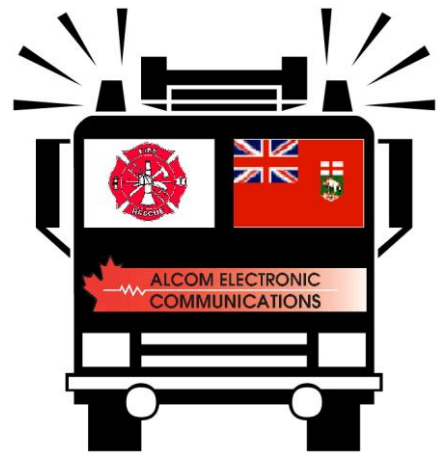


# FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

November 2013



## New Rescue Boat Launched in East Selkirk

Water rescue is serious business for the East Selkirk Fire Department and now they have the right boat to do the job safely. At their annual open house, held on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the East Selkirk firefighters introduced the community to their brand new 18 foot fibreglass bottom Zodiac rescue boat.



The new Zodiac replaces a smaller ten foot boat the department has been using for many years in floods and for water rescue. The department has typically been called out for three or four water rescues in an average year but during flooding in the spring the boat has been in high demand.



According to East Selkirk Fire Chief Sheldon Goers the old boat was not adequate to safely continue performing rescue and flood operations in the currents experienced lately in the Red River, and this was limiting their capabilities. With the addition of the new rescue boat, which is outfitted with a 70 horsepower Yamaha four-stroke engine, the East Selkirk Fire Department is well equipped to fight the current and deal with all the elements, like trees and ice, the river and local streams can throw at them.

Since the new rescue boat was put into service in September the focus has been training and practice. With two practice nights scheduled every month it has been possible to ensure that all 18 firefighters with water rescue training have been trained on the

new rescue boat. The department prides itself on short response times, within 10 minutes for water rescue, so the community can count on a dedicated rescue crew to be their when needed.

### Well Outfitted With the Right Communications Equipment



**David Clark H3440 Headset (below) connects to radio.**

During any rescue operation communications are key, so East Selkirk Fire Department had a Motorola XTL1500 Mobile Radio installed to the new rescue boat for FleetNet communications.

Emergency scenes can be noisy environments, but nothing compares to the challenge created by wind noise on

a moving boat. To overcome the wind noise Alcom recommended the David Clarke H3440 Headset. Connecting this headset to the XTL1500 radio using a C3109 Push-to-Talk Adapter resulted in a complete system that provides crystal clear communications.



According to Fire Chief Sheldon Goers the consensus of everyone that has used it is that the headset system is a great asset to the rescue boat. "We can't believe you can come across that clear with no wind noise. That is the cat's ass!" exclaimed Goers when asked about the quality of the headset.

**David Clark Company offers headsets for rescue boats, ladder operations and to use at the pump panel. To learn more about these options contact Kevin Wittmeier at Alcom.**

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## Communication at the Pump Panel

Uninterrupted communication with the pump operator is critical to successfully battling a blaze. At the same time, the extreme noise at the pump panel necessitates that hearing protection be provided to the pump operator.

While in most cases the pump operator is dedicated to the pump panel, there are many occasions when the pump operator is tasked with other responsibilities that require he have the mobility to leave his station. The communication link cannot be broken when this occurs.

Here is a sampling of the products and system configurations that can be implemented to provide this protection while ensuring that the pump operator is always in the communications loop and able to complete the task at hand.

### Wired Headset – Tied to the Pump Panel

Traditionally this has been the most common solution and typically it is installed at the time a truck is under construction. It involves running wiring from the truck mounted two-way radio to an outlet at the pump panel where the pump operator plugs in his headset.

This works well for dedicated pump operators but if he has to leave the pump panel, or remove the headset for any reason, the communication link is broken.

### Portable Radio with Wired Headset – Full Mobility

The pump operator can carry a portable two-way radio with a heavy-duty headset plugged into the accessory port. Headsets are available with ear-muff mounted push-to-talk buttons and in-line push-to-talk options are also available. This provides the pump operator the mobility needed to be at a distance from the pump panel if required. If they have to remove the headset for any reason they lose communications the moment they take it off. This is a problem that it would be preferable to avoid.

### Portable Radio with Temple Transducer and Ear Plugs – Full Mobility

Instead of a heavy-duty headset the pump operator can plug a temple transducer into the portable radio. In this case hearing protection will have to be provided using ear plugs. The advantage is that if the pump operator needs to hear ambient noise and takes out the ear plugs the will still have communications through the temple transducer.



### Portable Radio with Bluetooth Headset – Full Mobility and No Wires

With a portable radio and wireless Bluetooth headset the pump operator can move around as needed and is free from the inconvenience of any wires. They can use the ear-muff mounted push-to-talk or they can have a clip-on (or handheld) wireless push-to-talk pod.

#### SOLUTION

Connect your Bluetooth enabled XPR 7550 MOTOTRBO portable two-way radio to an XBT heavy duty wireless headset and you'll hear everything you need to hear from clear radio communications to essential noises all around you.



RLN6490

### Wireless Headset Systems – Using Mobile Radio

With a wireless headset system there is no need for the pump operator to carry a portable radio. The mobile radio in the truck is connected to a special wireless module that communicates with the wireless headset.

Range is typically 200 to 300 feet from the truck for most systems. This system provides ample mobility for the pump operator to move around if necessary and it maximizes the range for radio communications by using the powerful mobile radio mounted in the truck. Another advantage is that, with some systems, multiple headsets can be connected and used both for intercom and radio communications. Alcom recommends the David Clark Wireless Series for these applications.

