

Helicopter crash puts EMS through paces

By Bill L. Jones
EMS Coordinator

Josephine and I completed the EMT instructors course at the Alaska Skill Center in Seward. The course went fairly well.

Josephine is now a State Certified ETT instructor and I am an EMT instructor. We are looking forward to teaching some classes so we can try out our new skills.

I would like to thank Don and Jean Crepps and the other fine folks that made our stay in Seward an enjoyable one. I would also like to thank the staff of the skill center for making us feel so welcome.

The 21st through the 23rd of June, Mark Johnson, State EMS Coordinator visited us here in Barrow. We enjoyed having him and hope he enjoyed his visit to Barrow.

Any North Slope villages

that would like to have Basic First Aid and C.P.R. training this summer and fall should write a letter requesting the training so I can put you on the training schedule.

Anyone in Barrow that would like to become a hunter and firearms safety instructor give me a call or write and I'll set up a course for instructors.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer. Remember to camp, hunt and fish safely.

Training requests should be sent to: Bill L. Jones,

EMS Coordinator

NSB EMS

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The helicopter went down about 35 miles southeast of Barrow at the mouth of Chip River. All six people aboard received injuries.

The helicopter, owned by Kenai Air Alaska, was flying for Husky Oil Company's clean up operation.

The pilot, Richard Graham, said that they were picking up a clean up crew. When they were approximately 200 feet up he heard a strange noise and started to land the helicopter. At about 50 to 60 feet the tail rotor went out causing the helicopter to spin and crash.

Jerry Dickson, Pilot for Air Logistics of Alaska Inc., and a mechanic were working on a helicopter at the Barrow airport when they heard the downed pilot talking to a Wien pilot. Dickson and his mechanic left for the scene. By this time Barrow Search & Rescue Coordinator Kenneth Toovak was notified and he contacted SAR members Eugene Brower (NSB Mayor)

The Borough helicopter pilots were out of town. Don was getting married and Randy was his best man.

Mayor Brower and EMTs Bud Stevens, Sarah Jacoby and myself went to the scene, applied triage, stabilized the victims, and shuttled them to Barrow airport where they were transported by Barrow's Rescue I to the P.H.S. hospital.

From Barrow Hospital three patients were med-evaced to Anchorage for further treatment.

The whole operation went smoothly thanks to the cooperation of all persons involved.

Thanks should go to North Slope Borough SAR, Barrow SAR, Barrow Volunteer Fire Department, P.H.S. Barrow Hospital Staff, Cape Smythe Air Service, Jerry Dickson and Air Logistics of Alaska Inc., and all other people that were involved with the operation.

This was an excellent example of the EMS System in action, or as Kenneth Toovak said, "We were just doing what had to be done."



On July 10 the North Slope Borough's EMS system was put through its paces, when a Bell 212 helicopter crashed with 6 people aboard.

and Bud Stevens. Later, Sarah Jacoby and myself were contacted.

Dickson returned with two injured people who were able to sit up. It was decided to use the Borough's Bell 206 Long Ranger as it is set up for Med-evacs.

