



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **A Busy Weekend for TVF&R**

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighters and investigators were busy last weekend. They responded to five fires that had several things in common:

- No one was injured;
- Once on scene, firefighters were able to control each blaze in a matter of minutes;
- Investigators have determined that each fire resulted from a different preventable cause.

#### **Aloha Fire – 19455 S.W. Sharoaks Drive**

(April 21, 9 a.m.)

After escaping from their burning rental home, an Aloha family watched firefighters from TV&R and Hillsboro bring the blaze under control within six minutes of arrival. The three bedroom home sustained approximately \$60,000 in damage. The family's possessions were almost entirely lost, and the Red Cross provided assistance. TVF&R investigators determined the likely cause of the blaze was materials coming into contact with a space heater. Unsafe heating is the second most common source of fire (cooking is first).

#### **Beaverton Fourplex – 12175 S.W. Nadina Court**

(April 21, 3:15 p.m.)

Initial concerns about people possibly trapped inside and the presence of downed power lines added additional challenges to this Saturday afternoon fire. Teams of firefighters quickly investigated the adjacent three units (finding them unoccupied), while others stopped the spread of the fire within minutes of arrival. Six people were displaced and received assistance from the Red Cross. Remarkably, while the fire destroyed the unit it originated in, damage to the neighboring apartments was limited. The cause of the fire was determined to be unattended candles.

#### **Tigard – 15965 SW Avalon Place**

(April 22, 3 a.m.)

At the urging of his wife, who thought she smelled smoke, the homeowner stepped outside to discover significant smoke and a small fire. Smoke alarms in the house went off at the same time. The first responding crew was on scene within four minutes and extinguished the blaze. Follow-up by the TVF&R

investigator determined that hot ashes has been placed in the recycling bin and left along side the house. Had the siding not been fire resistant, this could have been a far more serious incident.

Garden Home – 9166 SW 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue

(April 22, 5 p.m.)

A cooking fire spread into cabinets above the stove in this apartment blaze on Sunday afternoon. Fortunately, the complex has fire sprinklers which activated and immediately extinguished the fire. When the first fire crew arrived on scene they found everyone outside and the fire out.

Following a series of deadly apartment fires in the 1990's, TVF&R pursued a number of actions to reduce the likelihood of future multi-family fires. One of these was working cooperatively with all the cities and counties the District serves to adopt a common fire sprinkler requirement for multi-family housing.

West Linn – 540 Rosemont Lane

(April 23, 4 a.m.)

A West Linn couple awoke to fire on their third-story porch early Monday morning. Firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Lake Oswego Fire, and Clackamas County Fire District 1 were dispatched. Crews had the fire contained minutes after arrival. An investigator with TVF&R determined that the cause of the fire was likely a cigarette left burning on a sofa on the balcony. This illustrates why TVF&R strongly supported the successful effort to pass “fire safe” cigarette legislation this session. Under the bill, tobacco companies will soon be required to manufacture cigarettes so that they self-extinguish if the smoker stops puffing.

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