



NEWS RELEASE

Release: Immediate
Date: December 25, 2008
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Fire Destroys West Linn House

At 4:06 pm Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue responded to a house fire at 4747 Walnut St. in West Linn. The resident initially smelled then saw smoke, heard a “whooshing noise,” then saw fire near the ceiling and called 9-1-1. Additional callers saw flames, and firefighters from Station 59 in West Linn found a fully engulfed structure with fire through the roof. They were able to confirm that the sole occupant was safely out of the house, at which point they immediately initiated defensive tactics, attacking the fire from outside and keeping it from spreading to other homes. The initial venting of the fire through the roof brought down nearby power lines, creating a hazard to firefighters and nearby residents until the lines could be de-energized and cut. There were no injuries, but the house was a total loss. An estimated value was not immediately available; neither the owners nor the occupant had insurance on the structure or contents.

Due to the extreme damage, ongoing fire, and structural weakness, TVF&R Fire Investigators have not been able to make entry, but they believe the house’s wood-burning stove and its associated venting to have contributed to the fire cause. Crews are expected to remain at the scene for at least several more hours in order to fully extinguish the fire. Approximately 25 fire personnel responded from TVF&R and Clackamas County Fire District #1.

TVF&R reminds the public that wood-burning stoves can be a major hazard if not properly installed, maintained, and vented. Users who are uncertain should contact a professional for installation and maintenance. For more details, please go to www.tvfr.com.

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