



BACKGROUND

August 2, 2007

BC Ambulance Service

ALEXIS CREEK STAFFING

- Alexis Creek is classed as a remote station where paramedics respond to call outs by pager. There were just 99 calls to the Ambulance Service at Alexis Creek throughout the whole of last year, an average of less than one call every three days. Of the 99 calls received only 34 (around a third) of those were classified as requiring an emergency 'lights and sirens' response.
- BC Ambulance Service presently has four on call staff working at the Alexis Creek station.
- If Alexis Creek has no staff available to cover shifts, BC Ambulance Service will send an ambulance from Williams Lake to respond if there are any calls. If both Anahim Lake and Alexis Creek have no staff available, BC Ambulance Service will send an ambulance from Williams Lake to standby in Alexis Creek to provide coverage for the area.
- BC Ambulance Service is finding it challenging to recruit and retain paramedics in remote communities across B. C. Paramedics working in remote stations are paid \$2 per hour to be on-call and carry a pager. If they are called to respond, they receive a minimum of four hours pay at their hourly paramedic rate.
- BC Ambulance Service is also working with First Nations organizations in the Interior to access federal funds to provide Emergency Medical Responder training to local First Nations members. BC Ambulance already provides some funding for bridging courses to take people from Emergency Medical Responder level to an entry level paramedic.
- Interior Health is closing the Alexis Creek Outpost Hospital from Aug. 3 – 17 due to difficulties in securing nurse coverage at the facility. The Alexis Creek Outpost Hospital provides for acute care/emergency services for Alexis Creek, Anahim, Nemiah, Stone, Redstone and numerous ranches and fishing lodges scattered over a large geography.
- During this two-week shutdown, residents will be provided with alternatives for care:
 - If unsure about the service required, Call BC Nurseline at 1-866-215-4700
 - For non-urgent care, book an appointment with a family physician
 - For urgent care, go to either the Emergency Department at Cariboo Memorial Hospital in Williams Lake or the West Chilcotin Health Centre at Tatla Lake
 - For emergency response, call 911 for ambulance assistance. Residents will also be advised to call 911 in the case of an emergency, for transport to CMH

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