

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Support Services Available for Those Displaced by Downtown Maple Ridge Fire

Maple Ridge, B.C: The City of Maple Ridge is providing an update on the fire that took place in downtown Maple Ridge on Friday night.

People who have not yet registered in person can do so by calling the City's Emergency Support Services (ESS) partner, the Canadian Red Cross's disaster assistance toll-free line at 1-888-800-6493 to identify that they have been impacted by the Maple Ridge fire. The operator will connect the caller with the appropriate ESS resources.

"While we are thankful there were no serious injuries, our heartfelt thoughts are with everyone that has been impacted by the devastating fire that took place on the weekend especially those who have lost their homes and belongings," said Mayor Ruimy. "The City is working with our partner agencies to ensure that all those impacted get the support and services they need to get through this difficult time. Maple Ridge will come together as a community, as we always do, to help our neighbours."

Fire Response Overview

Maple Ridge Fire and Rescue Services responded to the fire just before midnight on Friday, June 9 at the secured site of a five-story building that was under construction on the 22500 block of Brown Avenue. The building was a wood frame structure that did not yet have its exterior cladding, nor were the fire sprinklers and fire separations installed.

The intensity of the fire at the construction site resulted in extensive damage to the apartment building to the north as well as three single family residences directly east and west of the construction site. In total, approximately 80 residential units were impacted by the fire displacing an estimated 200 residents.

The fire response involved 50 firefighters and 12 apparatus including mutual aid from the City of Pitt Meadows and City of Mission Fire Services.

"I would like to thank our firefighters and my mutual aid colleagues for their quick action and dedication to bringing this intense fire under control," said Chief Van Dop. "We are grateful for the incredible support from partners including Pitt Meadows and Mission Fire Services, Ridge Meadows RCMP, TransLink, BC Emergency Health Services, the Royal Canadian Legion, the Canadian Red Cross, and the Salvation Army."

In the early moments of the response, those displaced by the fire were provided temporary shelter at the Shipley's No Frills Maple Ridge grocery store and the Royal Canadian Legion while the Emergency Support Services were made available at Greg Moore Youth Centre as the Reception Centre.

The fire was brought under control by approximately 4:00 a.m. and firefighters remained on scene until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday at which time the building was turned over to the insurance agencies.

Investigation Underway

The Maple Ridge Fire and Rescue Services in partnership with the Ridge Meadows RCMP have begun their investigation into the cause of the fire at the construction site. An update will be provided once the investigation is complete.

How to Donate and Help

The Canadian Red Cross, the City's ESS partner, is working with those displaced by the fire to access their immediate and long-term needs. Once a local partner has been identified to handle the donations, information will be shared on the City's social media channels.

"While we are moved by the outpouring of generosity that is coming from our community to help their neighbours in need, cash donations are preferred as this provides the greatest flexibility in helping those impacted by the fire," said Mayor Ruimy.

Debris Disposal and Impacts

The intense fire at the construction site resulted in debris being spread up to two kilometres north and west of the fire site. The City deployed a street sweeper on Saturday to remove debris off of the road network.

If people find debris on their private property, they are advised to ensure that it is cool to touch, then bag the debris, using gloves, and dispose of it in their regular garbage.

Insurance Claims

If debris has caused damage to vehicles or private property, citizens should reach out to ICBC or their private insurance company to report the damage and make a claim.

Building Access

The evacuated building has been turned over to the property management company, Fraser Property Management, to begin their assessments and site remediation. Residents of the building should contact their strata manager if they have enquiries on accessing the building. The email for Fraser Property Management is info@fraserproperty.ca.

Road Closures

A road closure at Brown Avenue from Edge Street east of 225 Street remains in effect. People are asked to avoid any unnecessary travel to the site as assessments and remediation work is underway. For further updates, please follow the City's social media channels or visit www.mapleridge.ca/downtownfire.