

American Red Cross Visits Honeywell Colorado Springs

By Rick Anderson, HSE

Honeywell Colorado Springs hosted the 12th new American Red Cross (ARC) ECRV (Emergency Communication Response Vehicle), #4717, on February 13, 2009. This new vehicle was designed and constructed for the American Red Cross to provide emergency communications between disaster relief operations and the American Red Cross Disaster Operation Centers, the Intranet, and other public and private communications networks. The ECRV includes satellite connectivity (uplink and downlink), a local area network (LAN) including wi-fi capabilities, and an interoperability switch that allows the American Red Cross to communicate with the variety of internal and external communication systems. The ECRV allows the American Red Cross to communicate effectively without relying on other sources, such as FEMA and other first responder agencies.

In 2000, the American Red Cross took delivery of 9 new ECRVs paid by private donations and dispersed them nationwide for quick response. Their fleet now consists of 12 ECRVs with the delivery of #4717 to Colorado. When a tornado, hurricane, or other disaster strikes, the ECRV can be onsite in hours for support of the operational readiness of the American Red Cross. It carries communication tools including laptops (with wireless capabilities), a variety of 2-way radios, and handy talkies for use by Red Cross personnel.

The SCNC HSE Committee's Emergency Action Team sponsored this event so that employees could view the ECRV and could become better acquainted with its capabilities as well as fostering a better working relationship with the American Red Cross. Thanks to SCNC's Tony Dal Lago, who is also an American Red Cross volunteer, for coordinating this visit by the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross and ECRV #4717.



Jeremy Rousseau (left), American Red Cross ECRV Operator, and Tony Dal Lago, SCNC in front of the Emergency Communication Response Vehicle #4717