



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 16th, 2009

To: The Media

From: Karen Lindsay, Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Re: Rapid Response and Aggressive Attack by Nanaimo Fire Fighters limits structural damage

On Friday morning at 7:35 am Nanaimo Firefighters responded to a structure fire on Haliburton Street. Crews were met by occupants from the house and advised that the home contained two separate living accommodations. A family of five occupied the downstairs suite and a family of seven occupied the upstairs portion. The Incident Commander was able to account for all occupants some of which required treatment from BCAS and transport to NRGH. Other occupants were welcomed into neighbour's homes.

Crews contained the fire to one room although the home did sustain extensive smoke and water damage throughout. Fire investigators are remaining on scene and according to Captain Doug Bell the cause of the fire is yet to be determined. The fire was discovered in a rear bedroom and extended to the attic area. It is believed that the fire originated in one of the rear bedrooms located in the upstairs portion of the house. According to Captain Doug Bell, Nanaimo Fire Rescue, "As cause is determined information will be made available. Given the extensive smoke, water and fire damage the families will lose many personal possessions."

Nanaimo's Community Assistance Program was called to the scene to provide Emergency Social Services (ESS) to the occupants. ESS is a victim assistance service provided through Nanaimo Fire Rescue and partially funded by the Province of BC which provides support to individuals that may be displaced as a result of emergency or disaster situations. ESS works with the victims and the province to ensure their immediate physical needs are met such as providing shelter, food and clothing as required.