



NEWS RELEASE

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Release: Immediately

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(Hot Temperatures Prompt Safety Tips from Fire District)

TVF&R firefighters responded to two incidents this afternoon. The first occurred at 2:32 pm and involved a field fire at Sherwood High School on the baseball diamond. The fire burned approximately 2 acres and is believed to have started in a riding lawn mower. With limited access due to cyclone fencing and construction, firefighters accessed the property on foot and stretched 300 feet of hand lines across the field to extinguish the fire. Damage is estimated at \$1,000.

The second fire occurred at 2:37 pm and involved a roof fire at 31116 SW Willamette Way West in Wilsonville. Firefighters arrived to find smoke coming from the roof and extinguished the fire within 10 minutes. The specific cause remains undetermined. However, officials believe it may have been started by a firework that landed on the dry shake roof. Estimated damage is \$2,000 to the roof.

With hot temperatures here and expected to last for awhile, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue encourages individuals to exercise caution when using all fire materials.

Fireworks

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue typically responds to 40-60 fires each year caused by both illegal and legal fireworks. **Oregon law bans fireworks that fly, explode, or act in an uncontrolled manner.** Although fireworks sold at local stands are legal in Oregon, it does not mean they are less risky than illegal fireworks. In fact, many of the fireworks fires responded to by TVF&R are caused by improper use or disposal of legal fireworks. The majority of these incidents involved situations where people placed devices they thought were "spent" into trash containers alongside buildings and they later ignited.

- Have a bucket of water or hose nearby to "douse" misfired and spent fireworks and/or extinguish potential fires.
- Use fireworks outside on a paved surface, far away from buildings and bushes.

Smoking Materials

Over the past several weeks, TVF&R has responded to dozens of small fires started by discarded cigarettes. Although most of the incidents involved smoldering flowerbeds and burnt vegetation, discarded cigarettes resulted in several fires that damaged fencing material, a deck, and exterior siding on a house before being extinguished. As hot temperatures dry out flower beds and lawns, it only takes one improperly discarded cigarette to start a fire. When smoking, discard cigarettes in a metal container or ashtray.

Barbecue Safety

Used briquettes can remain warm enough to start a fire for several days. If you can't wait 2-3 days before removing from the barbecue, discard of briquettes in a metal can, far away from combustibles. For propane barbeques, check the fittings each time you change the propane bottle.

Open Burning

Due to hot temperatures and dry conditions, the Washington County Fire Defense Board has issued a Burn Ban for outdoor burning activities (agricultural, logging/land clearing, and backyard burning) to take effective July 5. The Burn Ban will remain in effect until cooler temperatures arrive and minimize the fire danger. *The Burn Ban does not include recreational burning - backyard pit, individuals hiking, or camping with a campfire in designated and/or self-made fire pits. However, Individuals intending to burn in this manner should use caution and common sense!*

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