



July 17, 2008

Regional District Unveils New Fire and Life Safety House and Mobile Emergency Operations Centre

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George officially unveiled its new Fire and Life Safety House and Mobile Emergency Operations Centre today. The 39 foot trailer will serve a dual purpose for the Regional District. The unit will provide fire safety training and emergency response support to the citizens of our area.

Regional District Manager of Public Safety, Donna Munt says the unit will be available to assist in responding to emergencies throughout the rural parts of the region. "The Mobile Emergency Operations Centre will act as a base for staff and Incident Command personnel. Over the coming year, the Regional District will focus on installing additional communications and other equipment to continue improving its usefulness for emergency response," says Munt.

As a Fire and Life Safety House, the unit will provide a tool for volunteer fire departments to present a life safety message in a professional and user friendly environment to seniors, parents and children. It will give children the opportunity to actually participate in the lesson and learn important skills that will potentially save their lives and the lives of others through the use of training tools such as a smoke machine and a heated bedroom door. The unit will be used to promote fire safety education at community events and open houses at the volunteer fire halls.

James Baxter, chairperson of the Regional District's Fire and Life Safety Working Group says the new Fire and Life Safety House is the only one of its kind in B.C. "It will be a valuable tool for all the volunteer fire departments in the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to help them better promote and teach their fire and life safety messages," says Baxter.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George invested just over \$90,000 in the fire and life safety house and mobile emergency operations centre. The costs were offset through the support of corporate and community organizations such as BC Hydro.

"BC Hydro's first priority in any work situation is safety, both for the public and our employees," said BC Hydro Northern Community Relations manager, Curtis MacPheat. "We welcome the opportunity to support the Regional District with funding towards a key asset in the safety education of students and others in communities around the region."

Other supporters of the project include Central Interior Fire Chiefs Association, Joint Emergency Preparedness Program, Peak Benefit System and Trim Line Graphics & Signs. The initiative was also supported by the Regional District's Electoral Area Directors in the form of Community Grants-in-Aid.

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