



## PERTH EAST FIRE DEPARTMENT

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For immediate release  
May 5, 2016

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### FIRE DEPARTMENT: HELP SUPPORT FORT MCMURRAY FIRE EFFORTS

**MILVERTON (May 5, 2016)** – The Perth East Fire Department is encouraging anyone who wants to support the firefighting efforts in Fort McMurray, Alberta, to do so by making monetary donations through Red Cross. Wildfires have forced tens of thousands to flee their homes in the Fort McMurray area, leaving a devastating path of fire destruction and forcing the Province of Alberta to call a state of emergency.

Perth East Fire Chief Bill Hunter responded to the tragedy on behalf of the Perth East and West Perth Fire Departments. “Our thoughts are with all of the firefighters and first responders who have been tirelessly working to battle these fires and evacuate over 80,000 people, knowing their own homes are at risk or have been destroyed. I cannot imagine the emotional turmoil and physical exhaustion they must be experiencing.”

Perth East Mayor Bob McMillan echoed those sentiments. “The events unfolding in Alberta remind us not only of the catastrophic effects of fire but also of the selfless dedication of emergency responders. On behalf of Perth East we want them to know that they are in our thoughts.”

Chief Hunter explained the importance of supporting in ways that are needed most. “As Canadians, we want to reach out and help. From an incident management standpoint, this can create havoc in trying to manage unexpected volunteers, shipments of clothing or goods, and other offers of support. The best way we can help the Fort McMurray community is to donate to Red Cross, through their website at <http://www.redcross.ca> or by calling 1-800-418-1111. You can even make a quick donation of \$5.00, by texting “REDCROSS” to 30333.”

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said on Wednesday the province will match any private donations made to the relief agency. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says the government of Canada will match all donations to the Red Cross to assist people displaced by the wildfires.

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