

Cranberry Fire Department Conducting Tanker Shuttle Challenge June 5

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has issued a permit to the Cranberry Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) to use the Great Trail Parking lot as a site for their Superior Tanker Shuttle Challenge on Saturday, June 5 from 8 – 11 a.m. During the exercise, one engine and three water trucks will be hauling water along the Island Highway and Timberlands Road to the parking lot. With the large fire trucks and increased activity onsite during that time, the RDN is asking residents and equestrian groups to avoid the parking lot to enable the CVFD to safely complete the exercise.

The purpose of the challenge is to become accredited as a superior tanker shuttle service. The service is a process of shuttling water using mobile water supply apparatus such as fire department tankers from alternative water supply points to the fire site. If the CVFD can demonstrate that it is able to shuttle water from alternative water supply sources and maintain reliable water flows on a fire for up to two hours, they can receive superior tanker shuttle service accreditation. The accreditation provides a reasonable equivalency to a municipal hydrant system and can provide insurance benefits to property owners within the recognition area.

“Access to fire services is an important safety concern for all residents,” said RDN Chair Tyler Brown. “When living in a rural area, there are added challenges including lack of hydrants which can impact fire-related insurance coverage. The RDN is pleased to support the Cranberry Volunteer Fire Department in their efforts to improve insurance eligibility for rural residents.”


Within the RDN, there are several rural areas that are not connected to municipal water supplies and rely on alternative water sources for firefighting including in Electoral Areas A and C. For this accreditation challenge, there are three water supply sites in these Electoral Areas that will be used: Nanaimo Airport, Cranberry Fire Hall and a site on Fry Road. The Great Trail parking lot will be the mock fire site.


“This is our first attempt to pass the Superior Tanker Shuttle accreditation,” said CVFD Fire Chief Ron Guelette. “Using the Great Trail parking lot as the mock fire site will enable us to test and document our capacity to sustain water at 200 gal/min for up to two hours by shuttling water from the three designated water supplies to the site.”

The Cranberry Volunteer Fire Department provides fire services for the Cranberry Improvement District Fire Protection Area and, under contract to the RDN, the Cassidy-Waterloo fire protection area which encompasses a portion of Electoral Areas A and C.

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