

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed October 22, 2016

### **Early morning structure fire displaces 18 residents.**

*Fire contained to a single suite in the five-unit residential building.*

#### **Summary**

At approximately 12:50am Saturday morning, Nanaimo Fire Rescue crews responded to a reported structure fire in the 200 block of Sabiston Street in the downtown area of the city. Upon arrival at the five-unit residential building, one suite was fully involved in fire. The fire was contained to the single suite which suffered severe fire damage. The four adjoining suites received heavy smoke damage and were left without power.

All occupants were able to escape the fire on their own, however one resident did suffer from some burns. In total, 18 residents are displaced. The City's Community Assistance Program volunteers provided support and relocated the residents to temporary accommodations.

Nanaimo Fire Rescue fire investigators will begin their investigation this morning. There is no speculation on the cause at this time.

Supporting agencies include RCMP, BC Ambulance, and Community Assistance Program volunteers under the City's Emergency Program.

*Strategic Link:* The City of Nanaimo is committed to public safety.

#### **Key Points**

- Fire contained to a one unit in multi-residential structure fire.
- Eighteen people were displaced and supported by Community Assistance Program volunteers.
- One occupant received some burns while escaping the fire.

#### **Quotes**

"This was a very serious incident and it is fortunate that everyone escaped. Structure fires that displace this many people are rare but all of the responding agencies worked well together to minimize the impact."

Brad Wood  
Assistant Chief of Operations  
Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Continued... Early morning structure fire displaces 18 residents.

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