Media Advisory

Urban Search and Rescue Demonstration Saturday

Date: Friday, June 15, 2012

VICTORIA, BC — The Victoria Emergency Management Agency’s Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team of volunteers is specially trained to rescue people trapped in collapsed or partially collapsed buildings after a major earthquake. Tomorrow morning, the media is invited to a demonstration at the City of Victoria Public Works Yard to see the USAR Team in action.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

What: Urban Search and Rescue Demonstration
When: Saturday, June 16, 2012, from 11 a.m. - Noon
Where: City of Victoria Public Works Yard, 417 Garbally Road

Open to media only. Parking is available on-street. Media is asked to meet at the Garbally Road entrance.

The demonstration will include members of the USAR Team using a “collapsed simulator”, which imitates a portion of a building with pancaked floors and furniture. Specially trained volunteers enter the simulator at one end, crawling, squeezing and searching through the floors for trapped individuals.

The cutting of concrete will also be demonstrated, using a circular saw, drill, and simple hand tools for chipping concrete debris. Concrete cutting is necessary in order to access the next space of a partially collapsed building where people may be trapped and/or injured. In addition, Saturday’s demonstration will include the use of stretchers to transport injured individuals, and radio communications as land and cell lines may be down after a major earthquake.

The Victoria Emergency Management Agency is looking for volunteers to join its specialized Urban Search and Rescue Team. Volunteers should be physically fit and able to lift heavy objects, crawl, work in confined spaces or on ropes, and be willing to learn how to use specific power tools and other equipment associated with Urban Search and Rescue. Experience in carpentry, construction, demolition, civil engineering, first aid or the medical profession would be an asset. All training is provided free of charge to active team members. Volunteers must be 19 years of age or older and undergo an annual criminal record check.

To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, the public can register for the upcoming Urban Search and Rescue Orientation Session on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Victoria Fire Hall 1 at 1234 Yates Street. To register, email vema@victoria.ca or call 250.920.3373. For more information, visit: www.PrepareVictoria.ca

For More Information:
Rob Johns, Emergency Coordinator
Victoria Emergency Management Agency
Cellular: 250.888.3594