland Emergency Service purchased XTS1500 Model 1.5 portable radios for use on the FleetNet system. These radios will serve the department for many years to come as they can be upgraded to the digital Project25 operating requirements that will be required when MTS launches a new P25 system in the coming years.

Winkler Fire Rescue Service took advantage a Motorola Trade-In promo to replace old radios with *MOTOTRBO* XPR6550 VHF portable radios. These new radios are intrinsically safe and IP57 rated for submersion - ideal for on-scene use.

Gretna Fire Department got the best of both worlds by purchasing one XTS1500 Model 1.5 portable radio for E911 communication and several new intrinsically safe IP57 rated *MOTOTRBO* XPR6350 VHF portable radios for on-scene.

FLEETNET  
MOTOROLA  
ASTRO  
XTS1500  
Model 1.5

MOTOROLA  
MOTOTRBO  
XPR 6550  
VHF Portable



## New Truck and Expanded Fire Hall in Gladstone



In August of 1986 a brand new fire hall opened in Gladstone, Manitoba to serve the town and surrounding Municipality of Westbourne. Twenty-five years later, on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, residents of Gladstone and members of the Gladstone Volunteer Fire Department gathered together once again to celebrate the renovation and expansion of

Member of Parliament Robert Sopuck, M.L.A. Stu Briese and Gladstone Mayor Eileen Clarke spoke followed by a presentation by Fire Chief Dave Thiessen. Both Mayor Clarke and Chief Thiessen spoke about the huge role played in the community by Richard Foxon, the late Fire Chief, who served in the department for over twenty-five years.

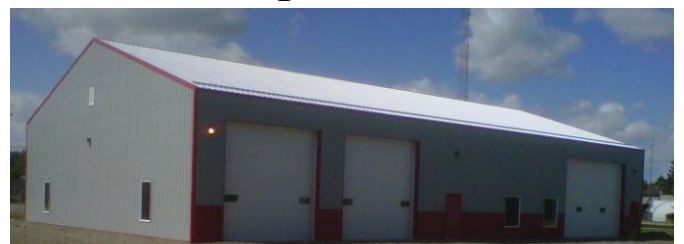
Chief Thiessen noted that Chief Foxon had the vision to begin the planning for a new fire truck over four years ago. The New truck was delivered just in time for the opening of the fire hall and was a focus of people's attention all afternoon.

The addition of two bays to the hall provides additional room for equipment storage and space to park the new fire truck – a brand new TME Pumper built by Green Acres Emergency Vehicles. The truck is built on an International 7400 chassis with 330 horsepower Maxforce 9 engine and is equipped with a 1250gpm 150PSI PTO pump and a 200CFM compressed air foam system. The pump panel is protected by the top mount enclosure which has four seats with built in CBA brackets for quick deployment on arrival at a fire scene.

After the dedication ceremony community members enjoyed donuts and coffee while Volunteer Fire Fighters proudly offered tours of the fire hall and answered questions about the new fire truck.



## RM of Pembina Replaces Fire Hall in Darlingford



**New Fire Hall in Darlingford**  
RM of Pembina has constructed a new steel clad building that will be shared by the Darlingford Fire Department & Municipal Public Works Department.



**Old Fire Hall in Darlingford**



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# FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

September 2011



## Meet Our Newest Radio Technician

Gabor Kovacs first entered the Alcom service shop in May of 2010 to complete his work practicum requirement of the Industrial Electronics Program at Winnipeg Technical College. Our senior technician Iovian Nagy observed right away that Gabor is a quick study and is always eager to learn. Alcom Service Manager Ken Eastveld recognized Gabor's strong work ethic and invited him to join the Alcom service team after graduating.

Gabor also has a diploma in Mechanical Engineering Assistance from Szechenyi Istvan University in Gyor, Hungary. He began working as a full time Radio Technician with Alcom in March of this year and appreciates the opportunity to apply the fundamentals he has learned through his education for the benefit of Alcom's customers.

He especially likes doing installations and says that the wide variety of work is especially stimulating. "I don't have to sit at a desk all day. Every day is different. I get to use many skills and I always have to be organized." says Gabor.

Gabor enjoys working with new technology and software applications and will be working closely with Ken Eastveld to help Alcom's customers implement the newest GPS tracking, dispatch, text/e-mail and safety applications available for integration with the *MOTOTRBO* Digital Two-Way Radio System.

## Paging System Testing: Make It Routine

Maintaining your department's apparatus in response readiness condition is a well appreciated requirement in every fire hall. Having regular procedures in place to do the same for your paging system is just as important in volunteer and paid-on-call departments where every response is dependent on getting a the page out to all personnel.

Every department makes it habit to do a test page on a regular basis to make sure the system is operating normally. But what about when things are not normal – like during a power outage or after a wind storm? There are procedures you can easily add to your routine to increase the reliability of your paging system. Here are some suggestions:

**When to Test:** Alcom Service Manager Ken Eastveld strongly suggests that paging system tests and checks be done on Wednesdays or Thursdays. This way if you discover a problem that requires the assistance of an Alcom technician you can get someone out to help before the weekend sets in and avoid downtime on the weekend. If you run into a problem on the weekend you can page our on-call service technician but remember on-call charges will apply.

**Back-up Power:** If you don't have uninterruptible power (UPS) then make sure you have a battery charging power supply and back-up battery. In either case test the system at least once a month. First call the E911 Centre and ask them to use FleetNet to page you for the duration of the test. With a UPS turn off the breaker serving the transmitter. If you use a back-up battery, pull the power cord from the wall outlet. Once you have cut off normal power, do a test page then wait 20 minutes and test again. When you are finished turn the breaker back on or plug the unit back in and call E911 to tell them to return to normal procedure. Once every three months extend the testing period with test pages at 20 minutes, 40 minutes and 1 hour. If your back-up power source is not lasting 1 hour you should consider replacing it as soon as possible. Alcom recommends using a minimum 100 amp-hour battery for back-up power.

**Antenna Checks:** Most paging antennas are mounted high enough that you can't easily do a full visual inspection but you can still identify obvious defects. Is it standing straight up as it should? Has the antenna shifted position from wind shear? Is the antenna cable secured to the tower all the way up?

**Cable Connectors:** Check that the antenna cable is properly connected to the transmitter and that there is no rust or dirt accumulating. Do the same at the lightning suppressor – check the connections (and if you don't have a lightning suppressor call us – **you need one**).

**Trade In**  
Your Old Pagers!  
Call for details.



To learn how Alcom can support your Fire Department please contact

**Rory Broder**

Communications Consultant  
Public Safety & Municipal Services

204-237-9099

1-800-579-2820

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