



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: December 9, 2008  
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### **Residents Battle Kitchen Fire; Sustain Smoke Inhalation**

At 1:04 pm today, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Firefighters were called to a reported kitchen fire in a duplex at 3520 SW 113th Avenue in Beaverton. When crews arrived they found the charred remnants of a stove and overhead hood vent, and fire still smoldering in the ceiling and nearby cabinets. The husband and wife that reside in the duplex told firefighters that they were heating cooking oil on the stovetop, when it burst into flames. They attempted to extinguish the fire with baking soda, a fire extinguisher, and ultimately the hose from the kitchen faucet. They were successful in extinguishing the bulk of the fire and firefighters opened up the ceiling and walls to check for and extinguish any hidden fire. Both individuals were treated for smoke inhalation; the wife was transported to Providence St. Vincent Hospital for further assessment. She was released within an hour. The fire caused approximately \$15,000 damage. The American Red Cross responded to the scene to assist the tenants with temporary lodging.

Cooking fires are one of the leading causes of home fires. To reduce your risk of a cooking fire, TVF&R reminds you:

- Never leave food unattended on the stovetop - turn off burners or set a timer if you leave the room for any reason.
- Heat cooking oil slowly and never leave it unattended. Turn down the heat if it begins to smoke.
- Keep combustibles away from the stovetop and keep your cooking area clean.

If you experience a stovetop fire and the fire is large or appears to be growing, do not attempt to extinguish it. Quickly leave your home and call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or neighbor's house. However, if the fire is still in the pan or oven and has not spread to nearby counters or cabinets, you may be able to extinguish it yourself through one of the following methods.

- Put a Lid on It. The easiest way to extinguish a small pan fire is with a pan lid. Turn off the burner and from the side carefully slide a pan lid over the pan. The lid will "smother" the fire, while turning off the burner removes the heat. Do not move the pan until the fire is completely extinguished and the pan is cool. If you do not have a pan lid, you may also use a baking sheet or pizza pan.
- Baking Soda. If the fire is still contained in the pan, you may use baking soda. Sprinkle a generous amount in the palm of your hand and "toss" upon the fire. If the fire is not extinguished after several attempts, use a fire extinguisher or leave your home and call 9-1-1
- Use a Fire Extinguisher. Use a fire extinguisher only if the fire is small and has not spread outside the pan. The discharge of a portable fire extinguisher only lasts between 8 and 10 seconds.
- Shut the door on oven or microwave fires and turn off the heat.

For more safety tips, visit TVF&R's website at [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com).

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