

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 8/7/2024 7:12:55 AM

Subject: Upcoming Media Statement from Vancouver Fire Rescue Services on August 6 Fires

Dear Mayor and Council,

Following on my earlier note, please see below a media statement that will be issued immediately on behalf of the Vancouver Fire Rescue Services regarding the August 6 fires. Please keep the statement embargoed until it crosses the City media account shortly.

We will be hosting a media scrum tomorrow morning as part of the pre-planned Kits Pool reopening event. We request that you refer all media inquiries to media@vancouver.ca as CEC will coordinate responses with VFRS.

Best,
Paul

**Vancouver Fire Rescue Services
Media Statement
August 7, 2024**

Statement from Vancouver Fire Rescue Services on August 6 Fires

Yesterday, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services responded to multiple fires within Vancouver.

The fire at 414 E. 10th Avenue began at approximately 4:30 pm in the afternoon. Several crews responded and successfully put out the active flames. VFRS will continue to monitor the site and manage remaining hot spots. Given the condition of the structure, the City's Chief Building Official has ordered that it be demolished. We expect that work will proceed as soon as possible in the coming days.

At about 6:30 pm, a large fire broke out at 3477 W. 41st Avenue, involving the collapse of a construction crane. Embers from this fire ignited nine additional fires, impacting residents and creating excessive smoke.

Emergency personnel, including Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS), Vancouver Police and BC Ambulance Service arrived on scene immediately and began to put out the fires, provide medical services and evacuate residents.

There are currently no active fires. Firefighters continue to remain onsite to monitor remaining hotspots.

Road barricades are now in place to ensure safety, and the impact on roads around the crane site will take longer to clear.

Our thoughts are with those impacted. Those displaced and needing support should call 3-1-1.

All residents on the north and south side of W. 41st Avenue between Blenheim and Collingwood ([3300-3400 block](#)) and south side of W. 40th between Blenheim and Collingwood have been evacuated and cannot return home.

Those outside this area may return home. BC Hydro is currently working to restore power to these areas. People with underlying breathing conditions are advised to leave the affected area and find a safe indoor space.

BC Hydro reported more than 419 people are impacted by a related power outage, and Fortis BC has confirmed that two homes were impacted by a gas shut off. Updates will be available on the [BC](#)

[Hydro website](#).

A full investigation will take place to determine the circumstances surrounding both incidents. We ask for the public's patience and understanding as an investigation takes place.

VFRS is grateful for the support of the Burnaby Fire Department and Richmond Fire-Rescue who dispatched personnel and firetrucks, and Crofton House School for providing space to process displaced residents.

Please check the City of Vancouver's social media channels for the latest information, including traffic impact updates.

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Media contact:

City of Vancouver

Civic Engagement and Communications

media@vancouver.ca

Traffic Advisory:

Traffic between W 40th and 41st Avenue and Collingwood and Blenheim Street will remain impacted. Please avoid the area.

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.