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Squamish Terminals dock fire – a unified response

On April 16th, 2015, a fire broke out on the Squamish Terminals East Dock. Firefighters were on the scene within minutes and focused on containing and successfully extinguishing the fire. But the full response involved several agencies and a coordinated approach.

As District of Squamish protocol for situations such as this, an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was established to help manage a coordinated response to the fire by a number of agencies. The EOC initiated an Incident Command System – a standardized on-site management system designed to enable effective, efficient incident management involving all response activities. A Unified Command team was set up as part of this system and included Squamish Terminals, District of Squamish, Ministry of Environment, Vancouver Coastal Health, and the Squamish Nation.

During the Response Phase, the Unified Command team focused on supporting the Fire Department and communicating information to local residents and businesses about potential public health issues. All updates were reported publicly through various channels.

Once the fire was extinguished, the Unified Command moved into the Recovery Phase, the immediate goal of which was to bring the affected area back to normal as quickly as possible. This involved Squamish Terminals enlisting environmental teams to monitor and clean local beaches and water ways, contractors to start the dock dismantling and removal of the waste, and setting up of booms in water ways around the deck site to contain debris and protect local areas. Unified Command approved and implemented plans related to communications, sampling, waste management and longer term environmental monitoring.

Once all aspects of the long-term environmental monitoring plan have been met, the Unified Command team will sign off that the incident is closed.

Squamish Terminals is grateful to all those involved with the EOC, Unified Command, as well as all personnel involved in the response and recovery phases of the dock fire. Squamish Terminals appreciates your support as we continue to operate from the West Dock and move forward with rebuilding the East Dock.

A member of the community

Squamish Community Foundation

Squamish Terminals is a proud donor of the Squamish Community Foundation (SCF) through the establishment of the Squamish Terminals Youth & Environment Fund. SCF is an independent, charitable organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life for the community members of Squamish. The foundation was created in 2003 to meet the needs of our growing community through the establishment of a locally based long-term institution. SCF manages funds given to them by donors in our community and distributes the income from those endowed funds to local registered charities for community projects. SCF funds currently total just over $400,000.

SCF brings together people who care about our community. SCF facilitates philanthropy by partnering with donors to build permanent endowments and other funds from which they can support community projects. Because the foundation focuses on building permanent endowments, they are able to address long-term community challenges as well as immediate needs. For more information about the Squamish Community Foundation, please visit their website www.squamishfoundation.com.

Resource Works

Squamish Terminals and other resource based companies in Squamish and BC, as well numerous other organizations support Resource Works. Resource Works is a non-profit society, open to participation by all British Columbians, to help bring fact-based information to the public discourse about the natural resource sector and its role in BC’s future (aka a Think Tank).

At Squamish Terminals we are always on the lookout for compelling ways to tell our story, the importance of Squamish Terminals as part of our local, national and worldwide resource economy, and how we continue to strive to operate sustainably – economic, social, environment. Resource Works complements this effort.

One recent initiative in May presented by Resource Works, which we attended, was SheTalksResources; featuring stories of women and their connection to and journey through the resource sector in BC. Women are leading the way in ensuring resource development is taking place in environmentally, socially and economically responsible ways. It was an inspiring event!

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Shoreline cleanup 2015

Save the date!

We will be hosting our 5th annual Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup on Wednesday, September 16th from 4pm – 6pm.

The area we will cover includes the Squamish Spit around the oceanfront up to and including Cattermole Slough, Nexen Beach and the Mamquam Blind Channel. The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup is an annual national event where Canadians from across the country head to their shorelines to support this nationwide cleanup initiative. We encourage everyone to join us! Registration is currently available online at www.shorelinecleanup.ca/en/og/use-code/D5FF1D-123936. For more information on how you can get involved, email us at shorelines@sqterminals.com.

Shoreline cleanup 2015

We welcome students, organizations and other groups to contact us to arrange a tour. We also plan on hosting a public tour sometime this summer…stay tuned for more details. To inquire about a tour of Squamish Terminals, please send a request to tides@sqterminals.com.

Tours of Squamish Terminals

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Thank You
Squamish Terminals wishes to thank our employees, Squamish Fire Rescue, volunteer firefighters and emergency responders from Squamish and our neighbouring communities, the District of Squamish, Grieg Star Shipping, ILWU Canada, local tug operators, contractors and partners who responded to our fire in April. Thanks to the quick and unified response, there were no injuries and the fire was contained to one dock.

We also wish to thank the Ministry of Environment, Squamish Nation, Vancouver Coastal Health and other agencies and volunteers who assisted in the response.

We recognize that the fire had an impact on our community and we appreciate your continued support for Squamish Terminals.

We remain firmly committed to safe operations and being a good neighbour.

Contact us
We are eager to hear your feedback about this edition of “Tides”. Please email us at tides@sqterms.com with suggestions, feedback or to arrange a tour of SQT. We also invite you to sign up for the e-newsletter version of “Tides” @ www.squamishterminals.com and like us on facebook @ www.facebook.com/squamishterminals.

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