



NEWS RELEASE

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Space Heater Most Likely Cause of Early Morning Fire in Aloha

An aggressive fire attack by crews from TVF&R and Hillsboro Fire controlled a residential fire in Aloha within six minutes of arrival this morning (9:02-9:08 a.m.). The three bedroom rental home at 19455 SW Sharoaks (off SW Alexander), occupied by a couple and their school-age child, sustained approximately \$60,000 in damage. The family escaped the fire without injuries but their possessions were lost due to fire and smoke damage. The Red Cross responded to the scene and is providing the family with assistance.

TVF&R investigators have determined that the blaze was likely caused by materials coming into contact with a space heater. Unsafe heating is the second most common source of fire (cooking is first).

Safety Tips:

- Keep curtains, mattresses, furniture, clothing, and all other combustibles a minimum of three feet from all portable and baseboard heaters. Portable heaters and baseboard heaters are not dryers.
- Never cover the heating unit!
- Turn off all portable heaters when leaving the room and never leave them unattended.
- Be sure heater cords are free from damage and placed out of common walkways.
- When buying heaters, look for safety features such as switches that turn the unit off should it tip over.
- Portable heaters are temporary heating units for single rooms – don't try to heat the whole house for an extended period of time.
- Teach children to stay clear of space heaters.
- Never use kerosene, propane or other outdoor-use heaters indoors – they may start a fire and there is a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Be Sure You Have Working Smoke Alarms and Fire Extinguishers!

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