



NEWS RELEASE

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(Aloha Fire Reveals Marijuana Operation)

A fire in an Aloha home this morning uncovered an apparent marijuana growing operation. The initial calls to 9-1-1 dispatchers reported smoke in the area of SW 208th and Imperial Drive. Firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) were dispatched at 10:41 a.m. to the area. Upon arrival in the neighborhood, they discovered flames coming from the chimney chase of a 3-bedroom ranch-style home at 2275 SW 205th Place. The first arriving crew from TVF&R's Aloha Fire Station #62 quickly knocked down the flames on the exterior of the 1,550-square foot, wood-frame house. They entered the structure and found fire still burning in the attic. While extinguishing the flames, firefighters discovered what appeared to be marijuana plants and grow lights in the large attic space. Once the fire was extinguished, the scene was secured and turned over to Washington County Sheriff's Deputies for further investigation.

No one was at home when the fire broke out. A pit bull dog found in the yard was turned over to Washington County Animal Control. The home was a rental. It was valued at \$275,000 dollars and sustained an estimated \$100,000 in damage. TVF&R fire investigators will be working to determine the cause of the blaze in conjunction with the sheriff's department investigation of the possible criminal activity. A total of 25 firefighters (1-alarm) fought the fire including an engine company, truck company and battalion chief from Hillsboro Fire Department. There were no injuries.

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