



NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 27, 2008
Release Date: Immediately
Contact: Cassandra Ulven, 503-441-9324 (PIO pager)

(Embers on Wood Shake Roof Cause of Afternoon House Fire)

A Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue fire investigator has determined that the cause of an afternoon house fire in Clackamas County was embers from a wood-burning fireplace that ignited a cedar shake roof. The home's chimney did not have a spark arrester which allowed burning debris to escape from the fireplace.

Around 1:30 p.m. this afternoon, firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue were dispatched to a house fire at 2460 SW Gregory Drive in Clackamas County. First-arriving crews saw flames on the roof and homeowner Bob Willis spraying the siding and roof with a garden hose. Fortunately Bob's wife Jeanne had exited the home when she heard loud crackling sounds, and no one was injured as a result of the fire. The couple had started a fire in their wood stove earlier in the day.

Using a hoseline they had to stretch several hundred feet, firefighters aggressively attacked the fire on the roof and made their way inside to salvage furniture and extinguish flames in the attic and the second story of the home. Firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading to a nearby outbuilding and neighboring homes. They were also able to save many valuable family heirlooms, including urns, and they rescued the family's cat.

Despite firefighters' quick response time and rapid intervention, however, the house sustained significant damage. Fortunately the couple has insurance, and they will be staying with family until the home is repaired. The Willis' had always felt concerned about the fire danger of their home's wood shingles, which had been required by their neighborhood covenants. Because of a new ordinance adopted earlier this year by Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue's Board of Directors, they will have the option of replacing their roof with non-combustible roofing materials since it is located in an area considered a wildfire hazard zone.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue has identified Wildfire Hazard Zones within its 220-square-mile service area. These areas were identified using specific criteria such as topography, water supply, and vegetation. The adoption of the ordinance and map now gives homeowners residing in a hazard zone, the option of saying “no” to wood shake and shingle roofing - even if mandated by their homeowners’ association covenants and restrictions. The District has identified 12,544 tax lots in Washington and Clackamas counties that fall within an identified zone. **To see if you reside in a wildland hazard zone call TVF&R at 503-649-8577. [View the Map](#) (PDF)**

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