

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed May 7, 2015

### Increase in Smoking Related Fires

*Residents need to exercise caution*

#### Summary

Fire Investigators would like to remind residents to ensure smoking materials are extinguished completely and discarded in a proper container. With the warmer weather on its way and very little rain over the past month, Nanaimo Fire Rescue has been called out to several small bark mulch fires due to poorly discarded smoking materials. Another common cause of serious fires at homes, is smoking materials extinguished in potted plants on sun decks or near homes where fire easily spreads to the house.

In addition to ensuring smoking materials are properly discarded at home, residents are urged to not throw cigarettes out the car window.

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

#### Key Points

- Ensure that smoking materials are completely extinguished and put into a proper container.
- Keep your butts in the car. Residents are reminded to not throw their cigarette butts out of the car window and to extinguish them completely in a proper container in their car.

#### Quotes

"We have been investigating a few fires due to poorly discarded smoking materials. These small fires can have tragic results. Please make sure you extinguish and discard smoking materials properly."

Ennis Mond  
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