

August 25, 2014

Fire Crews Busy Thursday Night

Campbell River Fire Rescue was busy Thursday evening responding to a number of fire incidents.

The first incident occurred shortly after 6:30 pm, when crews responded to a report of smoke at the yard waste disposal site on Willis Road. On arrival crews found a deep-seated fire burning in a large pile of yard waste and mulch. Crews were able to bring the fire under control quickly with the assistance of two local excavators and site personnel. The cause of the fire appears to be spontaneous combustion due to the heat generated by the decomposition of materials in the large pile.

Shortly after crews were mopping up from this fire, they received reports of as many as twenty sky lanterns being released into the air on the beach in front of Dahl Road. A number of these lanterns travelled a fair distance inland before coming down and landing in residential areas and remote areas of brush. One sky lantern was reported landing on a cedar shake roof, however fortunately did not catch the roof on fire.

A sky lantern, also known as a Chinese lantern, is a small hot air balloon made of paper, with an opening at the bottom where a small fire (such as a candle) is suspended. They are typically launched for play or as part of a festivity.

Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Doherty states, "The release of these open flame devices during the extreme fire conditions and fire bans in place is extremely dangerous and reckless. We are extremely fortunate that we were not faced with multiple fires spread across a large area of the City last night."

Shortly after 02:00 am crews responded to a recycle bin on fire at the Sportsplex. The bin was fully involved on arrival and was extinguished quickly by crews. This fire appears to be suspicious and is under investigation by RCMP.

As the hot dry weather conditions continue, Campbell River Fire Rescue remind the public to use caution, report any smoke sightings immediately and check the local fire restrictions and bans in place.

Contact: Thomas Doherty, Deputy Fire Chief

(250) 286-6266