



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

Canadian Red Cross, Strathcona Regional District and Emergency Support Service agencies partner for disaster preparedness planning

Campbell River, BC – Imagine a massive wildfire is moving rapidly toward your home. Where would you go if the flames forced you to evacuate? This weekend, the Strathcona Regional District, Campbell River Emergency Support Services (ESS), Quadra Island ESS, Sayward ESS and Canadian Red Cross volunteers and staff will practice setting up a Reception Centre and Shelter facility for people forced from their homes in a mock wildfire scenario. The exercise starts at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, and takes place at Carihi Secondary School in Campbell River.

“The regional emergency program is always looking for opportunities to collaborate with our supporting agencies,” said Shaun Koopman, Protective Services Coordinator for the Strathcona Regional District. “Saturday’s exercise will provide a learning experience to help all disaster responders act quickly and effectively when the need is real.”

“It’s such an important part of preparedness to coordinate with partners like the Strathcona Regional District, even when we’re not in an active response,” said Jen Allen, Canadian Red Cross Community Planning and Response Coordinator. “When volunteers and staff from different agencies experience the challenges of a disaster and really practice our skills together, we can more effectively help people when they need us most.”

At least 70 people will be participating in the exercise, including additional partner agencies such as The Salvation Army and Disaster Psychosocial Services. People interested in volunteering with Emergency Support Services can contact campbellriveress@gmail.com. Those interested in volunteering with the Red Cross can contact BCYvolunteering@redcross.ca.

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