

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Chilliwack SAR Responds to Busiest Day in Team History**

Chilliwack, BC - On Saturday, August 3 2013, Chilliwack SAR was paged to respond to four separate incidents.

The first call came mid-afternoon to rescue a male who had ridden his ATV over an embankment on the Liumchen Bench Rd. near Cultus Lake. Valley Helicopters brought in a Bell 407 and SAR members conducted a HETS (long-line) rescue. The patient was transferred to an air ambulance and flown directly to hospital.

Prior to the conclusion of this first call, Chilliwack SAR was called to assist Hope SAR to conduct another HETS at the Nickelmine Rd. recreation area north of Hope. A male had ridden his dirt bike over a steep embankment and had fallen over 200'. HETS rescue technician Josef Seywerd was shocked by the dirt biker's apparent good fortune. "Aside from a few scrapes he appears to be uninjured," remarked Seywerd.

While this second rescue was taking place, Hope SAR contacted Chilliwack SAR by radio to alert them of another emergency on the Coquihalla River at the popular Othello Tunnels area. Two young adults had been swimming in the river when they were overwhelmed by the current and swept downstream through a treacherous canyon to a section of the river between the first and second tunnel. The two swimmers were able to make it to shore, but both were stranded on the far side of the river. HETS was again utilized to long-line the injured female using the aerial rescue platform (ARP). The uninjured male was also evacuated by long-line.

A fourth call for assistance came minutes after rescuing the two swimmers. Hope SAR and Chilliwack SAR began a search for a missing 16 year old boy who was hiking a few kilometres south of Silver Lake on the Skagit Valley Rd. The terrain was steep and rugged and it initially appeared as if the search might be a long one. Fortunately SAR teams located the teen, unharmed, just after 10:00pm.

Chilliwack SAR is the second busiest SAR team in BC, but Search Manager Dan McAuliffe, who has dedicated over 30 years to SAR, stated, "Four calls in one day is unprecedented."

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