



June 2, 2020

RE: FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the rapidly evolving impacts surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic, this letter outlines how Nanaimo Fire Rescue intends to continue keeping Nanaimo's citizen's safe.

Nanaimo Fire Rescue personnel will continue to ensure that maintaining fire and life safety equipment under legislation, codes and by-laws are a priority. These minimum life safety requirements are not being relaxed at this time. We understand that there may be cases where building owners may not be able to comply with inspection schedules due to a delay with in service from contractors. We would like to emphasize that compliance with the Fire and Building codes is the property owner's responsibility.

In situations where we find non-compliance we will be requiring letters of assurance from service providers and owners that they are taking measures to ensure that this equipment will be brought into compliance in a timely fashion and/or suitable alternative measures will be in place should if these systems fail.

Nanaimo Fire Rescue will not be entering private dwellings without the consent of the occupant, unless there is a risk to personal property or life. It will be the owner's responsibility to ensure that a qualified service provider has been contracted to provide services to ensure fire and life safety equipment are in compliance with the Provincial Codes. Owner's need to notify their buildings occupants that they should inform them of fire and life safety devices (smoke alarms, heat detectors, sprinklers) that are damaged or not operational in their premises for immediate repair or replacement and if necessary to notify the Fire Department.

Nanaimo Fire Rescue will be conducting inspections on buildings housing some of our most vulnerable populations. We will be working in cooperation with building owners to help them identify and carry out appropriate fire prevention measures to mitigate the risk of fire while also complying with the COVID-19 orders.

Fire Prevention officers are available to respond to enquiries and to assist owners and occupants resolve any questions or issues in regards to fire and life safety equipment.

Sincerely,
Fire Loss and Prevention Division
Nanaimo Fire Rescue