



News Release

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First Ever Successful Firefighting Class

The first ever 'RSS Firefighting Class' held in collaboration with the [Joe Rich Fire Department](#) and Regional District of Central Okanagan was a huge success. It recently wrapped up with 11 students from Rutland Senior Secondary successfully completing the rigorous program requirements.

The goal of the program is to provide valuable work experience and possible work opportunities to participating high school students.

The students who completed the program received certificates in Emergency Scene Traffic, BC Forestry Basic Wildland Firefighting and Forest Fire Suppression and Safety (Forestry s185/s100) and WHIMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System). Instruction included classroom time as well as practical experience by participating in Emergency Medical Responder/First Responder training, live fire training at Big White and an abundance of other useful skills. The students also provided the Joe Rich Fire Department with maintenance around the hall and equipment including truck checks and cleaning.

Joe Rich Fire Chief Ben Wasyliuk says the program provided these students with valuable skills that will hopefully be utilized down the road in either paid-on-call or full-time firefighting or other emergency services. We look forward to holding another program next year.

The work experience program was taught by Rutland Senior Secondary teacher Aaron Volk, who is also a Captain with Joe Rich Fire and Primary Care Paramedic.

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