



## Annual Report – Zone 4

May 2008

Zone 4 held three meetings since last conference. On Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> we held our fall meeting at the Nelson Fire Hall. There were 25 members present. The meeting was held at this time so that all members could also attend the Grand Opening of the Live Burn Training Facility at the Nelson Campus of Selkirk College. This training facility is the product of two years of fund raising and hard work by a number of area fire departments.

Our Zone members were kept very busy over the summer with interface wild fires. Most of the Kootenays were extremely dry but the West Kootenay saw the largest fires that impacted residents. The Pend D'Orielle Fire outside of Fruitvale Fire was estimated at 4000 HA. And the Springer Creek Fire near Slocan grew to over 3000 Ha. There were 4 other fires that were over 1000 Ha and the Nevertouch Lake fire near Big White that was over 900 Ha. The Pend Fire that threatened the Village of Fruitvale taxed the RDKB Fire Services to their max. The fire grew from 0 to 1500 Ha. the first day. At the rate it was burning it was said to have been only 4 hours out of Fruitvale when the wind changed direction. Had it continued the area would have needed every resource available. Zone 4 feels it is important to let the membership know that the assistance received from the O.F.C. was timely and greatly appreciated.

In January we met in Cranbrook in the East Kootenay. On Friday we held a training day consisting of a 3 hour session put on by Teck-Cominco's Emergency Response Team. The theme of the session was "What Teck-Cominco can do for our Fire Departments and what they won't do". The other 3 hour session was an overview of the building collapse in Yellowknife where 2 fire fighters lost their lives. This session was done by Bernie Van Tighem who is the Emergency Services Supervisor for the Regional District of Central Kootenay. At the time of the Yellowknife incident he was a volunteer with the Yellowknife Fire Department. Shortly after the incident he became a Fire Marshall for the area and was very involved in the incident inquiry. Saturday we held our Zone meeting with 29 members present.

On April 19<sup>th</sup> we held our Spring Meeting at the Castlegar Fire Hall. There were 29 members present including Bill Walkley from the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Macgregor  
Zone 4 Director