



# Press Release

## **PUBLIC INVITED TO INTERNATIONAL RADIO EVENT SATURDAY AT CASTLE PARK**

**Port Coquitlam, BC – JUNE 15, 2010** ... Port Coquitlam residents can connect with radio operators from around the world Saturday, June 26 – and help support the local amateur radio team – during the annual Field Day event at Castle Park.

The public is invited to drop by Castle Park on Saturday, June 26 from noon to 4 p.m. to join Port Coquitlam's Emergency Preparedness Communications team (EPCoM) in a worldwide amateur radio competition. EPCoM is again seeking to be the highest-ranked amateur radio team in its category, and visitors who make radio contact through the Get On the Air (GOTA) station will help the team earn competition points. There will also be information displays and equipment demonstrations.

Used locally as an emergency preparedness exercise, Field Day is being held in conjunction with Amateur Radio Week June 20-27, as proclaimed by Mayor Greg Moore.

"At Field Day, we test not only our communication skills, but also the emergency equipment that is part of the City's emergency plan," said Chris Carr, the City's Emergency Radio Communications representative. "The more often we practice and test our emergency response, the better prepared we will be."

Between 5 p.m. Friday and noon Sunday, EPCoM volunteers will eat, sleep and, most importantly, operate the City's radio equipment for a full 24 hours as part of the competition. The team must be prepared to be totally self-sufficient – including using alternate power sources, such as solar power, to run the City's equipment – in an attempt to simulate conditions that could be encountered during an emergency or disaster.

"We are very grateful to have this team of devoted EPCoM volunteers, as they are the ones who ensure our radio communications are up and running during an emergency or disaster," said Port Coquitlam Fire Chief Stephen Gamble, the City's Emergency Coordinator. "Communications is essential."

Castle Park is located at 2252 Castle Crescent off Citadel Drive. For more information about EPCoM, visit [www.epcom.ca](http://www.epcom.ca).

For additional information on Port Coquitlam's Emergency Preparedness Program, including course listings and volunteer opportunities, go to [www.portcoquitlam.ca/ep](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/ep).

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### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Cheryl Lalonde  
Emergency Program Officer  
City of Port Coquitlam  
Tel 604.927.5460  
Email [lalondec@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:lalondec@portcoquitlam.ca)

[www.portcoquitlam.ca/ep](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/ep)