



NEWS RELEASE

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(Fire District to Begin Investigation of Beaverton House Fire)

The cause of a fire that destroyed a home at 530 SW 139th Avenue in Beaverton at 1:47 am this morning remains under investigation. Due to concerns about the stability of the structure and weight of the fire damaged and water soaked combustibles in the attic overhead, TVF&R's Technical Rescue Team was called to the scene to shore up the structure before fire investigators could safely access the garage. Fire investigators began the arduous task of processing the scene at approximately noon today.

Fire officials credit a next door neighbor, who had just come home, for alerting the McMullen family that their house was on fire. Public Information Officer Karen Eubanks states, "This family was extremely lucky. Had it not for the actions of their neighbor, this fire could have grown to the point that it hampered their ability to safely escape." Although the family had working smoke alarms, they did not activate until Mr. McMullen opened the back door to the garage and smoke from the fire traveled into the house. Mr. McMullen told fire officials that the fire seemed to erupt upon opening the back door and his family had only enough time to throw on a pair of jeans and/or bathrobe before escaping.

When the first crew from TVF&R arrived, four minutes after the 9-1-1 call, the fire had consumed a significant portion of the home. In addition, they also had to contend with fire spreading to two cars in the driveway, a fence, and a shed with propane tanks. Crews also faced the hazard of a live downed power line in the backyard.

Damage is estimated to be at least \$200,000.

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