



NEWS RELEASE

Release: Immediate
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Christmas Eve Fire Damages House

At 6:24 pm Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was called to a house fire at 16161 SW Dewberry Lane, in Washington County. On arrival, firefighters from Station 66 in South Beaverton found a 2-story, single family residence heavily involved with fire in the second story and roof. All occupants had safely evacuated prior to firefighters' arrival. Crews initially tried to knock down the fire from inside the house, but had to withdraw due to safety concerns: part of the roof collapsed 15 minutes after the first fire engine arrived at the scene. After applying water from one of the fire engine's deck guns, firefighters re-entered the house to directly attack the fire in the attic. The house suffered heavy damage, particularly on the upper floor, but no damage estimates were available. The house was insured, and several dogs and cats that had been in or near the house made it to safety.

Firefighters were hampered by road conditions, with snow and slush hindering access, and by a frozen hydrant cap, but they were able to bring the fire under control shortly after 7 pm. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but callers to 9-1-1 reported sparks and flames from the chimney; the occupants had a fire going in their fireplace at the time. Firefighters were able to salvage some critical personal belongings for the occupants, who were going to spend the night with their neighbors.

In all, thirty fire personnel responded, with some remaining onscene overnight to ensure that no hot-spots reignite. The fire occurred near the site of [TVF&R's new Walnut Street station](#), expected to open in January 2009.

All residents and guests were able to escape to safety due to immediately leaving the house and not trying to re-enter. TVF&R reminds the public of the importance of immediate evacuation in case of fire.

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