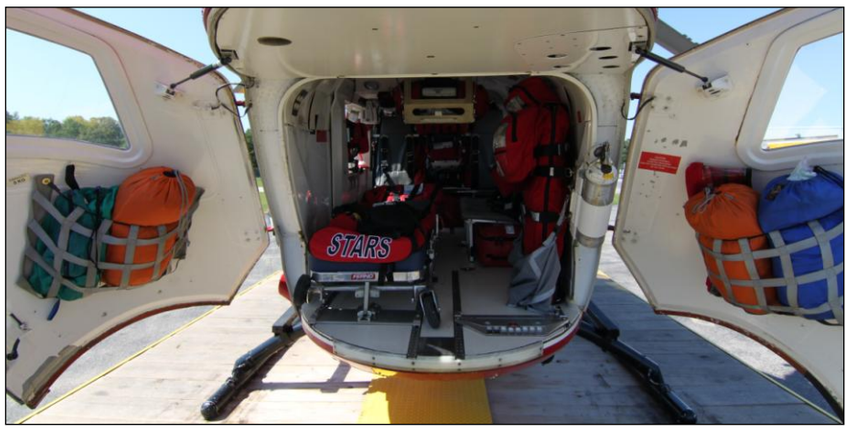
FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

September 2013

Alcom is a Proud Supporter of STARS in Manitoba

Since 2011, when STARS first arrived in Manitoba to provide emergency service during the flood, Alcom has been supporting the cooperation of STARS with the emergency responders on the ground. Alcom was called upon by many rural fire departments to help ensuring effective communication between first responders preparing a landing zone at an emergency scene and the STARS pilot. This was facilitated using Fleetnet radios on the simplex channel.



Pictured below, in front of the STARS helicopter and the Alcom mobile workshop, are members of the STARS air medical crew together with Alcom President Garry Smith.

In late 2012 the STARS crew was seeking a solution to improve the communication system serving the pilot and air medical crew. Alcom worked with an original equipment manufacturer to develop an interface cable that allows for the integration of the on-board and portable radios with the audio systems built into the STARS flight helmets.

This September Alcom is donating communications equipment for a major fundraising event, Stars Rescue On The Island. Six prominent members of the community will be dropped off by helicopter on a remote island. They will race to be rescued from the island by raising funds from friends and colleagues in support of STARS in Manitoba.

In 2012 STARS flew over 180 missions serving 67 communities in Manitoba. The work done by STARS, saving lives and improving medical response times to emergencies, is of critical importance to all Manitobans. The management and staff of Alcom are proud to support the important contribution that STARS is making to public safety in Manitoba.

ALCOM ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

30th Anniversary

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
RADIO SOLUTIONS
CHANNEL PARTNER

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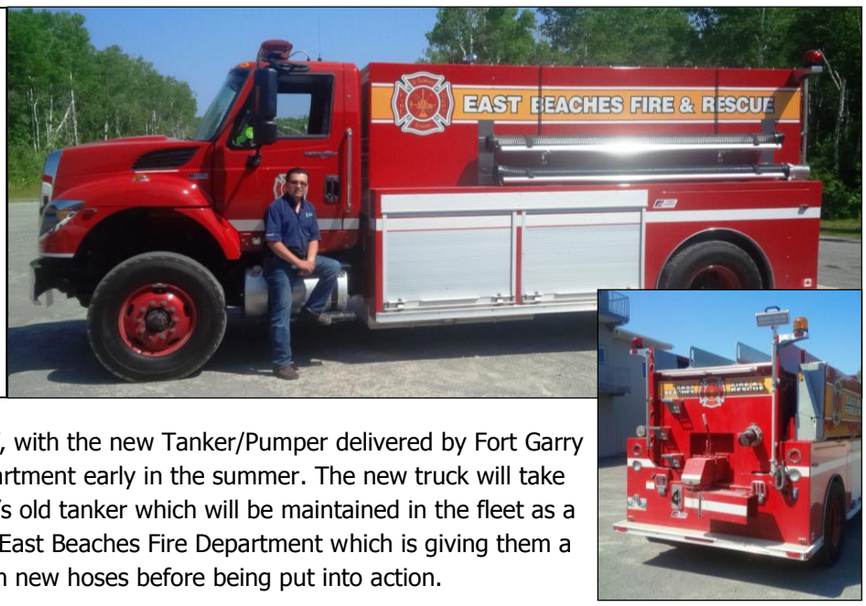
Fire Apparatus Manufactured by

FORT GARRY FIRE TRUCKS

International Chassis
2000 Imperial Gallon Poly Water Tank
500 GPM Hale Pump
LED Light Pkg incl. 60" Jetsolaris Lightbar
180 Degree Newton Swivel Dump Chute
2080 Imperial Gallon Husky Portatank
Electric Zico Portatank Lift
11HP CET Portable Pump
FRC Push up Scene Light
Motorola XPR 4550 VHF Radio



Pictured above is Mark Sinclair, Fire Chief, with the new Tanker/Pumper delivered by Fort Garry Fire Trucks to the East Beaches Fire Department early in the summer. The new truck will take over primary duties from the department's old tanker which will be maintained in the fleet as a back-up. It has been a quiet summer for East Beaches Fire Department which is giving them a chance to get the truck fully outfitted with new hoses before being put into action.

Backup Battery Power … Critical Testing Procedures for Paging Systems

Considering the importance of fire and ambulance paging to public safety it is imperative to ensure the battery backup on your paging system is functioning effectively.

Batteries have a lifespan and the only way to be sure that your back-up batteries are still functional is to test them regularly. A quarterly test of the battery backup will help to ensure that your paging system still operates when the hydro power fails. The physical size of the backup batteries and number of paging transmissions during a power failure will determine the runtime of the paging system on battery backup power. Results will vary for every system.

Use this testing process at least four times every year to make sure you have a reliable battery backup:

1. While standing in front of the paging system, familiarize yourself with the normal operational lights and indicators that the paging system displays.
2. Contact E911 dispatch to inform them you will be performing a local system test and that the paging system may be off the air for a short period of time during the testing. (E911 will likely tell you to use your FleetNet radio on your fire group channel)
3. Unplug the AC power cord from the wall socket thereby removing AC power. The reverting power supply should switch to battery power. (make note of the time the AC power was removed)
4. Dial into the paging system and perform a test page to ensure the transmitter accepts the page and does not shut down due to insufficient battery power. It is advisable to perform multiple test pages over a 15 -30 minutes to ensure the system remains operational during this time. You can also leave it unplugged to see how long it will run until it fails thus determining actual static duration (time dependant on number and length of pages).
5. If your system backup fails during this 15-30 minute time frame then a replacement backup system or batteries may be required. Plug in AC power to allow reverting power supply charger to go to normal status. Ensure operational lights and indicators are as they were prior to performing the test.
6. Inform E911 that the paging system is operational and have them send a test page to verify.

There are options available to increase the backup time associated with the system by adding batteries with 100 to 140 mAh rates thereby increasing the runtime to as high as 20 hours or more.

If you find that your backup battery power system fails this testing procedure or does not provided adequate backup power time please contact your Alcom representative. We will be pleased to provide you with a solution.

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