

Background Information on the Community Sprinkler Project

1. 3 Sprinkler Protection Units have been purchased for use in British Columbia beginning in 2004. Approximate value of each unit is \$140,000.00. an extra, complete inventory package is also on order.
2. They are designed to be deployed during an interface fire to dampen roofs and areas around structures to prevent sparks and embers from igniting structural fires. The contents of one Sprinkler Protection unit contains about 350 sprinklers, and can protect between 30 - 35 homes.
3. Each unit is equipped with three types of sprinkler kits. This allows for use on a structure or perimeter, or to provide wet line protection. A series of pumps, fuel tanks, varying lengths of hose, a variety of fittings and adapters; and other requisite tools and accessories are also on board.
4. Other equipment includes ladders, lighting kits, safety equipment and traditional firefighting tools such as chainsaws, axes, and shovels.
5. Training for the use and deployment of the units is now being carried out. Training is available for firefighters from both public and private sectors. A prerequisite fire training background is required.
6. An evacuation alert will normally begin the dispatch process, usually triggered by unified command. As units are designed to be trailerable they are easily moved anywhere in the province within 12 hours of dispatch.
7. For the 2004 fire season, it has been determined that the units will be placed in Kamloops, Cranbrook and Penticton. Units will be moved to MOF Chilliwack for storage, retrofit and re-certification during the winter months. An evaluation of the program and of the placement of the units will be done in the fall of 2004.
8. It should be emphasized that this is considered a pilot program. It is hoped that, as others see the successes of such equipment in use, they will be encouraged to purchase similar equipment for their region or community.