



NEWS RELEASE

Release: Immediate
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Christmas Fire Damages Apartments - Updated

At 6:40 am Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a fire at the Rolling Hills Apartments, 19355 SW 65th Ave., in Tualatin. An apartment resident smelled smoked and felt heat coming from the wall of his apartment, and called 9-1-1. On arrival, firefighters from Station 34 in Tualatin found light smoke in the complex. Upon investigation, they encountered heavy smoke, heat, and near-zero visibility, and determined that the fire was in the walls and floors between apartments. Of the four apartments involved, two were vacant and one had no residents at home; the caller from the fourth apartment evacuated safely, as did residents from adjacent apartments until firefighters could determine the extent of the fire.

Crews had to use extreme caution with fire between apartments, as the floors on the upper level started to weaken. With hidden fire of unknown extent, a second alarm was struck at 7:08. In all, more than forty fire personnel from TVF&R and Lake Oswego Fire Department responded. The fire was brought under control within an hour of the first crew's arrival. There were no injuries and at present two occupants have been displaced. Four apartments were damaged; an estimate is not yet available, but neither apartment occupant had renter's insurance. Occupants of adjacent apartments were able to return to their homes.

TVF&R Fire Investigators have determined the cause of the fire to be combustibles left too close to a baseboard heater, in the apartment with no one at home. Investigators believe the materials likely smoldered for an extended period of time before igniting.

TVF&R reminds the public to leave ample space – generally at least three feet, between combustibles and heat sources. If you do not own your residence, renter's insurance costs little relative to what it provides: it can keep the horror of a residential fire from turning into an economic disaster as well. For more details, please go to www.tvfr.com.

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