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1 Ground Radio

RADIO PROCEDURE

INTRODUCTION

This ~~booklet~~ ^{chapter} provides a description of the Department of Conservation and Land Management radio network in the Goldfields Region based at Kalgoorlie and current radio procedures.

As the radios are the only means of communication when in the field standard radio procedure, schedule calls and emergency search and rescue provisions have been developed and must be strictly observed to ensure the safety of staff.

The onus is on each Officer to observe procedures as outlined in this booklet.

NETWORK & FREQUENCIES

The radio network operating on HF/SSB consists of a base station at Kalgoorlie and mobiles. The mobiles are fitted with Department of Conservation and Land Management frequencies for private correspondence from base to mobile and mobile to mobile, and two Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) frequencies for emergency use only.

The following frequencies are used:-

- Channel 2.740 MHZ Dept of CALM Night
- Channel 5.270 MHZ Dept of CALM Day (normal use)
- Channel 5.833 MHZ Dept. of CALM Day (primarily Wildlife Enforc)
- Channel 5.360 MHZ RFDS Day/Night (emergency only)
- Channel 2.656 MHZ RFDS Night (emergency only)

To change frequencies the set must be adjusted (dial) and the tuning wire on the aerial must be adjusted accordingly (to the correct sockets). The correct aerial configuration is:-

- Channel - remove the wire completely (2740)
- Channel - first and last sockets as marked on aerial 5270
- R Channel - as marked on aerial (5360)
- Channel - as marked on aerial (2656)

The base radio is manned during normal office hours

0800-1630. After hours arrangements are available through a base radio at the Acting Regional Manager's residence.

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CALL SIGNS

The following call signs are standard:-

CALM Kalgoorlie Base (Fixed Station)
- VL6DE Kalgoorlie

CALM Como Communications (Fixed Station)
- VL6DE Como Communications

Kalgoorlie Royal Flying Doctor Base (Fixed Station)
- VJQ (Victor Juliet Quebec)

Mobile Call Signs (VL6DE KALgoorlie) -

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Goldfields | 1 - Ian Kealley, Regional Manager |
| Goldfields | 2 - Dave McMillain, Forester |
| Goldfields | 3 - Mike Tagliaferri, Forester |
| Goldfields | 4 - Peter Hutchinson, Aboriginal Trailing Officer |
| Goldfields | 5 - |
| Goldfields | 6 - Geoffrey Leake, Workperson |
| Goldfields | 7 - Geoffrey Rolland, Forest Ranger |
| Goldfields | 8 - Andrew Chapman, Operations Officer |
| Goldfields | 9 - Rob Kelly, Workperson |
| Wildlife | 23 - Bob Fitzgerald, Wildlife Officer |
| Wildlife Research | 13 - David Pearson, Research Scientist |

The correct calling procedure is "VL6DE Kalgoorlie from Goldfields _____" reply "VL6DE Kalgoorlie"

OR

"Goldfields _____ from VL6DE KALgoorlie", reply "Goldfields _____".

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SCHEDULE CALLS
REGIONAL STAFF

Whenever in the field Officers are required to make twice daily schedule calls to the Kalgoorlie Base as a means of keeping in touch, relaying messages, recording activities and position to assist with possible location.

Schedule calls are made at 0845 and 1445 daily. At each call the following information should be given and is recorded in the office diary:-

1. Current position. Either in relationship to a known landmark, named map location or as a

map reference when away from features or in remote areas. The position should be as clear and accurate as possible.

2. Expected movements. Usually the proposed route or expected activities between each schedule call. If there is any major changes to expected movements the base should be notified and the diary amended.

In addition to schedule calls it is essential that the base should be notified and details recorded in the diary if:-

1. The Officer will be absent from the vehicle (radio) for any long period. Notify when leaving the vehicle and immediately on returning that you are back on air.
2. If you will be unavailable at the designated schedule times.

WILDLIFE OFFICER

Wildlife Protection Branch HF radio schedules will include the 5270 MHz frequency from Monday 1st September 1986. Schedule times are:-

5270 MHz at 0800 and 1500 hours
5833 MHz at 0810 and 1510 hours
8070 MHz at 0820 and 1520 hours

Duration of each schedule will be 10, 10 and 5 minutes respectively.

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WEEKENDS & AFTERHOURS

Weekend schedules and afterhours radio contact are available through a base radio and diary at the Regional Manager's residence (85 Ward St, Kalgoorlie), an office attendance roster or organized through the Esperance district or the Hammersley Ranges. Arrangements should be made in advance for the radio to be left on and suitable schedule times. All normal procedures will be observed.

RADIO SCHEDULE PROBLEMS

On occasions due to weather conditions, location, radio skip or faults contact cannot be made with the Kalgoorlie Base at schedule times.

In this case all effort must be made to contact the base as soon as possible certainly before the next schedule when a search alert will be implemented.

