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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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BC Ambulance Service

### **AN UNUSUAL AMBULANCE RIDE**

February 5, 2008– After calling 911, an ambulance is usually sent to transport a patient to the hospital. However, on January 14, 2008, BC Ambulance Unit Chief, Don Blakey and his partner Barb Nesbitt needed an alternate solution to transport their patient from Shalath to Lillooet.

After receiving the call for assistance and assessing the patient, Blakey and Nesbitt determined their patient would need to go to hospital. However, with the highway between Shalath and Lillooet closed due to an avalanche hazard and the BC Hydro vessel unavailable due to weather, they needed a unique solution. After exhausting all other possibilities Blakey decided to call for assistance on the CN Rail radio channel. CN Rail Foreman Ken Van Dyke answered the call and informed the paramedics he could help.

CN Foreman, Van Dyke, arrived soon after driving a specialised CN truck equipped with additional steel wheels for running on the rails. Less than half an hour later the paramedics, patient and CN foreman arrived at the main train station in Lillooet, where they were met by the local paramedic crew and a waiting ambulance.

“This was a great team effort,” said Interior Executive Director Bob Gallaher. “Everyone involved should be very proud of their creative and timely efforts. This is an example of BCAS paramedic’s dedication to patient care and their commitment to responding to the unique needs of their community.”

The BC Ambulance Service strives in providing timely and high quality emergency medical services to patients throughout British Columbia.

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Contact: Sarah Taylor  
Communications Officer  
250-953-3125