

History of the Trauma Pup Program...

In conjunction with the Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia, the Fortis BC Trauma Pup Program was originally done by Safeway Grocery Stores with Fire Buster pups issued from 1992 – 2002. Safeway was the sponsor of the Fire Buster Program until 2002, when they decided to withdraw from the Fire Pup Program. Captain Rita Paine of the Township of Langley Fire Department was the coordinator at the time and she solicited support to continue the program and convinced Terasen Gas (now Fortis BC) to lend their support to a similar program.

Because Safeway owned the pup design the Fire Buster Pups were no longer available to be used and a change was necessary. Terasen Gas continued the program from 2002-2010 until their change to Fortis BC in 2010. The new pup design made in 2002 is larger, softer, and easier for children to cuddle. The Fortis BC logo is embroidered on the helmet of each Trauma Pup.

Every year, 1200 Fortis BC Trauma Pups are created by "The Stuffed Animal House" located in Aldergrove B.C. Once they are ready for shipment, they are delivered by The Stuffed Animal House, to the FPOa, free of charge. Their assistance to this program is greatly appreciated! Township of Langley Fire Department - Public Education Officer, Captain Gary Proznick and Public Educator, Krista Barton have been the program coordinators since the fall of 2008. The Fire Prevention Association of BC (FPOABC) took over the administration of the pups effective October 1, 2014, They are currently stored and shipped from the Kelowna, BC Administration Office.

Fortis BC Trauma Pup representatives, Amy Hennessey - Community & Aboriginal Relations Manager & Michelle Petrusevich - Public Safety Manager stated, "it was been brought to my attention that some very distraught children had received Trauma Pups from the local firefighters that were on scene as a result of the family's house fire. It is always wonderful to hear that the children were comforted by receiving the trauma pups from our firefighters. "