



FOR THE RECORD

For Immediate Release
August 2, 2007

BC Ambulance Service

This statement corrects the July 31 News Release from Charlie Wyse, MLA for Cariboo, regarding August staffing of the Alexis Creek Ambulance Station.

“New Democrat Municipal Affairs Critic Charlie Wyse is appalled that the Alexis Creek Ambulance Service will be out of service for almost the entire month of August”

The Alexis Creek Ambulance Service will not be ‘out-of-service’ during August. At this present time all 62 12-hour shifts are covered in Alexis Creek by a qualified BC Ambulance paramedic. BC Ambulance Service will have a local Alexis Creek response available throughout August.

“The Alexis Creek Ambulance Station will be down for a total of 29 days in August due to a paramedic shortage.”

The Alexis Creek station will be fully staffed for 37 percent of the time and at First Responder level crewing for the remaining 63 percent of the time. There are no ‘out-of-service’ days scheduled for the Alexis Creek station during August. BC Ambulance Service will continue to work on filling shifts, right up until the last minute, to increase cover.

There are 62 12-hour shifts in to be covered at Alexis Creek in August. Based on current Alexis Creek resources, the ambulance station will be fully crewed for 11 day shifts and 12 night shifts, 23 shifts in total, and will be at First Responder level for 20 day shifts and 19 night shifts.

“The closest ambulance will have to travel in from Williams Lake, adding a further 90 minutes to response time. In the event of emergencies where seconds count, this is entirely unacceptable.”

For 23 shifts Alexis Creek will have two paramedics on call and so a fully crewed ambulance will be available at Alexis Creek.

For the 39 shifts when the Alexis Creek ambulance station will only have one paramedic on call, the single paramedic will respond to incidents at First Responder level. Should a patient need transporting or should the First Responder need additional support then a fully crewed ambulance will be brought in from a neighbouring area, often Williams Lake.

The code 3 ‘lights and sirens’ emergency response driving time from Williams Lake to Alexis Creek is approximately 50 minutes.

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BACKGROUND ATTACHED

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