



NEWS RELEASE

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Fire and Evacuation at Washington Square Target Store

At 4:06 p.m. this afternoon, firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue received a call that the Washington Square Target store was filled with white smoke. They responded to find white and gray smoke from the ceiling down to about eight feet off the floor. Fortunately most employees and customers had already been evacuated and crews learned that the smoke was concentrated in the restaurant area.

Firefighters secured the inside utilities, checked to see if the office above the cooking area was affected and thoroughly searched the top floors and roof with thermal imaging cameras to ensure that there was no fire. Firefighters did find evidence of charring on some of the heating and cooling (HVAC) duct work above the kitchen area.

Ladders were used to open the return vent at the location of the charring, and ceiling tiles were pulled in several areas to evaluate the extension of the fire. The vent system was reversed remotely once firefighters determined that the fire had not spread and fans were set up to draw air out of the structure. The building was also checked for carbon monoxide.

Crews turned the scene over to the duty investigator and no damage estimates were available. The Target store remained closed for the evening to clean up from smoke damage.

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