



Press Release

EPCOM FIELD DAY IN CASTLE PARK – JUNE 27-28, 2009

Port Coquitlam, BC – June 23, 2009... CQ, CQ, CQ ... That's how amateur radio operators call each other when they're trying to make contact. And this weekend, members of Port Coquitlam's Emergency Preparedness Communications team (EPCoM) will be calling CQ for twenty-four hours straight while participating in a worldwide radio competition known as Field Day.

"Field Day is an excellent opportunity to test not only our communication skills, but also the emergency equipment that is part of the city's emergency plan," said Chris Carr, the City's Emergency Radio Communications representative. "The more often we practice and test our emergency response, the better prepared we will be."

From Friday, June 26 until Sunday, June 28, members of EPCoM will eat, sleep and, most importantly, operate the City's radio equipment for a full twenty-four hours during the Field Day competition. The team must be prepared to be totally self-sufficient – including using alternate power sources, such as solar power, to run the City's equipment – in an attempt to simulate conditions that could be encountered during an emergency or disaster.

"The ability to maintain communications in the event of an emergency or disaster is a key component in the City's Emergency Response Plan," said Fire Chief Stephen Gamble, Port Coquitlam's Emergency Coordinator. "Having a dedicated group of volunteers like the EPCoM group makes our emergency preparedness program even stronger."

EPCoM is seeking public support in their quest to be the highest-ranked amateur radio team in their category this year. Everyone is invited to tour the Field Day site at Castle Park (2252 Castle Crescent; off Citadel Drive) from noon until 4pm on Saturday afternoon. There will be information displays and equipment demonstrations, as well as a "GOTA" (Get On The Air) station where all Field Day visitors will be invited to make a radio contact that will earn EPCoM valuable competition points.

For more information on EPCoM, visit their website at www.epcom.ca .

For additional information on Port Coquitlam's Emergency Preparedness program, including course listings and volunteer opportunities, go to www.portcoquitlam.ca/ep .

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