

**WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

BILL ELFO
SHERIFF



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
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For Immediate Release – October 8, 2019

Major Joint US/Canadian Hazardous Materials Emergency Drill to be held in Sumas, WA October 16th

Residents and visitors near the Sumas/Huntingdon Port of Entry will see emergency responders, equipment and simulated response activity in Sumas on October 16, 2019 from 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office has been planning this Hazardous Materials Emergency Drill for over a year. This drill represents another step forward in building relationships and understanding procedures between United States and Canadian responders.

With over 50 agencies from both sides of the border, and over 200 participants in nearly 20 locations, the goal of the drill is to ensure that a response to an event that affects both countries enables agencies to integrate their capabilities using emergency operation plans, standard operating procedures and the Incident Command System.

Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo commented, "Our Office is dedicated to making Whatcom County the safest in Washington State through excellence in public safety and have undertaken this exercise to build on the cross-border efforts that have been a hallmark of cooperation between Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management on both sides of our shared border."

City of Abbotsford Mayor Henry Braun added, "The City of Abbotsford is pleased to participate in this exercise with our partners across the border. This drill is a way for our personnel at the City of Abbotsford and Abbotsford Fire Rescue Services to continue to sharpen our emergency preparedness apparatus and public safety capacity."

Most of the activity during the drill will not be visible to the public, with the exception of emergency response equipment and some light smoke during the morning. There will be no interruptions of traffic flow across the border.

#SumasDrill

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For more information contact:

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