

FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

September/October 2015



New Apparatus at Ste. Anne Fire Department: More Than a Rescue Truck

After serving the community as a firefighter for over 35 years, more than 25 of those years as Fire Chief, Ken Dayment retired on August 1st of this year. But before he retired he put the icing on his retirement cake by making sure the department purchased a new rescue truck. That new rescue truck is now in service at the Ste. Anne Fire Department. You can call it Ken Dayment's pride and joy.



The new truck is more than just a rescue. Built by Fort Garry Fire Trucks, the rescue has an on-board generator, plus there is a command table with seating in the back along with both a VHF radio and an APX 4500 mobile radio for FleetNet communications. These features allow the truck to be used as a mobile command centre for major incidents. Alcom also installed a Motorola XPR 5500 VHF radio in the front centre console for on-route and on-scene communications.

The new truck replaces an old U-Haul truck that was converted many years ago to use as a rescue truck. The old truck could only transport two fire fighters to a scene. The new rescue truck can accommodate up to eight fire fighters, four of whom can sit in SCBA seats so that they are ready to deploy as soon as they arrive on-scene. Equipment transport is also much improved due to built-in storage compartments with roll-up gates that are set-up to accommodate SCBA tanks, the jaws-of-life, and all variety of tools and rescue equipment.

When asked about the process of designing the truck and selecting the features, Dayment described it this way; "The truck was all designed around safety." One feature that he was particularly keen on including on the rescue was bright scene lighting. That is why a special light bar was added to the truck. It can be raised on scene and, as Dayment put it, "light up a football field!" Although it was an expensive add on, Dayment considers it well worth the investment. "When you're at an accident you need to light it up and make it safe for the guys" he explained.

With Dayment's influence on the design of the new rescue truck, the Ste. Anne Fire Department expects it will serve the community with the same steadfastness and versatility that Ken Dayment has for so many years.

Fire Apparatus Manufactured by



- Freightliner Chassis
- Walk-in Rescue Body Style
- Amdor Roll-Up Doors
- Bostrom Secure-All SCBA Seats
- 14 Bottle SCBA Rack
- Fold Down Bench Seating for 6
- XU Command Center Folding Table
- Motorola APX 4500 FleetNet Radio
- Motorola XPR 5500 VHF Radio
- Whelen LED Traffic Advisor
- FRC LED900 Scene Lights
- Command Light with Handheld Controller
- Federal Signal Emergency Warning Package
- FSC 61" LED Legend LPX Lightbar

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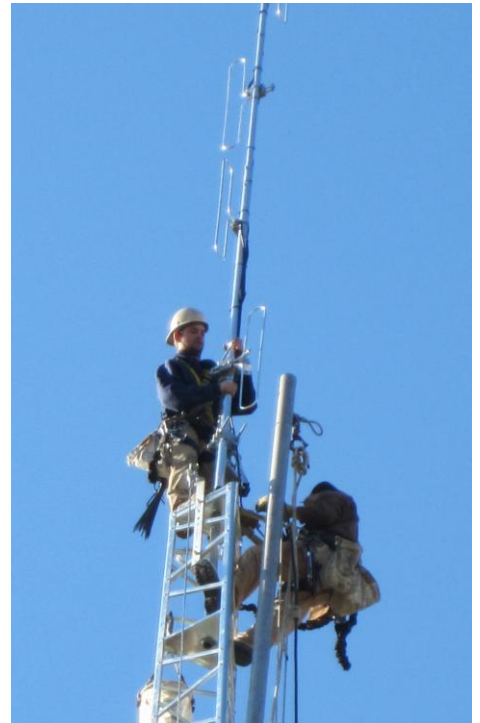
Do it Before Winter... Test Your Paging System

Now is the time... test your paging system before the rough weather arrives.

Just like maintaining your apparatus in response readiness condition, keeping your paging system in top operating condition is essential. Finding a problem before it effects performance of the paging system allows you to get it fixed before a system failure can occur. If the problem involves the antenna or cable system, then getting it fixed before the winter will save you time and money, and will save our technicians' fingertips too.

Here are procedures you can implement today to ensure the reliability of your paging system:

1. Test your system on a Tuesday or Wednesdays. If you discover a problem that requires the assistance of an Alcom technician, the work can be done before the weekend sets in to avoid downtime on the weekend.
2. Test your back-up power system to make sure its operating properly in the case of a power outage. Call the E911 Centre and ask them to use FleetNet to page you for the duration of the test. If you have an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) then 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 three test pages at 20 minutes, 40 minutes, and 1 hour after turning off the power. If the system fails before 1 hour is up, we strongly advise upgrading it as soon as possible, so call Alcom to book one of our service technicians to get that done right away. When you are finished the testing, turn the breaker back on or plug the unit back in and call E911 to tell them to return to normal procedure.



Problem with your antenna system?
Get it fixed before winter weather arrives.



Damaged connectors?
This was caused by a lightning strike.

3. Inspect the antenna system. 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? If you are unsure about any of this then we recommend you book an Alcom service technician to do a full inspection.
4. 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 on both sides of the unit (and if you don't have a lightning suppressor, call us – **you need one**). If the connections are not solid and clean then contact the Alcom service department and book a technician to come correct the problems.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alcom will be in attendance at:

**"Back to the Basics" Fall Conference & Tradeshow
at MESC in Brandon, October 1st to 3rd**

**Disaster Management Conference 2015
at Canad Inns Polo Park, Winnipeg, October 14th to 16th**

**Association of Manitoba Municipalities Annual
Convention at the Keystone Centre, Brandon,
November 23rd & 24th**

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