

# **Cooking Lake Aircraft Rescue**

## **0945 hours, June 28, 2016**

July 05, 2016

Fire Chief Iain Bushell  
Superintendent Gary Peck, RCMP

# Incident Details

0945 hours	Initial 911 call from a South Cooking Lake resident on RR214
0950 hours	Platoon Chief, Squad 1, Engine 2, Ambulance, and RCMP dispatched
0950 hours	Water Rescue Team (Special Operations truck and Airboat) is paged
0953 hours	First contact between RCMP and military Joint Rescue Coordination Centre
1022 hours	Squad 1 arrives at 911 caller's location
1102 hours	JRCC advised that Airboat launch was in progress
1109 hours	First Airboat launch attempt
1406 hours	Patient transported by ambulance to Strathcona Hospital



RR 213







# Risk-Based Decision Making

- Initial patient information via direct cell phone contact indicated minor injuries
- Initial rescue assessment was a stable patient in a stable location
- The Water Rescue Team attempted three pre-planned launch locations and one alternate location for the airboat
- A simultaneous attempt using the inflatable Rapid Deployment Craft was attempted
- As time passed and the risk to the patient increased, the WRT took increased risk to launch the airboat
- The WRT was also faced with three people on the lake by 1400 hours

# Challenges Faced

- Very low water levels that continue to decline
- Road access conditions
- Extended shoreline mud, grasses and other obstructions
- The WRT had accessed and trained on the lake at the end of April, leading to an expectation of success

# Incident Review Process

- Thorough review of procedures
- Improvement in Unified Command with SCES and RCMP, even on scenes not involving Command Officers
- Review the upgrade of incidents to involve Command Officers
- Examination of pre-planned launch locations, frequency of visits, and launch assistance techniques
- Consideration of earlier activation of increased resources or alternate rescue methods such as helicopters
- Consideration of other rescue craft or equipment





# Summary

- The SCES Water Rescue Team is well trained, well equipped, and experienced, with many of the members decorated for their 2013 actions in High River
- The risk-based approach to incidents was followed
- The WRT attempted two simultaneous rescue methods
- This incident presented several challenges that ultimately resulted in a prolonged rescue
- Viewed from the public perspective, a rescue taking over four hours is not acceptable
- A thorough review will be undertaken to improve future responses

# Thank You

