



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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To: The Media

From: Karen Lindsay, Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Rapid attack by Nanaimo Fire Fighters Limits Damage of Accidental Marina Fire

On Thursday October 21st, at approximately 1:20pm, Nanaimo Firefighters responded to a call at the Palms Marina along Stewart Avenue. Upon arrival crews were confronted with an explosion that caused a large structure fire involving several sheds and boats. As a result of the rapid and aggressive attack by Nanaimo Fire Rescue Crews, damage was limited and further exposure was reduced. Crews did an excellent job fighting the fire and the standpipe system installed by the marina owners at the request of Nanaimo Fire Rescue was a valuable tool for fire fighters in their efforts.

Fire Investigators have since conducted an investigation into the incident. As a result it has been determined that the fire at Palms Marina was accidental. Investigators suspect that there was a build up of gasoline vapour as a result of fuel leaking into the bilge. It is suspected that an unknown electrical ignition may have triggered the explosion.

Throughout the investigation, Fire Prevention Officers conducted interviews with owners and followed several leads. Part of the challenge with the investigation of this fire was that the boat was submersed under water and sustained a significant amount of damage as a result of the initial explosion and fire.

A total of 3 boats and 6 sheds were written off in addition to another 8 boats receiving damage. All of the damage was sustained by the fire and not the initial explosion.

Investigators are encouraging all boat owners to ensure that you check your bilges for leaks and vapour build up. In addition, when winterizing your boats ensure that you are checking them on a regular basis and that all heaters have an auto shut off in case they tip over. As well, make sure that your electrical systems are safe and intact, proper extension cords are being used and that there are no frayed wires.

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For more information about the investigation contact Doug Bell, Captain, Prevention Division 250-755-4562