The following procedures will apply in the event of radio problems or missed schedules:-

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ACTION

PROCEDURE BREAKDOWN	IN THE FIELD (MOBILE)	IN THE OFFICE (BASE)
Mobile Radio Failure	Contact the base as quickly as possible through other means eg. phone, radio telephone, other mobiles, return to base, etc. This avoids a search being implemented.	As per missed schedules.
Office Radio Failure	Schedule calls through mobiles, Communications Como, or spare base radio.	Arrange for Como Communications or other mobiles to monitor schedule calls and instigate repairs.
One schedule missed (not uncommon due to weather, skip or faults) OR cannot raise base at schedule time.	<p>Make every attempt to contact the office before the next schedule call is due. Depending on the problem this can be done by:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -shifting location -waiting for the base to call -contacting the office by other means -relaying a message through another mobile 	<p>The radio operator should:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Alert the most senior staff member available -Try to raise the mobile concerned -Leave the radio "mute off" on and monitor traffic -Instigate a watch for the next schedule time
Two schedules missed	<p>Make every effort to contact the base before the second schedule time as a search will be instigated:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -use RFDS frequencies to relay a message -leave radio on continuously (mute backed off) 	<p>If no call is received immediately:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Notify Como Communications and/or other bases and mobiles to try and raise the mobile. -Make enquiries at the last location, stations and towns as per the last known intended movements. -<u>Instigate a search</u> at the direction and discretion of the senior Officer In Charge if contact is not made.

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EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

1. Departmental

Normal radio procedure should be observed using the Dept. of CALM frequencies with contact through Kalgoorlie or Como. Weekend arrangements through Kalgoorlie should also be observed. Emergency medical aid or assistance will be arranged locally through the RFDS and emergency services.

Kalgoorlie Phone Numbers:-

Royal Flying Dr Service: 212899	Ian Kealley (RM) : 211807
Ambulance: 211599	Mike Tagliaferri
Police: 212822	(FOR): 215553
Hospital: 212222	Dave McMillan (FOR): 912215
Fire Brigade: 211044	Dan Grace (TO): 212509
	Bob Fitzgerald (DWO): 213648

2. Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)

Medical aid and assistance or emergency communication can be obtained by following procedure as outlined by the RFDS.

The RFDS can only be contacted by switching the radio (and aerial) to their frequency. The emergency alarm call will operate on the RFDS frequency.

Kalgoorlie RFDS provides a seven day week radio service with 24 hour emergency facilities.

MEDICAL AID AND ASSISTANCE/EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Although the system is designed primarily for medical situations, we regard any 'situation' threatening the safety of life and property as an 'emergency', and we would hope to provide assistance under any circumstances.

Each Base has its own specified times for routine medical radio consultation. The Kalgoorlie RFDS (VJQ) radio schedules are listed at the back of this booklet. If during normal Base hours (including School of the Air time) medical advice is required and cannot wait until the next routine medical session, the following procedure should be adopted:-

- * Before activating the alarm make sure all relevant information concerning the emergency situation is

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available. The identification of the caller, the geographical location and nature of the emergency.

- * Wait until the first quiet moment on the frequency and then transmit "VJQ (Victor Juliet Quebec) is VL6DE Goldfields _____ with a medical/emergency call".
- * On receipt of this call, the Base will deal only with the station seeking medical advice.
- * Should the frequency in question be heavily congested with traffic and "quiet" periods are not forthcoming, the above medical call should be preceded by a 15 second RFDS emergency alarm tone.

If medical assistance is required at a period when the Base is normally closed, at night or on weekends, then the following procedure should be adopted:-

- * Switch on the transceiver and select the required frequency.
- * Listen to see if the required Base is working.
- * If not, depress the "Emergency Call" button for a minimum of 15 seconds.
- * Within two minutes of pressing the alarm button, the Base will automatically respond with its netting tones which will be transmitted for a 15 second period.
- * Should this tone not be heard within two minutes of pressing the alarm button, transmit the alarm tones again - for a longer period of time.
- * If again unsuccessful, try changing to another frequency (each Base guards two frequencies).

Once the Base nett tones have been heard, rest assured that alarm bells are ringing in either the local hospital or at the police station and it is known that a station requires assistance. Dependent upon which Base is being called, it will either be hospital, police or RFDS staff who will, up to 5 minutes after receiving the alarm call, be heard on air asking for the station with an emergency to "identify themselves". The mobile should then respond in the manner set out for medical call as explained above.

The system is basically set up for medical situations, and initially the call is routed to the duty flying doctor.

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If the emergency is not of a medical nature, eg. bushfire or police requirement, then the doctor may feel that the duty base operator is more competent to handle the situation, and the operator will be called in.

RADIO SCHEDULES FOR KALGOORLIE RFDS VJQ

RADIOTELEGRAM TRAFFIC:

Weekdays

7.30am to 8.30am - 5360 KH/Z, 6825 KH/Z
 9.00am to 9.30am - " "
 1.00pm to 1.45pm - " "
 3.45pm to 4.30pm - " "

Outside of these times 6825 KH/Z is utilized by the School of the Air. Continuous watch is maintained on 5360 KH/Z.

Routine Medical Session 11.00am 5360 KH/Z, 6825 KH/Z

Weekends and Public Holidays

9.00am Until close of traffic approx. 9.45am
 5360 KH/Z, 6825 KH/Z

Routine Medical Session 9.00am 5360 KH/Z, 6825 KH/Z

EMERGENCY ALARM TIMES AND FREQUENCIES:

5360 KH/Z Continuous
 6825 KH/Z Daily 6.00am to 6.00pm
 2656 KH/Z Daily 6.00pm to 6.00am

Any alterations to these schedules are broadcast to all stations at the commencement of normal traffic sessions.

KALGOORLIE OUTPOST - RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE:

Weekdays

0800am to 4.30pm Dual frequency simplex,
 Outpost Receive 7550 KH/Z
 Outpost Transmit 8144 KH/Z
 ALSO SINGLE FREQUENCY SIMPLEX 5360 KH/Z

Weekends

0900am until Radiotelegram Session concludes
 (approx. 9.45am)

FOR TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS WISHING TO CONTACT SUITABLY EQUIPPED OUTPOST, RING KALGOORLIE 090 21 6029 TO BOOK CALLS.