

STATEMENT

Distributed December 3, 2020

Fire on Wesley Street

On December 3, 2020, shortly after noon, a large fire broke out in the encampment on Wesley Street. Fortunately, there were no injuries; however, the fire fully destroyed multiple tents and triggered a number of explosions of propane tanks.

Given the proximity to City offices, and the risk of further explosions, the Service and Resource Centre was evacuated for a short time. Bylaw Officers and Firefighters worked together to evacuate those remaining in or near the encampment. Nanaimo Fire Rescue responded and successfully extinguished the flames, and cooled off remaining propane tanks.

The 400 Block of Wesley Street is currently fully evacuated and closed to public access. Agencies are in the process of decamping the occupants, securing the site and making it safe. The City is in contact with our Provincial Partners, who have mobilized to the site to support impacted residents.

Contact:

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