



FOR RELEASE
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New mobile live fire training unit for Yukon firefighters

WHITEHORSE—Training for Yukon firefighters received a major boost today with the introduction of the Yukon Fire Marshal's Office mobile live fire training unit. The unit was presented and demonstrated at an event at the Golden Horn Volunteer Fire Department.

"The new \$765,000 mobile live fire training unit will provide realistic fire training to fire departments across the territory," Premier Darrell Pasloski said. "It is an example of the Yukon government's ongoing efforts to strengthen Yukon's emergency response infrastructure and to ensure that the territory's firefighters have the equipment they need to do their jobs."

Some key features of the training unit include a hydraulically-powered second floor, a smoke generator and configurations that allow for firefighters to train for fires in single storey, second storey and basement structures, as well as fires in kitchens and hazardous materials lockers. The unit can be set to simulate rollover fires where gases burn overhead of firefighters. The unit has been constructed with numerous systems to safeguard firefighters during training.

"The men and women who serve as Yukon fire fighters are a crucial part of our emergency services network," Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor said. "This is an important investment in the long-term sustainability of our communities and will build capacity throughout the territory, benefitting both municipal and volunteer fire departments."

This new training unit is part of the government's recent \$1.9 million investment in the Yukon Fire Marshal's Office (FMO). This funding has resulted in hiring two additional deputy fire marshals and a significant increase in the FMO's capacity to deliver education programs and conduct life safety inspections, fire investigations, fire prevention and firefighter training. The funding has also supported the FMO's carbon monoxide and home safety awareness campaign, doubled volunteer training from two to four times a month, and doubled volunteer firefighters' honoraria.

"I am proud to see this new mobile live fire training unit on the ground here because it will greatly enhance Yukon's comprehensive firefighting training and readiness program," Yukon Fire Marshal Dennis Berry said. "Firefighters will benefit enormously from being able to hone their skills and expertise by running through scenarios repeatedly until they get them right. I would like to thank the Government of Yukon on behalf of the Yukon Fire Service and the volunteers who dedicate their time to protecting rural Yukon."

The Yukon Fire Marshal's Office supports 16 volunteer fire departments and 225 volunteer firefighters in unincorporated communities and provides life safety leadership across Yukon. The office also undertakes investigations, inspections and works with incorporated community fire departments to provide training and support. For more information visit www.community.gov.yk.ca.

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