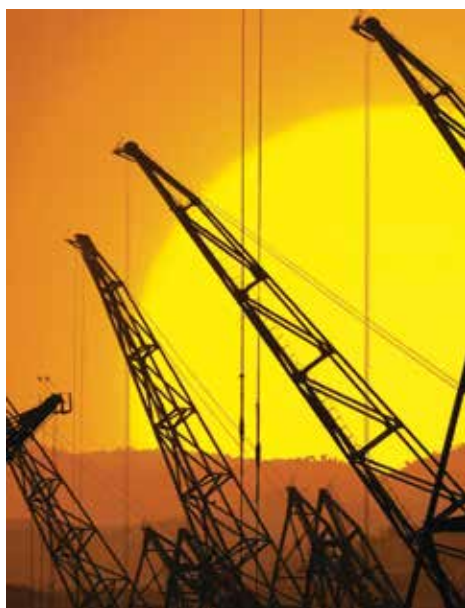


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### NEWS



Firefighter Craig Idiens and Capt. Ken Dawson of the Campbell River fire department take part in a tower-crane rescue exercise at the new Campbell River hospital construction site in June.

Photo courtesy of the Campbell River fire department

## B.C. firefighters training for tower crane rescues

**F**irefighters on Vancouver Island conducted a tower-crane rescue exercise this spring at the construction site of a new hospital in Campbell River.

Members of the Campbell River fire department took part in the tower crane exercise at the hospital as well as a high-angle rescue exercise June 3-7 at the construction site of the Island Cogeneration facility, said a news release from the City of Campbell River.

Campbell River is one of six departments on the Island and 34 in the province that are approved by the B.C. Construction Safety Alliance to provide technical high-angle and tower-crane rescue under the Technical High Angle Rope Rescue Program, the release said.

A technical steering committee oversees the rescue program. The committee has representatives from WorksafeBC, the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters Association, B.C. Fire Chiefs Association, participating employers, labour, and the B.C. Construction Safety Alliance.

"Campbell River fire department has four funded instructors in the program and receives annual funding to replace worn equipment," Thomas Doherty, Campbell River's deputy fire chief, said in the release.

The 95-bed \$274.5 million Campbell River hospital is one of two hospitals being built for the North Islands Hospital Project. The other is the 95-bed \$331.7 million Comox Valley Hospital. The hospitals are expected to be ready in the fall of 2017.

"This type of service is very important in a community where we have a lot of multi-storey construction taking place, and natural features with high elevation where rescue crews might be called for duty," city Coun. Charlie Cornfield was quoted in the *Campbell River Mirror* newspaper.

Campbell River is about 265 kilometres northwest of Victoria.



Firefighter Lee Pendergast (left) helps handle a dummy in a stretcher during a training exercise at the new Campbell River hospital.

Photo courtesy of the Campbell River fire department

CHC