

NORTH ISLAND 9-1-1 CORPORATION

*- serving the Regional Districts of Alberni-Clayoquot, Comox-Strathcona,
Mt. Waddington, Nanaimo (School District #69) and Powell River -*

MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

September 22, 2005

911 EMERGENCY SERVICES ON QUADRA ISLAND

Recently telephone service was disrupted on Quadra Island, resulting in the loss of telephone access for thousands of people for many hours. During that outage, and in times of any possible future loss of phone service, it's important to know that access to emergency services via 9-1-1 is still possible by cell phone where available.

For those without cell phones, or in areas where cell phone reception is poor or non-existent on Quadra Island, the #1 Fire Hall, which is not normally staffed, would be open 24/7 and staffed with personnel who could access 9-1-1 emergency services via the radio transmitter there.

This emergency plan, specific to telephone outages in this area, has been developed by Fire Chief Murray Johnson on Quadra Island and is supported by the North Island 9-1-1 Corporation. This plan was activated during the recent outage once it became clear that the outage might last for some time.

The North Island 9-1-1 Corporation was established in 1995 to manage provision of 9-1-1 services to the Regional Districts of Comox-Strathcona (RDCS), Mt Waddington, Alberni-Clayoquot and a portion of the Nanaimo Regional District. The Powell River Regional District joined the service in 1999, and the Corporation has worked cooperatively to provide fire, police and ambulance response for those areas ever since.

For more information on the emergency plan for access to 9-1-1 during telephone outages on Quadra Island, contact Fire Chief Murray Johnson at the Quadra Island Volunteer Fire Department, 285-3262.