



Fact Sheet

The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network

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Overview of RAYNET Operations

OVERVIEW OF RAYNET OPERATIONS

Portable

This usually means a radio operator on foot using a "handheld" portable radio. Because of the relatively low power produced by a handheld, they can only be used where there is a strong radio signal. This is usually close to the Control Station or within the coverage of a Talk-Through unit (see separate Fact Sheet).



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Mobile

A mobile installation is usually installed in a RAYNET operator's vehicle and uses a vehicle mounted radio and antenna system. Because of the higher power and better antenna that are available (when compared to a handheld), mobile installations have a much wider radio coverage. Mobile units can easily change location as the dynamics of an incident change.

Temporary Fixed Installations

Where there is an area of poor radio coverage, it may be necessary to install an antenna and mast system to provide additional height for the antenna, thereby improving radio coverage. Talk-Through units are often installed in this manner. Masts are usually staked out using guy ropes and as such they are not easy to re-locate at short notice.

Control Station



Once a system, consisting of one or more of the above type of installations, is in operation a "Net Controller" will be identified to maintain the radio network. He / she will maintain radio network discipline to ensure that messages are properly recorded and relayed. The RAYNET Net Controller is usually co-located with the User Service "Control" facility. Where an incident has arisen "in the field" Control can simply be a radio installation in a car. It can

also be a permanent installation in a User Service's building. Many of these now have pre-installed equipment, such as antenna and cabling. More specialised and portable equipment (e.g. radios and power supplies) being provided as required.

User Services

RAYNET can only provide its emergency communication services to approved organisations known as "User Services". These are typically Civil Contingency Category 1 and 2 responders. If you are not certain that your organisation is a "User Service" please ask and we will be glad to offer guidance.