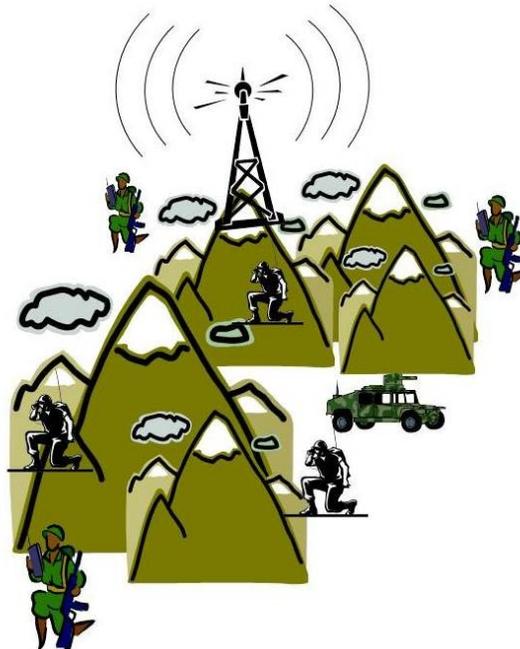


PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMUNICATION

Communication during an emergency response or mobilization project is essential for personnel safety and job efficiency. The NWDP recognized the need to improve capacity to communicate during activities, particularly those implemented in remote locations. During prior mobilizations, NWDP personnel were limited in the way they communicated due to the terrain and cellular reception/provider. Restricted capacity to communicate decreased performance effectiveness and also created frustration. Mountains and valleys can limit the range of a handheld radio as well as create “dead zones” that render typical handheld radios useless.

munication beyond the limited range of hand-held radios. Handheld radios send a signal approximately 3 to 4 miles under normal conditions. A



Communication capabilities were enhanced by obtaining portable repeaters and handheld radios. This equipment is available to support personnel during emergency response activities. The ability to incorporate a mobile repeater during an emergency response minimizes range restrictions because of rough terrain or other obstructions, and allows for com-



single mobile repeater stationed on a hilltop or building can extend the signal and broadcast up to 20

miles or more depending on the line of sight. Since an emergency response or mobilization project can continue for several weeks, the re-

peater is designed to work with back up batteries and solar panels. These power modifications make the unit self-sufficient for the length of the project and reduce maintenance needs during the event. The repeater is housed inside a weather proof Hardigg® case that can withstand most environmental conditions. The NWDP has 3 repeaters along with 18 Motorola® handheld radios programed to the frequencies of the repeaters. The radios can also be programed to existing WS frequencies when needed.

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The original artwork on this page was created by the National Wildlife Disease Program's Erika Kampe and Sarah Goff

