



Regions 5 to 8

Ambulance Paramedics of BC

October 2017

Regional Updates

Improved Health Care

Health care in northwest BC has been significantly improved this summer, as Terrace's Mills Memorial Hospital installed a brand-new MRI machine, in addition to the SPEC CT earlier in the year. Another MRI was delivered to Fort St. John, and a third to Prince George, and the addition of these diagnostic imaging devices will facilitate thousands of scans within our northern districts, improving health care and reducing the often detrimental waits for imaging appointments at other hospitals in the province.

Wildfire Update

As of September 15, the province-wide state of emergency due to wildfires has ended. However, there are still 153 wildfires burning in B.C., with 11 evacuation orders affecting approximately 3,152 individuals, plus 23 evacuation alerts affecting approximately 5,762 people. This summer's wildfires have seen approximately 65,000 people evacuated from their homes, and continues to remain the worst fire season in B.C.'s history.



A view near Tumbler Ridge as seen from 580. Photo credit to Brian McNamara.

Kilo Guarantee

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From the perspective of our paramedics, the ongoing usage of the "Kilo Guarantee" has had the beneficial effect of staffing previously vacant Kilo shifts in many stations, and in a few cases, has resolved their staffing problems. The "Kilo Guarantee" has clearly had a positive impact on staff retention, though it would appear that current recruitment efforts have been insufficient to fully restore adequate staffing in many northern stations.

Many paramedics are hopeful that the proposed implementation of new staffing deployment models within their communities will provide them with increased employment and career stability, as well as to provide improved and more consistent patient care.