

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Bush Fire in Nanaimo's North End

#### Summary

Nanaimo Fire Crews responded to a bush fire on the Island Highway at 2:53 pm just behind Mary Ellen Drive. Dry conditions and wind caused the fire to spread quickly. Nanaimo Fire Rescue had 3 engines on scene and due to the speed in which the fire was spreading, mutual aid was requested from Lantzville, and East Wellington. Coastal Fire also was requested then cancelled as crews were able to get the fire under control.

Island Highway was closed for a period of time with traffic being rerouted to the Old Island Highway, due to heavy smoke in the area and to allow crews to work at getting the fire out. Crews are working on hotspots and it is 90% contained.

*Strategic Link:* The City of Nanaimo is committed to Public Safety

#### Key Points

- Crews responded to a bush fire behind Mary Ellen Drive on Island Highway
- Conditions are dry and residents are reminded to be extremely careful.
- Fire is 90% contained and traffic in area is slow.

#### Quotes

"This fire grew very quickly and serves as a reminder of how the current fire hazard rating is at extreme. Citizens need to be careful and aware at all times of anything that could cause a spark or be an ignition source in these dry conditions. "

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