

Engine for El Salvador
An International Project Developed by Vancouver Firefighters to Assist the
Firefighters of El Salvador



Engine for El Salvador Committee

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Introduction Engine for El Salvador is a project whose purpose is to further develop the relationship between Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, Vancouver Firefighters' Local 18, and the National Fire Service of El Salvador. The focus of this proposal centers on acquiring one of the soon to be retired engines (forecast late 2005/early 2006) from the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services fleet and presenting it to the National Fire Service of El Salvador. This project has the potential of creating significant positive public relations for the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, and the Vancouver Firefighters' Union Local 18. It will clearly demonstrate that the City of Vancouver is a contributing member of the global community.

Background Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services has a long-standing connection with the National Fire Service of El Salvador. Over the past eight years, a relationship has developed through a donation program, whereby a wide variety of retired personal protective equipment was delivered for the use of this nation's firefighters. Without this generosity, the firefighters of this small developing nation would have to do without, putting themselves at even greater personal risk. The Honorary Consul General of El Salvador, Jeffrey Moore often relates his experience of meeting an El Salvadoran firefighter, and asking him what they did before receiving the retired gear from Vancouver. As he relates it, the answer was simply "...if we weren't careful we would get burned." This serves to highlight the fact that the National Fire Service of this developing nation is heavily dependant on the donation of apparatus and equipment just to provide the most basic of emergency services. It is with this in mind, that we believe the Fire Service of El Salvador is an ideal recipient for this project.

Timeline This is entirely dependant on when the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services will be receiving new engines into service. Currently, we are hopeful that a date in early 2006 would be appropriate for delivery of this piece of apparatus to El Salvador.

Funding

There are a variety of avenues to pursue in terms of acquiring sufficient funds to purchase the apparatus, and the costs associated with shipping it to El Salvador. Some of the potential sources of financial aid or assistance are as follows;

- Corporate sponsorship Several corporations are being approached to assist with this project. Good corporate exposure exists for those that become involved.
- Rotary International We hope to develop partnerships with Rotary clubs in the Lower Mainland. Placement of the Rotary International logo on our promotional material and on the fire truck itself would be appropriate to recognize this relationship.
- City of Vancouver, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, Vancouver Firefighters Local 18 We would be looking towards these three organizations to provide assistance concerning the purchase of a piece of apparatus. This assistance could take many forms, from providing funding, to logistical support surrounding the actual purchase, to assuring a preferred purchase price for this project.
- Fundraising It is felt that this project could garner wide public support, thus enabling the project team to raise some of the needed funds through a variety of activities.

**Budget
(Projected)**

From preliminary research, the Engine for El Salvador committee believes this project is feasible within a budget of approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000. A break down of the projected costs is listed below.

- \$3000 to \$5000 Acquisition of apparatus, based on previous auction results.
- \$8000 (+/-) Transportation of apparatus, insurance, any unknown costs, etc.
- \$6000 Travel costs for committee to accompany apparatus. This aspect to be financed through personal fund raising initiatives.

These are preliminary costs only. This budget will be updated and amended as appropriate.

Conclusion Engine for El Salvador is a project that would benefit many people. First, and foremost, are the people of El Salvador who will benefit from having a Fire Service that is better equipped to deal with emergencies. Secondly, are the firefighters themselves, who will be able to carry out their duties in a safer and more efficient manner. Lastly, the citizens and firefighters of Vancouver will be able to take pride in having contributed to a community in a far less affluent region of the world. The positive public relations alone, which arise from this type of project, are but a small portion of the benefits that all involved are sure to receive. Our corporate sponsors and partners, such as Rotary International will no doubt also share in these benefits. It has become very clear that this project will be successful, in large part due to the developing partnership between the Vancouver Firefighters and Rotary International. This project will undoubtedly face challenges as it moves forward. These will not be insurmountable, and with the assistance and cooperation of all involved, this project will have a successful outcome. With that, the bonds of friendship, goodwill, and community will be strengthened between the nation of El Salvador and the City of Vancouver.

Engine for El Salvador Committee

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Fire Service of El Salvador Fact Sheet

Population	6.5 million (Slightly larger than B.C.'s 4 million)
Area	21,000 sq km (smaller than Vancouver Island's 32,000 sq km)
Geography	Smallest Central American country, also known as the Land of Volcanoes due to frequent and sometimes very destructive earthquakes and volcanic activity.
Firefighters	375 full-time members involved in fire suppression and medical response.
Fire Halls	16 Fire Halls spread throughout the country
Apparatus	8 E-One 1250 GPM trucks, 12 Rosebauer 1000 GPM trucks, 8 tankers and 5 ambulances
Profile	The National Fire Service of El Salvador is working hard to provide quality emergency services to its citizens. As can be seen from the personnel and apparatus available to them, this must be very challenging especially considering their population. Emergency response times in the Capitol of San Salvador can exceed 30 minutes. Currently, they are striving to bring about advancements in their fire suppression techniques and increase their training to include a wider range of specialties, such as Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue.