

OUR TOWNS

SECTION

B

Daily Herald

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

METRO EDITOR | Amie Rose • 344-2530 • arose@heraldextra.com

Demo shows latest in emergency power

Caleb Warnock

DAILY HERALD

Emergency managers from across Utah gathered in Orem on Friday to inspect portable power supplies built for disasters.

Generators capable of running enough power from the alternator of an idling car to keep a stoplight working in a crisis, and small enough

to fit easily in the trunk of a car, cost about \$10,000, said Robert Mount CEO of Power Innovations International. Emergency managers also inspected a truck priced between \$150,000 and \$200,000, which is equipped with a generator large enough to power a small hospital wing as long as the truck's engine is running. The truck can also refill oxygen tanks for firefighters and has

an onboard computer for emergency communications, among other features.

Orem hosted an Emergency Power Solutions Open House at one of its fire stations, allowing Power Innovations International to show off a new generation of high-tech generators.

Kent Hawkins, fire chief in Blanding, Utah, drove five hours to attend the event. He spent more than an

hour inspecting the \$200,000 emergency truck. A power outage earlier this year has alerted his city to the fact that in a disaster, high-tech emergency generators can save lives and help restore order, he said.

"I'm impressed," he said of the equipment.

Because Blanding is so remote, having that kind of equipment available would be useful, though the pos-

sibility of affording the technology is at least years away, he said. The primary reason for attending the open house was to gather "more information to put into the pool so that when we discuss our options, we know what they are."

Keith Larsen of the Orem public works department said the city

See **POWER**, B2



CRAIG DILGER/Daily Herald

Robbi Mount [front] of Power Innovations shows *Blanding Fire Chief Kent Hawkings* a model of one of the vehicles outfitted with emergency equipment. This particular truck is capable of supplying the power of an entire emergency room.

Power

Continued from B1

hosted the event because it has worked with Power Innovations International for years, using older technology generators in many emergencies, and even lending generators to other cities and state agencies.

Larsen joked that the city's generators from the company have been so popular that when other agencies request to borrow them "we tell them to buy their own."

Emergency computer equipment and even traffic signals must have a steady source of power that does not fluctuate, as the power does in a normal

home. So-called clean power is necessary because without it, delicate electronic equipment shuts down or is damaged. The new generators are able to supply this clean power, he said.

"It's a good thing," Larsen said of the new technology, noting it could also run the city's sewer plant and other neces-

sary services in the event of a major disaster or earthquake.

Craig Skidmore, an Alpine resident, came on his own, interested just to see the new technology. He said that north Utah County cities should consider purchasing some of the equipment on a shared basis in case of earthquakes or even explosions.