



NEWS RELEASE – Photo Op

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(TVF&R and Portland Hazardous Materials Teams to Participate in Realistic Drill)

On Monday, March 26, from 10:30 am – noon, the Hazardous Materials Teams from TVF&R and Portland, and an engine crew from Lake Oswego, will be participating in a realistic drill at the Durham Clean Water Services Facility at 16580 SW 85th Avenue in Tigard. The exercise simulates a chemical leak and patients in an industrial facility.

(See photos on next page). Monday's drill – the last in a series of three – is an opportunity for Portland and TVF&R teams to train together to become familiar with the other's procedures, tools, and equipment. The two teams are the primary responders to a hazardous materials incident in the Portland Metropolitan area and depending on the severity and size of the emergency, could be called to assist one another.

TVF&R and Portland are two of 15 Regional Hazardous Materials Teams based in Oregon. TVF&R's service area includes all or most of Yamhill and Washington County, and portions of Marion, Clackamas, and Lincoln County. TVF&R's team consists of 36 highly trained individuals who operate 24/7 from two fire stations located in Tualatin and the Progress area. The team responds to fires, chemical spills, toxic releases, illegal drug labs, and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents. The team also provides phone consultation to neighboring fire departments dealing with minor hazardous materials situations. The team is not responsible for clean-up and disposal of chemicals.

It takes approximately 8-12 trained individuals to effectively manage a hazardous materials incident. Team members have a vast array of specialized equipment and resources, including computerized chemical databases; biological, chemical, and radiological monitoring and detection devices; personal protective equipment for entry into dangerous environments; containment items, and communications equipment. Two 36-foot vehicles house this equipment and transport team members to an incident. The team has utilized federal grant money to update older hazardous materials units with new and more modern equipment. Team members receive 160 hours of initial training. In addition, TVF&R's team members participate in classroom and hands-on training each Monday.

Media interested in covering Monday's drill should contact Karen Eubanks at 503-441-9324.

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