

# DNV honours heroes of Deep Cove and Lynn Valley fires

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Captain Doug Becker, a 21-year veteran of the British Columbia Fire Services Association (BCFSA), is one of the 10 people honoured by the District for their help during the Lions Manor and Mountain Village Garden Apartments fires in the summer of 2008. At 4:30 p.m. on October 1, Mountain Village Garden Apartments in North Vancouver was the scene of a fire that killed two people and injured 10 others. The fire started in a rooming house on the second floor of the building. Despite having no personal protective equipment, firefighters from the District responded to the fire from the inside. Despite having no personal protective equipment, firefighters from the District responded to the fire from the inside. Despite having no personal protective equipment, firefighters from the District responded to the fire from the inside.

Becker had previously worked with the North Vancouver Fire Department's "Fire Fighters of the Year" in 2008.

The July fire at the Deep Cove senior's residence sent eight people to hospital, and left six elderly seniors without homes. Becker is one of the first about being first on the scene.

"I was running up Naughton and saw smoke. The front of the building was on fire. I've been in that building many times before. I know who lives in the building, and I know there sensitive people in there

needing meeting help." Becker led a team of volunteers into the building to bang on doors and help people evacuate, but stopped three when he reached the fourth floor and saw how much smoke there was in the hallway. "I told people 'don't go in there because there's a chance you won't come out.'"

Becker was thrown from Firehall 10 when they arrived on first. "I know the work that would be coming, and the people that would be coming." After explaining the conditions inside the building, Becker then moved to the back and began helping to remove residents from the fire building.

Becker wasn't the only off-duty fire-fighter on the scene at Lions Manor. Mayor Little also presented commendations to Coquitlam fire-fighters Martin Chambers and Greg Baird, and Abbotsford Fire Department's crew Pablo Mora Torres, all of whom were staying Deep Cove on their day off, but jumped in when the fire started.

Recognized for their contribution were local resident Aiden Bartling, who directed traffic while fire crews fought the fire; Abbotsford Place hockey player Noah Price and his friend Justin Price, who helped residents down from balconies



Captain Doug Becker

and Nick Colewood from Coquitlam.

The June fire at Mountain Village Garden apartments in Lynn Valley left a

mother and son dead, and others in hospital. It also destroyed the remains of a community centre.

The Council commended people who played an important role in that tragedy, apartment manager Steve Baughman, who shut off gas to the complex when the fire broke out, and maintenance manager Jim Thompson, who helped people during and after evacuation, were both honored for their contributions.

Former Mountain Village manager James Kinnear and Bruce Milroy were also recognized for their work that night, as were Just Roddick and Eugene Mathews. Mayor Little reminded the Council and guests that although these people were being given individual commendations, there were many people and organizations in District who stepped up to help during the fires, and to make funds and find temporary homes for displaced residents afterwards.

"The people that we're recognizing this evening aren't heroes, but we just exemplify of the people who stepped up to our community as volunteers on the frontlines and hundreds of people who came out to make donations. These people are the tip of the iceberg."