

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 11/15/2021 11:38:24 AM

Subject: RE: Canada Task Force 1 deployment

Attachments: CANTF1 Media Information Bulletin- Agassiz Landslide Deployment.pdf

Good morning Mayor and Council,

Further to the note I sent earlier this morning, I have attached an update issued by VFRS in the past 20 minutes with additional detail regarding the situation in Agassiz.

As an unrelated development, the entire community of Merritt has been directed to evacuate as flood waters have overwhelmed the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Best,
Paul

-----Original Message-----

From: Mochrie, Paul <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 6:33 AM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL

Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL

Subject: Canada Task Force 1 deployment

Good morning Mayor and Council,

I am writing to advise that the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team was deployed overnight by EMBC to respond to multiple mudslides that have cut off Highway 7 near Agassiz. Several vehicles have been stranded between two slides and there are reports of vehicles having been swept off the road.

The team is now on scene and waiting for daylight to assess the situation.

Best,
Paul



MEDIA INFORMATION BULLETIN

CAN-TF1 AGASSIZ LANDSLIDE DEPLOYMENT

Agassiz, BC- Canada Task Force 1 has been deployed to Agassiz, BC to assist local authorities following two separate landslides that impacted Highway 7 between Agassiz and Hope. Agassiz Fire Department responded to the slides along with Hope SAR last night and were able to rescue 12 people whose vehicles were trapped by debris. Trapped between the two slides are approximately 275 additional people including 50 children who were advised to shelter in place overnight as the debris was unstable and unsafe to cross.

A reconnaissance team including CAN-TF1, Chilliwack SAR, and a geotechnical engineer are currently surveying the area from the air to assess the debris and determine if additional victims may be trapped in the flow.

The current operational priority is evacuating those trapped between the slides, and Canadian Forces Cormorant helicopters are starting the first of multiple rescue flights between the slide area and a reception centre in Agassiz. CAN-TF1 has a team in the slide area to coordinate and triage the air evacuation, while Agassiz Fire Department is managing care once at the reception centre.

The commendable efforts of Agassiz Fire Department last night in treacherous conditions was key to saving those trapped in their vehicles, which were filling with debris and water. This operation is dynamic, and further information about the debris flows, additional vehicles, rescues or recoveries may change the team's strategy. Canada Task Force 1 currently has 34 members deployed to the incident, and is prepared to deploy additional resources if work carries on beyond the initial operational period.

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