

PRESS RELEASE

Radio Society of Great Britain

Amateur Radio can provide emergency communications

5 June 2006

The July 7 terrorist attacks on the London transport network and the new London Assembly report into the attacks highlights the importance of effective radio communications in these situations.

The report also concluded that communications between the different emergency services was made difficult because police, fire and ambulance staff all used different radio systems.

Raynet is a network of amateur radio volunteers highly trained in emergency communications. They have expertise in providing emergency communications in a wide range of scenarios, including in tunnels and also in the area of coordinated message handling using compatible equipment.

However, Raynet groups were not involved in helping out during the 7 July bombings, and are currently not a core part of the Government's official emergency response plans.

Peter Kirby, General Manager of the Radio Society of Great Britain, said that it was about time that the Government started taking Amateur Radio and Raynet groups seriously. "Radio Amateurs are used extensively in other countries abroad during times of emergency and following the New Orleans flooding President Bush personally thanked Radio Amateurs in the United States for providing the communications systems that the government agencies were unable to provide" he said.

Further information

For more information about Raynet groups - and how they could have helped the emergency services following the July 7 - attacks, contact The Radio Society of Great Britain on 01707 659015 or e-mail GMDept@rsgb.org.uk