



NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 20, 2007

Release Date: Immediately

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(Woman Dies from Injuries Sustained in House Fire; Investigation Concludes)

Fire officials are saddened to report that Diane Ferrell, age 49, has died from smoke inhalation sustained from a fire in her home at 7650 W 141st Avenue in Beaverton. On Tuesday morning, TVF&R firefighters responded to the home to find heavy fire coming from the upstairs windows. They mounted an aggressive interior fire attack and searched the home for residents feared to be inside. Within minutes firefighters found Ferrell in an upstairs bathroom and brought her outside where they administered advanced life-support procedures. She was transported by ambulance to Providence St. Vincent Medical Center with two TVF&R Firefighter/Paramedics continuing aggressive CPR en route. Upon evaluation and initial treatment at St. Vincent, Ferrell was transferred to Legacy Emanuel Burn Center where she passed away on Wednesday.

Following interviews with family members and an exhaustive examination of the fire scene, fire investigators from TVF&R and Oregon State Police believe that the fire originated in an upstairs bedroom. Due to the devastation caused by the fire, investigators were unable to conclusively identify a specific cause. Damage estimates are expected to be between \$75 -100,000.

At the time of the fire the home did not have a working smoke alarm. It is believed that Ferrell – who was in her upstairs bedroom when the fire broke out – was likely disoriented and confused by the toxic smoke that had filled her home and while trying to escape, collapsed in a bathroom where she was found by firefighters. TVF&R reminds individuals that it's the *smoke that kills!* A house fire is nothing like scenes on television or in the movies in which individuals run through the smoke and fire. Smoke from a fire is toxic and can overcome you long before the flames ever reach you. Most fire deaths in Oregon occur due to smoke inhalation not burns. To protect yourself and give you time to escape a fire, ensure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home between the living and the sleeping areas. For maximum protection place a smoke alarm in every bedroom. Families should also create and practice an escape plan. For the utmost in protection, consider installing a residential sprinkler system. Smoke alarms and fire sprinklers together increase your chances of surviving a fire by 82%.

For more information on fire safety, smoke alarms, escape planning, and residential sprinklers visit www.tvfr.com.

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