

August 5, 2016

Rescue in Elk Falls Canyon - Multi Agency Response

Two people were rescued on Thursday, August 4 from the Elk Falls canyon area waterway in a joint response by the Campbell River Fire Department, Campbell River Search & Rescue, RCMP and BC Emergency Health Services.

One of the persons rescued had apparently suffered a lower back injury after jumping from a 15 meter cliff into the water. In a coordinated effort the fire department used technical rope rescue equipment to lower fire fighters into the canyon to assess the two and administer medical aid, while Search & Rescue crews mobilized two boats used to extract the two people to a waiting ambulance.

“When fire crews arrived the two were found on a rock ledge and they confirmed they were unable to make their own way out.” said deputy fire chief Chris Vrabel. *“It was fortunate timing for the two as the John Hart was not spilling water that day, which allowed rescuers to safely extract the two people from the ledge.”*

Users of the canyon are urged to not jump from the cliffs or swim in the canyon area. These types of risk-based activities not only put the jumpers and swimmers at risk, but also put the rescuers at risk. Vrabel adds, *“The canyon area is a very challenging place for rescuers to carry out these types of operations. It is a time consuming process that involves multiple agencies and multiple rescuers.”*

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