



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 27th, 2010

To: The Media

From: Karen Lindsay, Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Re: Third structure fire in a week keeps Nanaimo Fire Rescue Crews busy

On Tuesday January 26th at 1:05 am Nanaimo Fire Rescue Crews from stations 1, 2 and 3 were dispatched to a third structure fire within a week located in the 600 block of Haliburton Street. Within minutes of the call crews arrived and command was established. Upon arrival firefighters were confronted with flames coming from the lower portion of a 2 storey wood framed house. Nanaimo Fire Rescue Crews conducted an offensive attack and upon entering the building were confronted with heavy smoke throughout the whole house. Crews limited the fire damage to the lower portion of the home although extensive smoke damage was realized throughout.

Fire Prevention Officers have since conducted an investigation and it has been determined to be an accidental fire. The fire was caused by a foam mattress leaning against a light bulb.

No working smoke alarms were present in the home. The residents became aware of the fire as they were awake at the time. According to Ennis Mond, Fire Prevention Officer, "Had they been asleep and with no working smoke alarms, the results could have been much worse, possibly fatal". Nanaimo Fire Rescue recommends that all residents have working smoke alarms in their home and that they check the batteries at least every six months.

Nanaimo Fire Rescue Community Assistance Program was called to the scene to provide Emergency Social Services (ESS) to the occupants. Seven individuals and several pets lived in the residence and were not able to stay in the residence. The owner has home insurance and the residents were provided with shelter for the duration of the evening.

-30-

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 Ennis Mond, Fire Prevention Officer , 250-268-2108