



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **(Firefighters Hop Train to Access Brush Fire)**

A train conductor with Portland & Western Railroad, who also serves as a volunteer firefighter, reported a brush fire just off the tracks in the vicinity of NW Cornelius Pass Road at NW Thompson Street at 7:24 a.m. this morning. Concerns about difficult access prompted a single-alarm response that initially included units from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Hillsboro Fire, Washington County Fire District 2, and Portland Fire.

After conferring with the conductor, who remained in the area, the Incident Commander determined that the best way to access the scene was aboard the 3000' long train. The train backed up 1.5 miles, with an initial team of the three firefighters. An on-rail service vehicle subsequently arrived and delivered 11 additional TVF&R personnel and water to the scene.

The slow moving fire was small in size, but very steep terrain made cutting fire lines a challenge. The hottest fire was discovered in a hollowed-out cedar tree, which firefighters fell in order to extinguish the flames. Crews remained on scene until approximately 12:30 p.m. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

This fire illustrates the importance of safeguarding homes in wooded areas against wildfire. This week is Wildfire Awareness Week and the perfect time to begin safeguarding a home against wildfire this summer. Karen Eubanks, Public Information Officer, states, "We encourage individuals conducting spring cleaning and landscaping projects to conduct improvements that not only beautify, but protect their homes." Fire safety tips for individuals who reside in an urban wildland interface can be found at [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com). In addition, TVF&R offers free inspections for homes within its service area. An inspection can be scheduled by calling TVF&R's Command and Business Operations Center at 503-649-8577

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