



NEWS RELEASE

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(Firefighters Busy Overnight with Two Unrelated House Fires in West Linn)

Firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Clackamas County Fire District #1, Lake Oswego Fire Department and Canby Fire District battled two house fires overnight in West Linn:

1914 Hall Street, West Linn

At 1:51a.m. firefighters were dispatched to reports of a home on fire. Neighbors called reporting flames spreading from the side of the home and threatening nearby homes. Firefighters arrived within five minutes to find heavy flames coming from the back side of the home.

A teenage occupant, who was the only person home at the time, had been evacuated by officers from West Linn Police Department. The family dog also escaped unharmed. Firefighters aggressively attacked the fire and were able to contain it before it spread to neighboring homes, but the home sustained significant damage.

A fire investigator has determined that the fire most likely started in a back-yard gazebo and spread to the deck, which included a propane barbecue. From there, the fire climbed up the outside of the home before it breached the attic. The exact cause of the fire is still undetermined. The family has insurance and will be staying with friends while the home is repaired.

25144 SW Petes Mountain Road

At 2:14am, while firefighters were still extinguishing the fire on Hall Street, an alarm notification was sent to dispatch advising that a heat sensor and alarm had been activated at 25144 SW Petes Mountain Road. A fire crew who had been working at the Hall Street fire was sent to investigate. When they arrived to a large, gated property with several buildings, they initially did not see any fire. As they circled the 10,000-square-foot home, they discovered flames coming from a lower level.

They immediately called for additional resources and began to fight the fire with the water supply aboard their engine. The home, which did not have a residential fire sprinkler system, is located in an area without fire hydrants. While firefighters initially fought the fire from inside, they contended with flames and fire volume which didn't diminish when they applied water. Because firefighters had confirmation that no one was trapped inside the home, and there were concerns about structural integrity, they moved to a defensive fire attack. Additionally, crews were concerned about natural gas and their water supply. Ultimately they drew water from a hydrant located off the property and a nearby pond.

The fire commander called for a third alarm to bring more resources to help fight the fire and manage water supply operations. The fire grew considerably and spread throughout the expansive home. Though firefighters were able to protect adjacent structures, the home was destroyed. The family was in Madras at the time of the fire and no firefighters were injured during the several hours they spent extinguishing the blaze.

There is no damage estimate available at this time and an investigation is underway. The home contained many irreplaceable works of art and furniture. Fortunately the family is insured and will be staying with friends.

Naturally, the family is devastated by this loss and they have requested privacy. They also do not want media on their property.

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