



April 1, 2026

Joint Fire Department Training Projects Now Complete

Two fire services projects funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Government of British Columbia's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) are now complete. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), Town of Qualicum Beach, District of Lantzville and Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department were jointly awarded the CEPF grant. From the grant, \$120,000 was used to fully fund live fire training props that provide a safer and controlled live-fire training experience for firefighters for the joint training center at the Qualicum Beach firehall, used by Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue, Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department and Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department. The \$80,000 portion of the grant was used towards the construction of the new joint training facility for NanOOSE Bay Fire Department and Lantzville Fire Rescue. Regional training capabilities that enable firefighters to meet BC Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards through local training have been greatly enhanced through this grant.

The NanOOSE Bay Fire Department and Lantzville Fire Rescue collaboratively developed and constructed the joint training facility at the NanOOSE firehall now in use. The two-story facility features multiple rooms, stairs, windows, roof props to allow for maximum training simulations and opportunities. This project was funded with \$80,000 from the CEPF grant, \$30,000 in Growing Community Funds - \$28,500 from Electoral Area E (NanOOSE Bay) and \$1,500 from Electoral Area G (Englishman River, San Pareil, French Creek, Little Qualicum, Dashwood), \$30,000 from Lantzville Fire Rescue's 2025 budget and a nearly \$48,000 donation made to the NanOOSE Volunteer Fire Department in 2020.

For more information about the grant funding, visit ubcm.ca/cepf. For more information about fire services, visit rdn.bc.ca/fire-departments, qbfirerescue.com, lantzville.ca and dashwoodvfd.com.

Quotes

"We are very fortunate of the support from the Provincial Government of British Columbia in these grant opportunities and to the continued collaboration between the local fire departments to purchase these valuable training aids to invest in improving our firefighters' skills."

Enzo Calla, Community Fire Chief, Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department

"The new training facility has significantly elevated the level of training the fire department can offer our crews. It allows our firefighters to safely train more often and realistically, directly improving the service we provide to our community and mutual aid partners. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved in making this important initiative a reality."

Leo Groenewegen, Community Fire Chief, NanOOSE Bay Fire Department

"We are so very fortunate to have access to these grants, the ability to dedicate these funds to train our firefighters has been invaluable."

Nick Acciavatti, Fire Chief, Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department

“The car fire training prop will enhance firefighter readiness and operational effectiveness across our region by expanding access to high-quality, standardized training. This investment directly supports improved emergency response capabilities and shows strong regional collaboration among local fire rescue departments in delivering effective service to our communities.”

Peter Cornell, Fire Chief, Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue

“Having the new joint training building is allowing us to work on skills that we were unable to do in the past. The skills learned from this new training building will save lives in the future.”

Neil Rukus, Fire Chief, Lantzville Fire Rescue

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