



NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 16, 2008
Release Date: Immediately
Contact: Walt Peck, 503-441-9324 (pager)

Aggressive fire attack limits damage at Main Street Village Apartment in Tigard

Three minutes after receiving the emergency call, a Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue crew from the downtown Tigard station arrived to find heavy black smoke coming from a third-story apartment at the Main Street Village Apartments. A two-person team entered the apartment, found dense smoke at shoulder height, and was able to determine that the apartment residents had safely fled. Subsequent searches of the adjacent units produced the same "all clear."

While the search process was underway, firefighters began an offensive attack on the fire which was concentrated on the back porch area and in the attic of the third-story unit. Bystanders recalled hearing windows in the apartment explode because of the heat and pressure caused by the smoke. Other teams of firefighters took to the roof and quickly cut holes to allow flames and smoke to vent vertically. Their work, combined with the presence of a fire wall, prevented the fire from spreading horizontally in the attic area to other units. The fire was under control after approximately 20 minutes.

Initial concerns about the fire spreading to other apartments in the 237 unit complex and the 100 degree heat prompted the incident commander to call for a second alarm assignment. Forty firefighters worked the fire. There were no injuries.

Fire damage was isolated to the third story unit, but concerns about the integrity of the roof mean that the 2nd and 1st story units immediately below are also uninhabitable tonight. A total of nine residents were displaced. The Red Cross is assisting.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. No estimate of damage is available at this time.

###