



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release
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BC Ambulance Service
District of Elkford

NEW AMBULANCE STATION ENHANCES LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

ELKFORD – Paramedics will join their emergency service partners by moving into a newly constructed ambulance station located at the Elkford Fire Hall.

“In Elkford and across British Columbia, BC Ambulance Service paramedics deliver exceptional pre-hospital care to patients,” said East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett, on behalf of Health Services Minister George Abbott. “With this new station and a new station announced for Revelstoke, we are providing paramedics with space to rest, complete paperwork and restock ambulances.”

The BC Ambulance Service is moving into a new ambulance station built by the District of Elkford as an addition to the existing Fire Hall. Currently, paramedics respond from a facility at the Health Centre.

“Locating fire and ambulance personnel in the same facility will strengthen the relationship between these two important community services,” said District of Elkford Mayor Dean McKerracher. “Local residents that require the services of paramedics and fire fighters can only benefit from these two agencies forging stronger bonds.”

The addition to the facility includes an ambulance bay, medical supply room, lockers, decontamination area, office and washroom. Paramedics will also be able to make use of the existing space in the fire hall kitchen and rest areas.

“The new ambulance station will support patient care in the community by providing improved meeting and training facilities for Elkford’s dedicated paramedics,” said BC Ambulance Service Chief Operating Officer Sue Conroy. “I’m pleased that this new station will support them as they continue to provide high quality emergency medical services to area residents.”

In 2007/08, Elkford paramedics responded to 100 ambulance calls, 57 requiring an emergency lights and siren response, and 14 inter-facility patient transfers. Paramedics based in Elkford carry a pager and respond from the community similar to volunteer fire fighters.

Elkford Fire Rescue has twelve Elkford First Responders and additional members are scheduled to receive the training. First responders provide valuable basic first aid while paramedics are enroute. Elkford Fire Rescue began providing first responder services to the community in 2006 and provided assistance during six calls in 2006, 12 in 2007 and 29 in 2008.

An opening ceremony is being held at 4:30 today (April 6) at the facility at 2300 Balmer Drive.

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