



FIREFIGHTERS
Pompiers Sans Frontieres Canada
WITHOUT BORDERS

El Salvador 2011 Deployment

From January 21st through to January 30th, a 15-person team of fire service professionals from across British Columbia and California deployed to El Salvador with Firefighters Without Borders Canada. The team was comprised of representatives from 3 fire departments (Vancouver, Surrey Coquitlam), 1 training agency (ROCO Rescue) and 1 educational institution (Justice Institute of British Columbia). The ten-day deployment provided training to 62 fire service professionals from across Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, Costa Rica and Panama) who all travelled to the central training facility in the City of San Salvador to participate in this program. Topics of instruction included: Incident Command, Technical Rescue, Rapid Intervention, High-Rise Operations, and Fire Ground Survival. The training program ended with a large exercise conducted in a 5-storey abandoned structure with all participants taking on roles and utilizing the skills they learned over the course of the program.

Some highlights include:

JIBC One World Scholarship Program: This program which is a partnership between FWB Canada and the Fire & Safety Division, JIBC continues to provide dividends to FWB Canada in several ways. Firstly, over the course of their 21 day in-country field work, the 2011 OWSP visited every fire station in El Salvador (17 in total) and carried out a thorough and comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey which included photographic inventories of fire stations, apparatus and equipment. The finished NAS completed by the 4 scholarship recipients is a hard document in excess of 100 pages and should be commended for both its detail and insight.

Regional Participation: The CBES continues to work with FWB Canada ensuring participation from around Central America. The 2011 deployment saw the largest attendance of other countries. Of special note, the newly appointed national fire chief for Panama travelled to San Salvador to witness first-hand the training his members were undertaking and to communicate the wishes of the Central American fire service association to continue with this type of regional training and to build on it into the future.

Other Levels of Support: As always, our presence in-country was well documented and supported. Meetings were held with the Canadian Ambassador, senior members of El Salvador's government and the media. The deployment was highlighted in both the national newspaper, national radio and on several TV stations.