

June 27, 2014

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### **City of Campbell River Fire Department one of 11 now supporting region, including 19 Wing Comox**

The City of Campbell River Fire Department has signed onto an agreement to share resources with the Comox Valley and support the air force base in Comox in the event of an emergency.

Members of the 19 Wing Fire Hall hosted several civic leaders and fire department representatives May 26 for a signing ceremony to seal an agreement for reciprocal fire and rescue services within the Comox Valley and Campbell River regions.

Eleven fire departments are part of the regional agreement to provide emergency services by pooling common and specialized emergency resources when needed.

*“Through this agreement, fire departments within our region aim to share skills and specialized equipment as we work together to improve emergency services that save lives, protect property and preserve the environment,”* says Fire Chief Ian Baikie.

#### **Quick Facts**

- Fire Services taking part in the agreement include: Denman Island, Hornby Island, Fanny Bay, Black Creek/Oyster River, Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Union Bay, Ships Point, Campbell River and 19 Wing Comox.
- The terms of the agreement will enable fire departments to respond more quickly to emergencies and maximize available resources.
- The agreement allows local fire departments to benefit from specialized equipment found in other jurisdictions and to cooperate in the event of a situation involving multiple fires that may quickly exhaust the abilities of one fire department.
- This is the first such agreement to take effect in the Comox Valley and Campbell River region since 1979.
- The agreement provides for support on a cost-recovery basis, with consideration given to the type of equipment being requested.
- This agreement will not circumvent existing processes for requesting Canadian Armed Forces assistance in the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake.

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