

# DID YOU KNOW?


AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS



## Y2K CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

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 **DID YOU KNOW** that the Brigade is an active participant in the emergency plans of governments at all levels? This brings with it certain responsibilities during emergencies or natural disasters.

The role of the Brigade in a disaster or emergency situation is the relief of suffering. The types of services provided by Brigade members will vary depending on the nature of the crisis (see June 1996 issue of *DID YOU KNOW?* on Emergency Preparedness.) During recent disasters, Brigade members provided countless hours of filling sandbags, chopping wood and shovelling snow in addition to the variety of services considered "normal" Brigade duties. Any variety of duties may be required when the year 2000 kicks in.

The Y2K problem is one of the few times that the date of an emergency can be predicted with any certainty. Even though the experts are predicting that only minimal situations will occur in Canada, the Brigade must be prepared. Not to be prepared would not only be irresponsible but could jeopardize the welfare of all Canadians.

Every Provincial/Territorial Headquarters has a volunteer Emergency Planning Officer who is responsible for emergency planning, preparedness and operations for all Brigade resources within their jurisdiction. As part of the planning for Y2K consequence management, all Emergency Planning Officers have been requested to:

- carry out an inventory of their materiel resources, and take corrective action for any items that are not Y2K ready. This includes electronic medical equipment, telephone equipment, radio communications equipment and vehicles;
- carry out a human resources inventory, to provide a clear picture of the number of volunteers available to respond, their availability (eg. outside of their professional role), their training level, and their ability to be on duty for extended periods of time.

The federal government is planning an exercise to test emergency plans across Canada with respect to Y2K issues. As with previous exercises, the Brigade will be an active player and will exercise its emergency plans and how these plans interface with other response organizations.

Every Brigade member can become part of Y2K consequence management by following these suggestions:

- carry out inventories of materiel and human resources at the divisional level;
- find out who your Provincial/Territorial Emergency Planning Officer (EPO) is;
- ask your EPO questions about emergency planning in your Council;
- cooperate by providing your divisional inventories to your EPO.

Ensure your Brigade unit's emergency plan is in place and up-to-date.  
See StJCI 2-7-5 on *Disaster and Emergency Preparedness*.