



Ham radio enthusiast Jerry Hawkins (left), assembles antenna hook up with the assistance of Chuck Harris, Director of General Services, (center) and E. Forrest Boyd, MD, Ob/Gyn and Chairman of Disaster Planning Committee.

Disaster communication improves with ham radios

Communication during a disaster drill has been improved with the installation of a ham radio system designed and donated by Jerry Hawkins, Information Services. Hawkins donated the equipment to start up the system for the Los Angeles medical center in the event of a disaster.

Ham radios are frequently used to provide information to a command post or triage area in a crisis situation. The operator can communicate from disaster site to hospital so Emergency Services can prepare to treat accident victims.

Hawkins also rounded up other ham radio

volunteers including Ken Reiff in Rate, Benefits and Contract Management, and John Garret in Engineering to assist in disaster drills. The radio operators are trained communicators who know how to communicate calmly in a frantic situations.

"The ham radio operators add a whole new dimension to handling a disaster. We now can track a situation miles away by sending a ham radio operator to the disaster site," remarks Hawkins.

Hawkins also donated an antenna which allows radio communications within an approximate 30 mile radius.