

Towering Feat

Six hundred feet up a television tower is no place for amateurs.

However, a local group of "ham" radio amateurs installed a repeater station Saturday high atop the WFRV-TV tower at Scray's Hill. It will enable the Red Cross-Lake-Land Chapter of utilize more powerful radio communications when working on disaster or emergency operations in the area.

Officials said the repeater station is one of the most powerful in the region. Its function is to pick up weak radio signals on one frequency, amplify them and retransmit on another frequency. The repeater will give Red Cross the Equivalent of an 800-foot tower on its mobile disaster van.

Dennis Dal Santo, a member of the Northeastern Wisconsin VHF (very high frequency) Radio Amateurs Club, installed the repeater at a height of about 600 feet, with assistance from another member, Tim Selner.

The club volunteers its time and expertise on ham radio operation to Red Cross during emergencies.

"During times of disaster, the VHF club will coordinate radio activities for Red Cross when they are long distances from Green Bay," Dal Santo said.

Funds for the repeater, its equipment and maintenance are being donated by the club.

Other radio equipment necessary to make use of the repeater has been donated by the Green Bay and Western Railway.

Red Cross officials said they were extremely pleased with the combined efforts of Dal Santo, the railroad, WFRV-TV and the VHF Club.

