



NEWS RELEASE

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(Burn to Learn to Make Room for New Fire Station in Tigard)

On Friday, May 4th, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue will be conducting a training house burn at 12585 SW Walnut Street in Tigard. The benefit of the Burn to Learn is two-fold: provide valuable live-fire training in an actual residential structure for nine newly hired firefighters and make way for construction of a new fire station.

The Burn to Learn will begin around 8:30 a.m. when TVF&R Training Officers will set small fires in the house and send recruit firefighters inside to extinguish them. The process will be supervised by experienced, career firefighters and will follow strict safety guidelines. Once the training drills for the recruits are completed, the house will be allowed to burn in a controlled and safe manner. The barn located on the property will also be burned utilizing defensive fire attack methods (exterior only).

This process provides invaluable training experience for the nine recruits and saves taxpayer money by reducing the amount of demolition debris that must be removed from the site. Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue conducts these types of training burns several times a year. Training Officer Bret Boysen, states, "A Burn to Learn allows firefighters to learn the limits of their equipment and tactics in an educational, non-emergency environment." Boysen added, "They are invaluable when it comes to keeping firefighters' skills and teamwork sharp for real emergencies where seconds count and there is little room for error."

Construction of the new Tigard station is slated to begin on the 3.3 acre site in late 2007. The District's plan includes a 9,600-square foot, three-bay fire station, with a community room for neighborhood meetings. In addition, TVF&R has been working cooperatively with the City of Tigard to use a portion of the site for better access and parking for Jack Park located directly behind the property.

The new fire station will reduce emergency response times to a large portion of northern Tigard. The area has long been a concern for TVF&R, because of its increasing response times due to high call volume, the number of homes being built, and increased traffic. Once operational, the Walnut Street station will serve north and northwest Tigard (Summer Lake), north and northeast Bull Mountain, and portions of southern Beaverton (Progress Ridge and Barrows Road). The station will provide advanced life support (paramedic) emergency medical, fire, and rescue response. The cost of constructing the \$2.25 million fire station was included in the \$77.5 million, 20-year bond that voters overwhelmingly approved last November. More details on the new station, including the architectural station design plan, can be found on Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's website at www.tvfr.com.

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