

December 7, 2015

Fire damages apartment building

Everyone escaped uninjured, but six people were transported to hospital for observation after a fire in an apartment building that damaged one unit and spread smoke to several others.

At 8:28 a.m. on Dec. 7, the Campbell River fire department responded to a report of a structure fire at 541-7th Ave.

"Crews arrived to find heavy black smoke and fire coming from a second-storey unit in the 22 unit apartment complex. Firefighters from the No. 1 fire hall downtown were quick to respond and knock the fire down within minutes, which prevented it from spreading to adjoining units," says Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Doherty. *"Early detection of the fire, notification to the fire department and quick response were critical factors in limiting the spread and damage of this fire."*

Fire damage was contained to one unit; however smoke damage was sustained in seven other units.

Additional firefighters from both fire stations were called in to assist as well as respond to other emergency incidents that were coming in at the same time.

Emergency Support Services were on scene to assist people displaced by the fire, and BC Transit provided a warm bus where occupants could assemble protected from the weather.

The fire department will hold an information session for people displaced by the fire Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. at the Discovery Inn.

"The fire department would like to remind the public not to drive over the fire hose at or near a fire scene," Doherty adds. *"Multiple vehicles were noticed driving over the main water supply line to the fire fighters, which serves as a critical element for firefighters inside a burning structure. Driving over the hose lines could rupture the line and cut off water supply to the firefighters."*

The fire department thanks the following agencies for their assistance; BC Transit, RCMP, BC Ambulance, BC Hydro, Fortis Gas and Emergency Support Services.

The cause of the fire has not been determined yet and is under investigation.

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