

Mobile Mast Madness

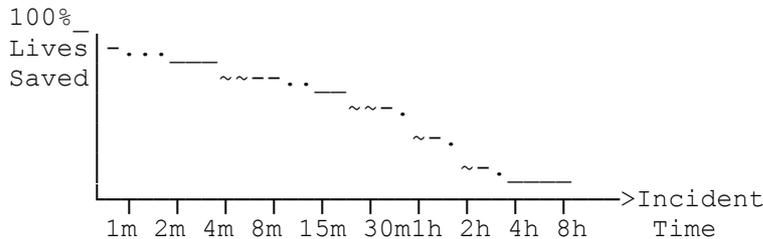
By G8MNY

(Updated Aug 07)

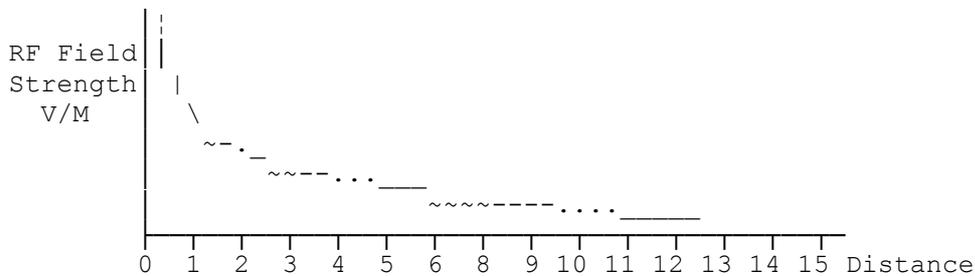
(8 bit ASCII Graphics use code page 437 or 850)

Some time ago I watched another TV phone in programme, where RF death beam hysteria & NIMBY (not in my back yard) ruled OK. This was triggered by another report that cancer "might" be cause be the radiation from the 47,000 UK masts. A similar program on WiFi, expressed the same irrational science, e.g. no substantiated evidence of any harm, so ban it from schools just in case.

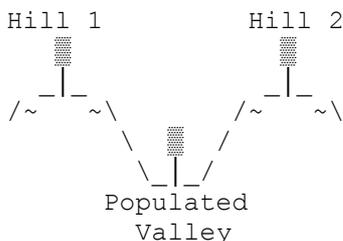
- 1/ The idea that radiation from phone mast kill people is absurd, quite the opposite is true.
- 2/ Mobile phones actually save lives. 100s per day as emergency calls for accidents, heart attacks, robberies, & assaults etc. are made right from the incident site, with no added delay accessing a land line phone. So the services are more likely to get there in the crucial life critical "golden hour" time. Something like this..



- 3/ The idea that the radiation Rx from masts is high (compared to the phones) is wrong. The fact that the RF field from masts is millions of time weaker at ground level than from a phone by your ear is never mentioned! The maths of "Square law" is unknown to the media?



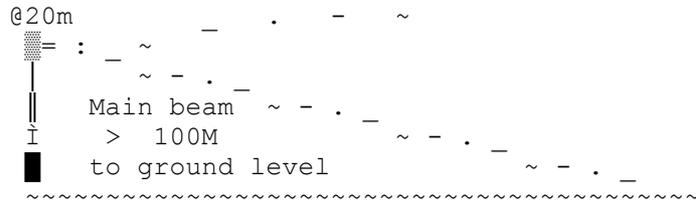
- 4/ The idea you can put the masts somewhere else is also untrue. You need the masts in the populated area because the range is so low (about 1kM max in the clear on 2.7GHz). Masts further away will cause bigger cells & hence less pea traffic capacity per area. Also your handset will have to Tx much higher power (shorter Tx time/battery life etc.) if the cells are large.



Hill 1 & 2 cells do not want see QRO phone signals from the next hill that may be on the same frequency!

Other than high population areas, masts are generally sited in valleys that would be otherwise be RF holes, & on hilltops, where phones can then run low power & stop multi cell hilltop QRM.

- 5/ From 3 & 4 it is NOT a good idea to have masts further away from schools, in fact the school could well do with the mast site money to pay for better education. Lowest radiation is often close up to a masts under the beam!



- 6/ The long safety record of other UHF RF radiation, like QRO TV Tx (Mega Watts ERP), or the extreme QRO of air traffic microwave radar (Giga Watts ERP) is never considered relevant to e.g. radiation safety case, why not? Or for that matter the not insignificant RF leakage of microwave ovens in most kitchens.
- 7/ The only real loss of life due to mobile phones, is due to the stupid drivers holding a mobile up to their ear, driving one handed & not concentrating on their driving. This is now illegal in most countries, but these driving laws have had little effect!
- 8/ About 30% of the population will get cancer, statistically cancer clusters will occur. e.g. a street may have no cancers in it & another have 100%, this is normal random distribution, & as masts are everywhere people are, so they get blamed. If it were true there would be 47,000 cancer hot spots in the UK! (It used to be witches that were burned at the stake, now it is masts,)

Unfortunately this NIMBY attitude over masts & RF, has impacted on the Amateur radio hobby from both the uninformed public as well as planners.

On a different topic...

Note 2/ also shows the opposite view, "that speed humps save lives".

London Ambulance Service has be quoted before now to say that 700 lives are lost per year on average, directly due to London's speed bumps & traffic calming measures, by increasing time critical emergency journey times. The same is true for Fire engines, that also burst their water tanks over these bumps.

Why Don't U send an interesting bul?

73 de John G8MNY @ GB7CIP