
JOINT NEWS RELEASE



TOWN OF
QUALICUM BEACH

January 15, 2024

Funding Awarded for Wildfire Suppression Equipment in the Region

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has been awarded a \$119,545 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant from the Province of BC for the purchase of wildfire suppression equipment. This equipment will be a shared resource between Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue, Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department, Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department and NanOOSE Bay Volunteer Fire Department. Coordinated by the RDN on behalf of its regional partners, this grant enables the four fire departments to acquire a variety of wildfire suppression equipment including water pumps, fire hose, tools and personal protective equipment.

With this funding, firefighters in the region will have the wildfire suppression equipment they need that is best suited to stop wildfires in our area. The new equipment will be similar to that used by the BC Wildfire Service, making it easier for local and provincial agencies to work together on large-scale wildfires.

The wildfire suppression equipment will be kept in two strategic locations for the quickest emergency response in the event of a wildfire. The equipment will also be accessible for use by other fire departments from Lantzville to Deep Bay through existing mutual aid agreements.

For information about Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department, Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department and NanOOSE Bay Volunteer Fire Department, visit rdn.bc.ca/fire-departments and for Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue, visit qbfirerescue.com.

Quotes

“The wildfire suppression equipment purchased with this grant will benefit the whole area by providing the equipment needed to mitigate wildland interface fires. This joint project is another example of the ability and commitment of our local fire rescue departments to work together collectively.”

Peter Cornell, Fire Chief for Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue

“The Dashwood Fire Department is proud to work with our regional partners on this amazing opportunity to strengthen our response to wildfires in our region. The added equipment will be a welcome addition to our region and allow us to better serve all our communities during a wildfire event.”

Nick Acciavatti, Fire Chief for Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department

“Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department is proud to be part of this amazing endeavor. Working with the other local fire departments, this grant will allow us to enhance our interface wildfire response capabilities giving our residents the peace of mind that we will be there to help them in their time of need.”

Ron Schildroth, Community Fire Chief, Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department

“Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department is excited to be a part of this collaboration that will provide additional fire suppression equipment to our respective communities. The department looks forward to greater collaboration with our neighbours in the future.”

Leo Groenewegen, Acting Community Fire Chief, Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department

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For media inquiries, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor
Communications Coordinator
Regional District of Nanaimo
250-390-6502
rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca

Peter Cornell, ECFO
Fire Chief
Qualicum Beach Fire Department
250-752-6232
firechief@qualicumbeach.com

Nick Acciavatti
Fire Chief
Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department
250-752-5434
firechief@dashwoodvfd.com