

No Radio Contact Since December at Anaktuvuk Pass

The village of Anaktuvuk Pass in the remote Brooks Range country has been without radio contact since early in December.

The state-owned old model AM radio was installed in the state school back in 1959 or 1960 when the school was completed.

"Without radio, we have no way of outside communication and if an emergency comes up, we have no way of getting outside help," said Roosevelt Paneak of Anaktuvuk.

Paneak said that if the radio had been working on February 8, it might have

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prevented the crash landing of the Fairbanks Air Service plane that day.

"The plane kept bypassing the village," he said. "I learned later that the plane had crashed when I got to Fairbanks. If the radio had been working, we probably would have given him the weather ahead of time. The weather at the village was pretty bad that day."

He said the radio was needed in winter and that emergencies do arise when least expected.

"There should be a radio that's run by batteries or by portable generator because the power is turned off in summer when the days get long," Paneak said.