



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 19th, 2009

To: The Media

From: Karen Lindsay, Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Re: Nanaimo Fire Rescue crews tackle early morning house fire and limit damage to neighbouring property

On Tuesday morning at 0635 hrs Nanaimo Fire Rescue Crews were dispatched to a residential structure fire in the 900 block of Milton Street. The first crew arrived on scene within minutes of being dispatched and were met with large volumes of smoke and fire showing from the main floor. 12 career personnel were initially committed along with three engines and one rescue truck. There were no injuries to firefighters as a result of the blaze. Nanaimo Fire Rescue Crews worked aggressively to knock down the fire and successfully prevent damage to neighbouring residents.

Three individuals lived in the residence and a guest was staying there as well. All four individuals were accounted for by Incident Command upon arrival. One of the residents suffered minor burns and smoke inhalation and was transported by BCAS to NRGH .

Smoke, water and fire damage to the house was extensive and the home is no longer habitable. Fire investigators remain on scene and the cause of the fire is yet to be determined. Given the extent of the damage the occupants will lose many personal possessions.

Nanaimo Fire Rescue has secured the building and is waiting for the building to stabilize. Fire Investigation will be returning with the RCMP tomorrow to continue their investigation.

Nanaimo Fire Rescue Community Assistance Program was called to the scene to provide Emergency Social Services (ESS) to the occupants. The three occupants have received 72 hour assistance through the ESS program and the fourth individual is staying with friends. 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.

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For more information about the response contact Ron Dawley, Assistant Chief of Operations at 250-268-2093 and for more information about the investigation contact Captain Doug Bell , 250-268-2108