

CHURCHILL FILMS
PRESENTS
A DIMENSION FILM

COMMUNICATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY

16 MINUTES



THEME:

Communications systems tie a community together, and link it to the rest of the world. In fact, communications make inter-dependence possible.

SYNOPSIS:

Through the suspenseful story of a brush fire, the film explores the need for modern communications. It shows (1) how messages come into the community from far-flung sending stations in outer space, the upper atmosphere and across the ocean, (2) how the community responds to danger with its own network of telephone, radio, television and other devices, and (3) how communications media keep the community informed.

CONTENT:

WEATHER INFORMATION warns the community that a windstorm is coming.

MISSING THE WARNING, a farmer begins burning off his fields. The fire spreads beyond his control.

BY RADIO AND DIRECT LINE TELEPHONE, the fire warning flashes to Police and Fire Headquarters.

BY RADIO, the Fire Captain communicates with Fire Dispatch.

AN OBSERVING HELICOPTER radios that the fire may spread to nearby homes.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY services are alerted.

A MOBILE FIRE WEATHER TRUCK sets up for wind readings near the fire.

NEWS MEDIA keep an anxious community informed.

VOCABULARY:

signal flag, electric megaphone, two-way radio, closed-circuit television, network, satellite, radio-sound balloon, dispatcher, command post, intersection, mobile unit, tanker, news media, bulletin, facsimile.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

BEFORE the film, the class can make a list of all the communications devices and systems they know.

AFTER, they can compare their list with the devices in the film.

COMMUNICATIONS and inter-dependence lends itself to role-playing. The class could be broken down into groups playing the roles of various agencies.

In a crisis, how would they work together?

What if some of the lines are cut?

COMMUNICATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY

Grades 3-6 / 16 minutes / Color \$180 / B&W \$90

Social Studies

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