



British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund

MEDIA ADVISORY
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MEDIA INVITED TO THE 16th ANNUAL BURN CAMP KICK OFF **SUMMER SAFETY TIPS**

SURREY, B.C. — The BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund Burn Camp kicks off this Sunday, July 19 with 61 young burn injured children, 10 junior counsellors, and 53 counsellors and support staff heading up to Squamish for a week of fun. Campers and their counsellors participate in group activities such as swimming, hiking, kayaking, rafting, a skit night, and arts & crafts. They also receive valuable one-on-one support from junior counsellors – themselves burn survivors – and from their counsellors.

A pancake breakfast and Camp Kick Off celebration is set for Sunday, July 19 from 9 AM to Noon at the Cloverdale Athletic Park in Surrey. Surrey Fire Fighters Local 1271 hosts the celebration.

Media are invited to meet the campers, chat with their families and the camp's counsellors who donate their time — professional fire fighters, burn unit doctors & nurses and adult burn survivors — all who make up 'Burn Camp 2009.'

In conjunction with Burn Camp, the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund urges everyone, especially children, to take care and have a safe, injury-free summer. Campers' injuries range from playing with gasoline and matches, to scalds from hot water and liquids, to accidental injuries like house fires and boating and car accidents. Many of the injuries were preventable. To assist the public, the Burn Fund has issued a list of [summer safety tips](#), available on line at www.burnfund.org.

Event	'KICK OFF TO CAMP' — BC Professional Fire Fighters' 16th Annual Summer Camp for burn injured children
Date & Time	Sunday, July 19, 2009 from 9 AM to Noon
Location	Cloverdale Athletic Park 6330 168 th Street, Surrey, BC

Directions from Vancouver: Follow Highway 1 East over the Port Mann Bridge. Take the 176th Street exit. Follow 176th South to 64th Avenue; turn right on 64th Avenue to 168th Street; turn left on 168th Street. The park and parking lot are on your left.

From the Alex Fraser bridge: take the 64th Avenue exit (East) to 168th Street, turn right at 168th Street and the park and parking lot are on your left.





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Agenda Details	<p>Meet the campers, their families and the camp volunteers - fire fighters, burn unit doctors & nurses and adult burn survivors - all who make up Burn Camp 2009!</p> <p>Pancake Breakfast 9 AM to 10 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosted by Surrey Fire Fighters Local 1271 & Surrey Lions Club
Photo Opportunities	<p>Family Fun & Entertainment 10 AM to 11:45 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Games and fire fighter activities including fire trucks, fire arson dogs, face painting, water park, bouncy castle and mini-combat challenge.
Interview Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burn Fund Fire Fighter representatives, camp counsellors, selected young burn survivor campers and their families.
Official Ceremonies	<p>Official Kick Off to Camp Ceremonies start at 11 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ceremony, including sponsor recognition, cheque presentations, and camper and counsellor introductions. The speaker list is available on request. Also: presentation of the \$1,000 dollar Oswald Howell Memorial Bursary Award. Burn survivors from British Columbia who are continuing their post secondary education are eligible to apply for the Oswald Howell Memorial Bursary.
Departure for Camp	<p>Departure for Camp 11:45 AM to 12 Noon (Prompt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campers and Counsellors gather for a 12 Noon departure
About Burn Camp	<p>Burn Camp is funded by the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. It is free for young burn survivors, thanks to the generous support of caring fire fighters, hospital staff, corporations, foundations, service organizations and individuals.</p> <p>Camp counsellors donate all of their time. They are professional fire fighters from around the province, adult burn survivors and doctors and registered nurses from the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit at Vancouver General Hospital, BC Children's Hospital Burn Program, Victoria's Royal Jubilee Hospital Burn Unit and Royal Inland Hospital, Kamloops.</p>
About the Burn Fund	<p>The Burn Fund is a registered non-profit charity established in 1978 by the BC Professional Fire Fighters Association. It provides life saving, life supporting, and life enriching services to the people in British Columbia.</p> <p>More than 3,700 professional fire fighters from 50 communities in British Columbia and Yukon dedicate their time and skills to support burn survivors and increase the public's knowledge about fire and burn safety issues through the work the Burn Fund does with its Burn Awareness, Research and Prevention Programs.</p> <p>To make a donation or for more information, visit www.burnfund.org.</p>



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Please confirm your attendance at the Kick Off to Camp Event.

We would be happy to arrange an interview with a Burn Fund Representative in your area.

Photo & Interview Opportunities at Kick Off Event

FOR THE BURN FUND:

Michael Hurley, President, BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund, and **Heather Wilson-Banks**, Burn Camp Director.

Both are Professional Fire Fighters from Burnaby Local 323.

FOR BURN CAMP: Camp counsellor **Brian Pederson**, a professional fire fighter from Abbotsford Local 2864 and 10-year-old burn survivor/camper **Alexander Weipert**, [why-purt] from Aldergrove.

Abbotsford fire fighter Brian Pederson attended church camp as a child. When he found out there was a camp with a fire fighter and burn survivor focus, he volunteered, because he remembers how going to camp was a highlight of his young life. "As counsellors, we watch the campers open up and become comfortable with their peers," says Pederson. "These kids deserve to just be themselves. No stares. No questions. Just a lot of fun and water fights. Burn Camp really made a difference for Alexander Weipert. It has made an incredible difference for me." Pederson says he is looking forward to being Alexander's counsellor again this year, to see how he's grown.

Alexander was injured when he was eight-years-old. He was badly scalded when a hot water bottle he leaned on split open.

This is his second year at Burn Camp. "It's the water fights, and seeing all my friends," says Alexander. His father Barry says his son's attitude has changed since he went to Burn Camp. His parents and family have noticed a difference in him, especially since he has the support from the Burn Fund, the Fire Fighters and other young burn survivors at camp. He is more accepting of his injury.

Both Brian Pederson and Alexander Weipert are available for interviews during the Kick Off to Camp Event.

– 30 –

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