



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Release: Immediately

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### **(Two Fires Displace Washington County Families)**

A pair of unrelated fires damaged two Washington County homes within an hour today. The first was reported by a passerby at 11:22 am at 12985 SW Edgewood Street, just north of Beaverton. Firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Beaverton Main Fire Station #67 arrived to find fire coming from the roof of a one-story, three-bedroom, wood frame home. They found the main floor clear, but a moderate amount of fire in the attic. They aggressively attacked the blaze and extinguished it within ten minutes. No one was home at the time of the fire. Investigators believe the most likely cause is a malfunctioning bathroom exhaust fan. Damage to the home is estimated at \$40-thousand. The family renting the home had renters' insurance and the insurer is providing temporary housing.

The second fire occurred at 5794 NW 181<sup>st</sup>. It was called in by a neighbor to 9-1-1 dispatchers at 12:32 pm. The first arriving TVF&R engine from the Somerset Station #64 found heavy fire coming from an open garage with flames extending up the front of the two-story home. Additionally, they had to deal with shrubbery that had ignited and was threatening a nearby home. Firefighters mounted an aggressive attack and knocked down the garage fire, extinguished the shrubbery fire, and then entered the home to extinguish the remaining fire that had entered a bedroom over the garage. The interior of the home suffered some smoke damage. Again, no one was home at the time of the blaze. The damage estimate is expected to exceed \$60-thousand. The Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross has been requested to assist the woman and her four children who were renting the home. Another occupant had his own renter's insurance. The cause of the second blaze remains under investigation.

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