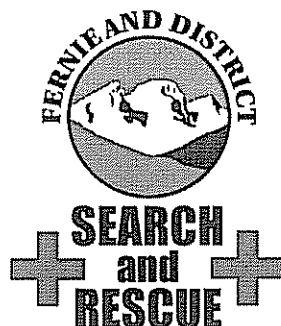


August 3, 2009

PRESS RELEASE



INJURED ATV DRIVER RESCUED

Fernie Search and Rescue were called out by the RCMP at around 10pm on Saturday, August 1, in order to rescue an injured ATV driver. Members of both Fernie SAR and Sparwood SAR responded.

Two ATVs were involved in an incident resulting in the two drivers rolling their vehicles down a steep wooded embankment off the side of Hartley Lake Road. Both ATVs rolled some way down the bank and were badly damaged. One of the drivers was able to walk out and raise the alarm, but the other was hurt, with serious spinal injuries.

Fernie Search and Rescue's Rope Rescue Team was needed; immobilising the subject where he had come to rest, and then using a rope rescue system to bring him and the rescuers back to the road where he was taken by ambulance to Elk Valley Hospital. He was then transferred on to Calgary.

Recent fund-raising efforts have been focused on equipping and training a rope rescue team in Fernie. Numerous donations have been made from various individuals and corporations, including Fernie Alpine Resort, BP Canada and the City of Fernie. The team became fully operational a couple of months ago, and this is the second time in a few weeks that the team has been used to extract injured people from terrain that would be otherwise inaccessible for effective rescues.

Despite province-wide concerns regarding search and rescue volunteer liability, Fernie Search and Rescue continues to respond to emergencies and remains optimistic that the provincial government will soon address the areas of exposure that concern so many volunteers.

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