



Press Release

FREE ECO BAG HELPS PORT COQUITLAM RESIDENTS GET PREPARED

Port Coquitlam, BC – April 30, 2009 ... Port Coquitlam families can find out if they're prepared for a disaster on May 9 – and walk away with a free eco shopping bag for their efforts.

Port Coquitlam's Emergency Preparedness (EP) Program will be setting up its big red tent in Leigh Square on May 9 from 10 am to 4 pm as part of the May Day Community Block Party.

Visitors who talk to EP staff and volunteers on how to prepare themselves and their families for a disaster will receive an eco shopping bag printed with EP information. The City's EP Program partnered with Canstar Restorations to purchase 2,000 of the black cloth bags.

"We all have a role to play in the safety of our community during a disaster," Mayor Greg Moore said. "Safety is one of our citizens' top priorities, and we take it very seriously in Port Coquitlam. But while our City is making its emergency preparations, it's important that individuals and families are preparing themselves as well. Being prepared is a community effort."

The EP display on May 9 comes at the end of Emergency Preparedness Week, which raises awareness about the need for families to be able to survive on their own for 72 hours after a disaster.

The display will feature a variety of information and resources, as well as examples of grab-and-go emergency kits for the car and home. EP staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide information about personal preparedness, the City's EP program, and educational and volunteer opportunities.

As part of its efforts to help citizens be prepared, Port Coquitlam offers free EP courses throughout the year to local residents. The next set of courses begins on May 19 with Personal Family Preparedness, followed by Rapid Damage Assessment (May 21), Basic Fire Suppression (May 26) and Light Urban Search and Rescue (May 28).

"Being prepared is like insurance – it protects us against something we'd prefer not to think about, but it's necessary all the same," said Cllr. Brad West, Chair of the City's Community Safety Committee. "Start by taking one of our free EP courses, and making sure you have emergency supplies at home. A small amount of effort could make a tremendous difference to the comfort and safety of your family if disaster strikes."

For information about getting prepared, the free community courses or volunteering, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/ep or call 604.927.5466.

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