



NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 29, 2008
Release Date: Immediately
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(Firefighters Save Recently Remodeled Home)

Last evening at 5:18 pm, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighters were called to a house fire at 4260 SW Stoddard Drive in Aloha. The first arriving unit was a Battalion Chief who radioed to incoming crews that the home had black smoke showing from the garage and roof vents. Crews arrived and entered the front door of the home with hose lines, and extinguished the fire before it progressed into the home. The fire was contained to a small area of the garage near the garage doors. The interior of the home sustained minimal smoke damage.

According to the homeowners, they had just finished an extensive remodel of the home, which was for sale at the time of the fire. The owners had planned an Open House this weekend.

Fire Investigator Ed Bonollo states, “The most probable cause of the fire was spontaneous combustion of rags saturated with a wood staining product.” The homeowners had stained a piece of furniture the day prior and—knowing the hazards of wood staining products—had laid the rags flat to dry in the garage. The rags, however, were later placed in a pile and likely ignited. Damage estimate is \$8,000 to the home valued at approximately \$250,000.

Each year Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue responds to fires involving wood refinishing products. Wood-refinishing products contain linseed or other oils derived from vegetables or animals that, as they dry, generate their own heat. These oils can spontaneously ignite if conditions are right. Bonollo adds, “When using a wood-refinishing product, refer to the precautions listed on the can.” In most cases, manufacturers will recommend laying the rags flat to dry (away from combustibles) or placing the used rags in a metal container filled with water.

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