

STATEMENT

Distributed December 4, 2020

Update: Fire on Wesley Street

On Thursday, December 3, 2020, shortly after 12:00pm, a large fire broke out in the encampment on Wesley Street. Fortunately, there were no injuries of occupants or City staff; however the fire fully destroyed multiple tents and triggered a number of propane tank explosions.

As a result of the physical danger from the proximity of tents, fuel and heating sources at the fire scene, Nanaimo Fire Rescue issued an Order requiring occupants be dispersed and Wesley Street be cleared of dangerous materials. Occupants of tents were provided opportunities to retrieve personal possessions in the afternoon of December 3, 2020 and the morning of Friday, December 4, 2020. Island Health mobilized rapidly to support those occupants displaced by the fire.

Due to the ongoing risk and danger to occupants and the public, the encampment has been removed and the street is being reinstated to a clear state. This includes removal of hazardous and dangerous materials. Wesley Street is anticipated to be closed to traffic throughout the weekend.

It is important to note that structures are not permitted on City road rights of ways.

Contact:

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