

April 23, 2013

Three fires in 24 hours have alarm bells ringing

Residents quickly called for help when fires in a kitchen and carport set alarm bells ringing, and a Quadra Island resident sounded the alarm about a triplex ablaze on the Island Highway earlier this week – all within 24 hours.

A working smoke alarm sent a resident to safety when a cooking fire smoked out a Campbell River kitchen Sunday evening.

At approximately 8:15 p.m. on April 21, the Campbell River Fire Department responded to a report of a structure fire in the 500 block of Rockland Road. When crews arrived, they investigated the source of smoke inside the dwelling.

“Firefighters found the remains of a kitchen fire, confirmed that the fire was out and that it had not spread beyond the kitchen,” says Deputy Fire Chief Chris Vrabel. *“When the smoke alarm went off, one person was home at the time, and did the right thing by quickly leaving the building and calling 911 for help.”*

The investigation determined that unattended cooking led to a fire on the stove. *“This is a reminder for people not to leave cooking unattended and to check their smoke alarms to ensure they are working,”* Vrabel adds.

The fire was attended by three fire vehicles and 15 firefighters.

Fire crews were also called to a structure fire Monday morning at approximately 10:15 a.m. When crews arrived at the 100 block of Delvecchio Road, they found an active fire in the carport of a two-storey residence.

“The fire had spread into the ceiling space and was beginning to extend into the living space of the structure,” Vrabel explains. *“Crews extinguished the fire, and that contained structural damage to the carport area, but there was smoke damage inside the home. “*

The fire required four fire apparatus with 21 firefighters. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

“Again, thankfully, the two occupants who were home at the time escaped without injury and called 911 quickly,” Vrabel says. *“This is exactly the right course of action.”*

The third fire in 24 hours was in a three-unit vacant building at 391 Island Hwy. *“The fire was originally called in as a blazing beach fire, seen from Quadra Island, and it was well involved when crews arrived at approx 10:30 p.m.,”* Vrabel says. *“Crews extinguished the fire, but there was significant damage. Thankfully, there was no one in the building.”*

The Police and Fire departments are investigating the cause of the fire.

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