



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **(Investigation Concludes in Main Street Village Apartment Fire)**

On August 16th, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue responded to a two-alarm fire at the Main Street Village Apartments in Tigard. When firefighters arrived, they found heavy smoke and flames on the back side of a three-story apartment building. They quickly brought the fire under control and damage was isolated to a third-story apartment and roof. A total of nine tenants were displaced. The fire caused an estimated \$70,000 to the building and \$30,000 to personal contents.

TVF&R Fire Investigators have concluded their investigation into the fire. They believe the fire originated on the back deck of a third story unit. On the deck was a Perfect Flame Double Lid Four Burner Gas Grill—a barbecue recently recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. While investigators do not have conclusive evidence that the barbecue was to blame for the fire due to the extensive damage, the occupants told investigators that they were using the barbecue at the time of the fire. According to CPSC, there have been 175 reports of grill fires and 25 reports of grills melting with this specific gas barbecue. Information on recalls involving the Perfect Flame barbecue and other products can be found on TVF&R's website at [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com).

Annually in the United States there are over 6,000 fires and 170 injuries due to barbecue grills. Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue reminds individuals of the following safety tips:

- Before barbecuing, place your grill away from your home and/or out from underneath a patio overhang in case of fire.
- Never leave your barbecue unattended and have a hose or bucket of water nearby in case of fire.
- Before using a propane barbecue, inspect the hoses and fittings on your propane grill for cracks and leaks.
- Only open the propane tank a quarter to one-half turn. That is all the gas a barbecue needs to operate, and if encounter a problem, it is quicker to shut-off.
- Never squirt lighter fluid on an open flame. The flame can follow the stream of lighter fluid back to the container in your hands and cause an explosive fire.
- Charcoal briquettes can remain warm enough to start a fire for several days. Wait before removing used charcoal briquettes from the barbecue. If you need to remove the briquettes before then, place them in a metal container away from combustibles or – using tongs – submerge briquettes in a pail of water.

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