



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: November 21, 2008 at 9:50pm  
Release Date: Immediately  
Contact: Cassandra Ulven, 503-441-9324 (pager)

### **Alert Neighbor Reports Apartment Fire in Washington County**

At 7:43pm this evening, a fire was reported at the Bethany Meadows Apartments in Washington County, 15660 NW Athens Drive. A resident of a third-floor apartment smelled smoke coming from the second floor. When she investigated, she saw smoke through her neighbors' window. She immediately called 9-1-1.

Meanwhile, a young, well-intended neighbor climbed onto the balcony of the smoke-filled apartment. He went inside to see if anyone needed help and was overcome with smoke. He quickly evacuated and yelled for help from firefighters. Fortunately no one was inside the apartment and the young man was unharmed. First-arriving firefighters divided their efforts; one crew investigated the scene and assisted the young man from the balcony, while another entered the smoke-filled apartment to extinguish a fire burning in one of the bedrooms.

Firefighters' quick action contained the fire to the room and contents and prevented it from extending to other units. The fire was extinguished within fifteen minutes of the call to 9-1-1. The residents in the affected apartment, as well as a couple residing in a neighboring unit affected by some minor smoke and water damage, have been displaced by the fire. Sadly, two dogs and a cat in the fire unit did not survive the fire despite resuscitation efforts by firefighters.

Nearly 20 fire personnel responded to the single-alarm fire. Though the young neighbor who entered the smoke-filled unit was not hurt, firefighters caution others to refrain from entering such a dangerous environment. Without the protective equipment worn by firefighters, people in a smoky environment can be seriously hurt or killed within minutes of inhaling toxic, heated smoke.

###