



FOR RELEASE
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New emergency response centre in Whitehorse opens

WHITEHORSE—The new Emergency Response Centre opened today will improve emergency medical response to people in Whitehorse and nearby rural areas.

The centre will become Whitehorse's primary ambulance station. Because of its central location at the top of Two Mile Hill on the Alaska Highway, it will also help improve ambulance response for Whitehorse and the surrounding area.

"The new Emergency Response Centre is an important part of the Yukon government's commitment to investing in and improving emergency medical response capacity," Premier Darrell Pasloski said.

The new facility has the capacity for six emergency vehicles, training and conference space and the capability to accommodate emergency dispatch.

"Yukon's Emergency Medical Services provides rapid, highly skilled pre-hospital care and transport to those who are sick or injured," Minister of Community Services Brad Cathers said. "This new, centrally located ambulance station will help our paramedics provide rapid response to residents of Whitehorse and the surrounding area."

Construction of the Emergency Response Centre started in September 2011. The existing ambulance station at the Whitehorse General Hospital will continue to serve Riverdale, the downtown area, and other areas of the community as needed.

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See backgrounder below

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Backgrounder

New Whitehorse Emergency Response Centre

The new Emergency Response Centre has numerous special features including:

- Space for up to six emergency vehicles in three drive-through bays.

- Dedicated space for training and conferencing to help emergency responders keep their skills up-to-date.
- The ability to withstand earthquakes and meet post-disaster construction standards.
- Meeting Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) standards, which will contribute to workplace health and a reduction of overall operation costs.

Emergency Medical Services employs 72 staff and has over 155 volunteers in communities across Yukon.

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