

## **Press Notice**

16<sup>th</sup> November 2010

### **911 Establishes Radio Communications with Emergency Responders**

The 911 Emergency Communications Centre is pleased to announce that it has completed phase I of its radio communications installation.

Ms Juliette Gooding, 911 Programme Manager said that all those businesses and individual sponsors who gave contributions to 911 will be pleased to see how their money has been invested to date.

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November a demonstration of the system will took place and sponsors were invited to participate in this historic event. Ms Gooding said that now - Police Officers, Fire Service, Ambulance Crew can all coordinate response to deal with emergencies more efficiently. Not only can individual agencies speak to 911 but they can speak securely amongst themselves.

The Technical team arrived in Providenciales on 29<sup>th</sup> November and by Friday when Hurricane Tomas threatened the islands, the system was tested and used during that time. It proved to be a huge success and has given some level of comfort to responders now that they can call for backup quickly and can let fellow responders know how to approach threatening situations.

Assistant Manager, Elery James worked alongside the radio technical team to gain as much knowledge as he could to ensure continuity with respect to maintenance and programming of radios in future and worked tirelessly during the nights leading up to the hurricane and subsequently, to make sure the radios were ready to go into operation. Testing of the system continues for a few more days prior to the launch.

The demonstration showed how one Police Officer may be dispatched to one incident and another officer who is closer to that incident would hear the transmission and advise 911 that he is closer and able to respond. In the past, 911 would have had to call one officer on the phone and if he said he was busy then another telephone call would be made to another until one was found.

Although this is the first Phase and it is an exciting time for all, the public and business persons are reminded that funding is still needed to complete this Phase and to move into Phase II which is to have communications nationwide so that incidents in Grand Turk or the Caicos Islands can be managed and coordinated as efficiently as those on Providenciales. The vision is to ensure that in the event there is a major incident on any one island, communication is not lost thereby leaving any one isolated from the outside world.

Ms Gooding reiterates that this phase of the entire 911 project could not have been possible without the support of the Bankers Association and its member banks; the Insurance

Companies, Gordon Supplies, Crime Stoppers, various hotels and all those other agencies and individuals who understand the urgency for a 911 System and who understand the financial constraints and stepped forward to lend their support. She said the ongoing support is needed and she has no doubt that the public are already reaping the benefit of the 911 system and will continue to play their part in its development.

The event was attended by emergency service partners, businessmen and representatives from various agencies that made donations to the 911 system.

Note: To make donations to the 911 account, interested persons may do so at First Caribbean International Bank. **The account details are:**

Account name: Crime Stoppers Turks & Caicos – Donations (which is a special account opened specifically for 911 funds). Account number: 10497700. Bank: FirstCaribbean International Bank.

The 911 website is [www.911tci.com](http://www.911tci.com). Telephone (649) 946 5255