



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16

MEDIA RELEASE

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Greenview Fire-Rescue Services Grain Entrapment Rescue Training a Great Success

Greenview Fire-Rescue Services hosted the region's first BeGrainSafe Firefighter Grain Entrapment Rescue training in conjunction with two Canadian Premiere Drive-In style screenings of the independent film, SILO, over the weekend of August 7-9, 2020, in DeBolt, AB, for a weekend of community education and awareness.

Regional Fire Chief Wayne Brown stated, "I am extremely pleased with the success of the course and public outreach, this critical training provides our regional firefighters with the expertise and equipment to address a clear and present danger within all of our agricultural communities. Hosting the Canadian premiere of the movie "SILO" is an honor and certainly increased community awareness to an event that can cause tragedy in a matter of moments."

Members of the public were invited to observe 30 firefighters from 8 different fire departments and stations perform live rescue simulation training with the BeGrainSafe Mobile Silo Bin on Sunday, August 9, at the DeBolt Public Service Building in DeBolt, AB. firefighters from all three Greenview Fire Stations were in attendance along with firefighters from Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Fox Creek, Laglace, Sexsmith, and Teepee Creek.

The need across the country for grain entrapment rescue training and awareness was hammered home at the Greenview Open House on Sunday, with attendees coming to observe from as far as Tomslake, BC. Social engagement shared by attendees and firefighters has generated requests from provinces as far as Saskatchewan for details on how to bring this valuable training to their rural communities.

"We are proud to have provided awareness to the agricultural community on the importance of safe grain handling, storage, and general farm operations safety," stated Regional Deputy Fire Chief Gord Meek of Greenview Station #31. "There are now 30 highly skilled and trained firefighters with the knowledge required should an incident occur within their respective communities."

Regional Deputy Fire Chief Bill Parsons of Greenview Station #32 in Grovedale added, "This valuable instruction was very educational, and a great team builder for the entire region. Having the dangers of grain entrapment explained is one thing, but experiencing it first-hand drives home, the respect for the physical force that something as simple as grain can exert."

Brian Lott, Regional Deputy Chief of Greenview Station #33 in Grande Cache, was pleased to see this type of training offered in the region. "Grain Entrapment Rescue Training translates very well for firefighters in our area for both the mining industry as well as the oil and gas industry," he remarked. "This was also a great opportunity for our Greenview firefighters to come together with other firefighters in the region."

In addition to the Grain Entrapment rescue training, two drive-in style Canadian premiere screenings of SILO were held

free-of-charge at the Cranberry Lake Rodeo grounds with over 150 viewers. SILO is the first-ever feature film about grain entrapment, a possible tragedy that agricultural communities face every day. Greenview Fire-Rescue Services is grateful to the DeBolt and District Agricultural Society for providing a grant, making these movie screenings possible. They would also like to thank Farm Credit Canada for a grant which helped make the Grain Entrapment Rescue Training with the BeGrainSafe simulator possible.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) launched the firefighter training course in 2018 and has travelled across Canada to help raise awareness about the dangers of flowing grain and grain entrapment. Since June of 2018, the BeGrainSafe program has reached over 307,000 members of the public and has provided training for hundreds of firefighters from Alberta to Ontario.

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