

For Immediate Release
09-058

October 9, 2009
10:00 am

SPIRIT OF VANCOUVER ISLAND OUT OF SERVICE Minor fire occurred in a stand-by generator

VICTORIA – BC Ferries’ Spirit of Vancouver Island, which operates on the Swartz Bay – Tsawwassen route, has been removed from service, as a result of a small fire in a stand-by generator. The fire was quickly extinguished by engineers and no injuries were reported; however, the ship’s return to service is unknown at this time.

While BC Ferries and regulatory agencies assess the damage, the Spirit of Vancouver Island will not sail today. As a result, the following sailings are cancelled:

Exit Swartz Bay:	Exit Tsawwassen:
7:00 am	9:00 am
11:00 am	1:00 pm
3:00 pm	5:00 pm
7:00 pm	9:00 pm

The following additional sailings have been added:

Exit Swartz Bay:	Exit Tsawwassen:
8:00 pm	8:00 pm
10:00 pm	10:00 pm

BC Ferries will make additional sailings as necessary. For full schedule details, visit www.bcferrries.com.

Three ships, the Spirit of British Columbia, the Coastal Celebration and the Queen of New Westminster will continue to provide service on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route on their regular schedules.

Due to the reduced capacity on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route, assured loading tickets (ALTs) will not be honoured on this route today only.

BC Ferries is advising customers travelling between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island without reservations to travel via the Tsawwassen – Duke Point or Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay route. In addition to the regular schedule, an extra ship will provide supplemental

service on the Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay route today and over the weekend when traffic warrants.

Foot passengers are advised to travel late in the day when demand decreases. Each vessel is licensed to carry a maximum number of passengers and foot passenger overloads are expected on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route today.

BC Ferries will provide an update when more information about the status of the Spirit of Vancouver Island is available.

- 30 -

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