
Providing safe and secure communities

September 9, 2007

Springbank airtanker base allows faster response to wildfires in the southern Rockies

Calgary... The Alberta government has opened a new airtanker base at Springbank airport southwest of Calgary, providing area Albertans with better protection from the threat of wildfire.

“The new Springbank airtanker base allows Sustainable Resource Development to meet its operational goal of responding within 30 minutes to wildfires in areas near Canmore, Bragg Creek, Kananaskis Country and the Bow Valley,” said Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) Minister Ted Morton.

The airtanker base was moved to Springbank after SRD was advised that its existing lease at the Calgary International Airport would not be renewed beyond 2003. A subsequent review identified Springbank as the most effective location for a replacement airtanker base. Funding for the Springbank airtanker base upgrade was announced as part of Budget 2005.

In 2006, SRD signed a long-term lease for the airtanker base with the Calgary Airport Authority, which administers Springbank airport. Upgrades on the site began in May of that year. The base became operational in July of this year at a cost of \$6.5 million.

SRD provided wildfire support for the southern Rockies during the 2004 through 2006 fire seasons through the joint efforts of the Pincher Creek and Rocky Mountain House air tanker bases.

Protecting communities from wildfire is part of Premier Ed Stelmach’s plan for providing safe and secure communities for Albertans. Other priorities for the Government of Alberta are to govern with integrity and transparency, manage growth pressures, improve Albertans’ quality of life and build a stronger Alberta.

-30-

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Wildfire Information Officer
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
(780) 420-1968

Derrick Forsythe
Public Affairs Officer
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
(780) 427-8636

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Alberta Government | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Sustainable Resource Development Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2007 Government of Alberta

Return to Government Home Page

Return to Government Home Page

Return to [Government Home Page](#)