

October 13, 2016

Boat still floating after fire

At 1:21 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, Campbell River firefighters were alerted to smoke issuing from a boat at the government wharf on Spit Road. On arrival crews discovered a 45-foot vessel with a significant fire in the engine compartment. It took crews more than three hours to completely extinguish the fire.

“Fires on boats are very difficult to fight and present a significant risk to fire fighters and the environment. There are many void spaces that a fire can spread to and firefighters entering these spaces do so with great risk to themselves,” says deputy fire chief Chris Vrabel.

There is also the risk of the boat sinking during firefighting operations as electrical systems and the boat’s structure can be damaged, leading to water entering the hull.

Vrabel adds, “Add the water used to suppress the fire and this creates a tenuous situation. With the assistance of the Coast Guard crew from the Cape Palmerston, we managed collectively to extinguish the fire and keep the boat afloat, which is the ideal outcome.”

There were no injuries, and the investigation is underway. The value of the boat and the loss due to the fire has not been determined.

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