



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update of St Anne Camp Fires

Maple Ridge, BC: In light of the string of fires that have occurred at the St. Anne camp site in the last 72 hours, the City has doubled the security presence around the site for the foreseeable future to address neighbourhood and site safety. The City has also requested additional police attention around the camp to support this increased security.

These are interim measures as Council explores all available options to address the ongoing safety concerns and work towards longer term solutions to see the camp come to an end.

The City recognizes the compassion of area residents and asks advocates to encourage the camp residents to take advantage of the bus that comes to the camp site daily at 9:00 pm to take people to the church program that's providing meal service and a safe and warm place to spend the evening. The alternative is the Salvation Army emergency shelter that is also providing meals and safe and warm sleeping options. Both of these programs are staffed by professionals and volunteers that care deeply about the safety of their clients.

"Please do not bring propane tanks or any other accelerants and ignitions sources to the St. Anne Camp. As we have seen over the last few days, this has created a dangerous situation for the people in the camp and surrounding neighbourhood. At the end of the day we want everyone to feel, and be, safe," said Mayor Morden. "I also ask that people who are frustrated with the situation stay clear of the camp and give our law enforcement and fire professionals the space to do their work."

"I assure you that Council has the same concerns as the community. What's been taking place at the camp is untenable and unacceptable for the camp residents, the people in the neighbourhood and first responders. We will continue our work to deal with this problem," said the Mayor.