

For Immediate Release
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BC Ambulance Service

ADDITIONAL AMBULANCE FOR THE SUMMER IN SICAMOUS

SICAMOUS – During the summer months, Sicamous becomes an ideal destination for house boating, camping and other recreational activities. In preparation for the influx of additional visitors to the area, the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) is bringing an additional ambulance into town for the summer months (July – September) to help ensure Sicamous ambulance station can continue to meet the needs of the community.

“Moving an additional ambulance resource into Sicamous in preparation for the seasonal increase in visitors will help ensure that local residents can continue to receive the high quality service they expect from BC Ambulance Service paramedics,” said Health Services Minister George Abbott.

Sicamous is the house boating capital of North America and in July and August the BCAS receive a much higher call volume relating to incidents of heat exposure and recreational activities such as boating, swimming, cycling and ATV accidents.

“The community of Sicamous more than doubles throughout July and August,” said Norm Bickel, BCAS Superintendent for the Interior Region. “It’s important that the visitors and the citizens feel safe and by having an extra ambulance resource in the town over the summer, the BCAS will be better equipped to deal with any additional requests for paramedic service.”

The extra ambulance vehicle is being moved from Big White where it spends the winter months providing an additional resource for increased demand in the mountains from winter sport activities.

The BCAS is hoping that the additional ambulance in Sicamous won’t be kept too busy this summer and have a few simple tips to remind you to stay safe this summer:

- Stay hydrated by drinking at least 10 glasses of water;
- Wear sun screen at all times;
- Supervise children near the water – don’t let children swim alone;
- Always wear bright clothing and know your hand signals when cycling;
- Always wear a lifejacket when participating in boating activities such as water skiing or wake boarding. It is the law to have enough life jackets for each person on board your vessel.

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