



NEWS RELEASE

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Release: Immediately

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(Holiday Proves Busy for Fire District)

Firefighters responded to a multitude of fires overnight including several caused by fireworks, while Fire Investigators - riding with local police officers - responded to reports of illegal firework activity.

Juniper Hedge Fire / 273 SW Schiller Terrace, Aloha (10:13 pm):

Firefighters arrived to find a tall juniper hedge on fire, with flames shooting 20 feet high and threatening a home. The homeowners were gone at the time of the fire, but a young juvenile male admitted to lighting a Ground Bloom Flower legal firework that was determined to have started the fire.

Church Fire / 29500 SW Grahams Ferry Road, Wilsonville (10:34 pm):

Firefighters extinguished a small fire at the now vacant Living Enrichment Center - a 154,000 square foot church - no longer in use. The fire was determined to have been started by one or more individuals who entered the unsecured building and discharged legal and illegal fireworks inside the sanctuary. The fire was discovered by a caretaker, who attempted to extinguish it with jugs of water before calling 9-1-1. The fire caused approximately \$2,000 damage to the structure. Anyone with information on who might be responsible, should call Deputy Fire Marshal Ed Bonollo at 503-356-4700.

Deck Fire / 6532 SW Hoffert Place (3:49 am):

A homeowner awakened by "the smell of a campfire" looked out his second-story window to see fire consuming his deck and spreading to the exterior siding of his home. He called 9-1-1, awakened his family and escaped as smoke was beginning to fill the home. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire, which is estimated to have caused between \$5-7,500 damage. The cause is believed to have been fireworks discharged earlier in the night that had been left on the deck.

TVF&R Fire Investigators also had a busy night as they rode with police officers responding to complaints of, and patrolling neighborhoods looking for, illegal fireworks. In Tualatin confiscated fireworks from 7 seizure incidents filled a police car. The operation will be repeated again this evening as police and fire officials expect individuals to enjoy "leftover" fireworks.

Fire officials remind individuals that dry conditions and warm weather should prompt extreme caution when using fireworks.

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