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Unique, new fire protection unit to benefit region

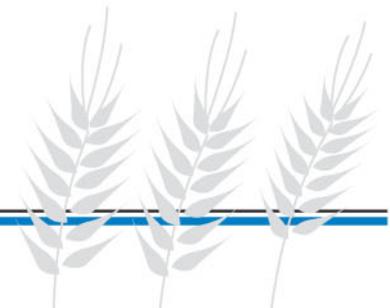
Today, the County of Grande Prairie Fire Service rolled out a new Structure Protection Unit to County Council.

“Public safety remains the County’s top priority,” stated Leanne Beaupre, County Reeve. “We’re really happy to continue building our fleet of fire protection equipment to ensure our fire personnel are equipped with the latest, safest and best equipment to help save and protect our most important assets – the lives and property of our residents.”



From left to right: Councillor Ross Sutherland, Councillor Sharon Nelson, Councillor Lois Dueck, Reeve Leanne Beaupre, Councillor Pat Jacobs, Councillor Brock Smith, Councillor Richard Harpe, Councillor Harold Bulford, Councillor Mary Ann Eckstrom, Fire Chief Everett Cooke, and Firefighter Douglas Porterfield.

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The Structure Protection Unit (SPU-1) is a 2013 bumper pull trailer specially designed and outfitted to carry equipment needed to protect lives and property. It will be brought into areas that are threatened by wild land or grass fires as a last line of defense where it can be then used to dampen areas around structures protecting walls and roof from ignition. The SPU-1 can protect up to 25 structures at a time.

“This new unit is an additional tool for our fire service to protect people, fire service personnel and property,” added Everett Cooke, County Fire Chief. “Since we have a varied landscape where urban and industrial areas often intersects with our rich boreal forests, this extra line of protection is invaluable.”

The SPU is the first of its kind dedicated for fire services in the region and will be stationed in Clairmont because it is the most central location, manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week for quick and rapid deployment. It is the County’s intent to purchase a second unit next year to be stored at a fire department in the west County.

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