

New foam and equipment sets fire awareness standard

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The Invermere Fire-Rescue department may be substituting the water in their fire tanks, for an environmentally friendly water-foam mix alternative.

In a fire safety information session on Sept. 27, the department viewed a variety of equipment by Just In Case Fire Ltd. which demonstrated the use of easy-to-use, affordable, at-home fire protection units for residents.

The demonstration also introduced the latest technology in Fire Caddy, and Flame Out foam, which is seven times more effective and efficient at putting out fires than water.

"We're particularly interested in the foam and what the equipment will do," president of the Invermere Volunteer Firefighting Society Tom McNeil said.

"We're looking at several different systems by a few sellers who will hopefully demonstrate their wares, and from then we'll make our decision."

Flame Out foam is the latest in firefighting technology and offers a range of positive features not present in regular products.

As well as being environmentally friendly and 100% biodegradable, the suppressant eliminates both A and B fires, including wood, paper cloth, and flammable liquids.

It also drastically reduces the amount of water used to extinguish fires by 85%, and limits the amount of time it takes to do it by preventing reignition.

"The foam is a retardant so if it sprays grass or wood it keeps it from igniting for up to 12 hours," said Just In Case Fire Ltd. founder Mark Hayes.

Weight and time are determining factors for any fire department, which could mean the difference between saving a house or losing it, and McNeil said this was one of many decisions behind the possible purchase of the foam.

"Going to accidents, we will need more firefighting ability," he said.

"We're looking at the weight and space it provides and then we'll pick the best systems."

The reduction of weight will also mean more room for equipment that can't fit on the trucks.

At present the Invermere Fire Department has confined entry equipment, for use in rescue from places such as manholes, sewers, or wells, which is unable to fit on the vehicle.

"What we can knock off in weight of the water, we can put in weight in rescue gear," he said.

"Right now we have equipment just sitting in the station that we would like to see on the truck, otherwise we're wasting time running to get it."



On Sept. 27 Just In Case Fire Ltd. demonstrated the efficiency of one of its foam products on a chair that had been set on fire.

BROOKE PETERSEN/ECHO PHOTO

The information session was also a chance for Just In Case Fire Ltd. to demonstrate and promote the use of at-home wildfire protection equipment.

"A lot of people are outside fire protection coverage," co-owner of HomeFront Wildfire Protection Services Ltd., Brad Monroe said.

"There is so much ingrowth here and in a fair amount of established communities here, like Timber Ridge, they're surrounded by unkempt vegetation."

The equipment shown included the GH5501 Fire Caddy, run by a gas engine and designed

for frontal assault of fires, the DY6002 Fire Caddy diesel powered trailer unit, the DC1205 Fire Caddy, run by electricity, roof top sprinklers, which are designed to protect the outside structure of the building and provide a 10 metre perimeter of fire protection, and the Hose Caddy, which easily attaches to any garden hose.

Hayes said having any of these systems installed around the house, is a sure way to decrease the critical amount of time before help arrives.

"Consider the response time from the fire department," he said.

"It gives people a tool to respond to the fire safely."

The cost of the equipment can reach from \$30 for the Hose Caddy, to \$6,500 for the DY6002 Fire Caddy trailer unit, but Hayes said it was a worthwhile investment for people who wanted to protect themselves and their assets from fire.

"It's critical for people to start appreciating, especially when they make the move rurally, that it takes a lot to protect themselves and neighbours from spreading fire," he said. "The equipment is now available for them to do so."

JUMBO CREEK CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting Friday, November 7

7:30 p.m. at DTSS in Invermere
(Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

- Slide presentation of the Farnham Blockade
- ALAS Resort (a short film)
- Review of the previous year and what we might see in the year to come.
- Review of the candidates in the upcoming election and where they stand on Jumbo.

This promises to be our most interesting AGM yet.

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