



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Release: Immediately  
Contact: Cassandra Ulven, 503-441-9324 (pager)

(Firefighters Prevent House Fire in Washington County from Becoming a Wildfire)

With high temperatures and dry vegetation, firefighters are especially concerned when they respond to reports of fires in rural settings. Just after 1 p.m. today, firefighters from Washington County Fire District # 2 and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue responded to reports of a house fire at 22560 SW Schmeltzer Road in Washington County.

When firefighters arrived, they saw flames approximately 30' high shooting from the roof. Since they were uncertain as to whether there were any people inside, they began to attack the fire from inside the home while searching for any occupants. After two searches, they did not find anyone and the incident commander pulled fire crews from the structure due to concerns about its stability.

Because there are no fire hydrants in the area, firefighters had to use water from water tenders to extinguish the fire from the outside, as well as flames that burned a 50' x 100' area of a nearby field.

Currently firefighters remain on scene applying foam to the structure to prevent any hot spots from rekindling. Fortunately, there were no injuries as a result of this fire. A fire investigator from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue is on scene and will process physical evidence and conduct witness interviews to try and determine what caused the fire. There are no damage estimates at this time.

Homeowners who live in a similar rural or wildland urban interface area are encouraged to visit [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com) for tips on making their home more defensible in the event of a fire.

**Please note:** Originally this fire was thought to be in Washington County Fire District #2's jurisdiction. It is actually part of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's service area. Regardless of an incident's address, all closest resources are always dispatched to an emergency incident based on mutual aid agreements between all regional agencies. These agreements ensure that the closest resources are always efficiently dispatched to emergencies.

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