

October 31, 2014

Campbell River fire fighters crane training

Campbell River fire fighters are rising to the challenge of high-elevation rescues. Recent tower crane rescue training took place 154 feet above the ground in strong winds.

“Cranes rising Campbell River’s skyline present high-elevation challenges for emergency responders,” explains deputy chief Thomas Doherty. *“Our recent technical high angle rope rescue training on the crane at the hospital construction site demonstrated what it would take to rescue an operator at the top of the crane tower.”*

The Campbell River fire department is one of 36 in British Columbia and one of only seven fire departments on Vancouver Island approved to provide technical high angle tower crane rescue.

“Employers must provide for safe and efficient rescue workers who may become injured or stranded at elevations during the performance of their work,” Doherty explains. *“The partnership with the BC Construction Safety Alliance, WorksafeBC and the technical high angle rope rescue program brings the added value of this training to the service delivery the Fire Department provides to the community.”*

The training prepared fire department personnel in technical rescue procedures following a program established in 1991 by the Greater Vancouver Regional District Fire Chiefs and endorsed by BC Professional Fire Fighters’ Association, BC Fire Chiefs’ Association, participating employers, labour, BC Construction Safety Alliance and WorkSafeBC.

Through the Technical High Angle Rope Rescue program, the Fire Department is eligible to have training expenses reimbursed and to receive funding to purchase and replace rope rescue equipment.

###

Contact: Thomas Doherty, Deputy Fire Chief

250-286-6266