



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**(Smoldering Fires Temporarily Displace Tenants from 12 Apartments)**

On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11:06 pm, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was called to investigate a “smell of smoke” in a second-story apartment (#7) at the Pacific Crest Apartments located at 10695 SW Murdock Street in Tigard. When the first unit arrived, they were told by the occupants that over the past couple of months the bathroom light and fan worked sporadically and that night the fan was sparking each time the switch was activated. In addition, there was a strong smell of smoke in several apartments.

While there was no smoke or fire showing in any of the apartments, as firefighters began removing portions of the ceiling in the bathroom, they discovered a significant amount of charred insulation. Upon further investigation they also found heavily charred roof trusses in the attic space above. All occupants of the 12-unit complex were evacuated and firefighters spent several hours searching for and extinguishing a multitude of smoldering fires in the ceiling insulation. With no electrical power to the building and to ensure their safety overnight, all tenants were evacuated. The American Red Cross was called to the scene to assist with lodging. With the exception of the tenants in Apartment #7 (origin of fire) and #5 (unit below), all tenants are expected to be allowed back in their unit later today. The tenants in Apartment #7 included two adults and an infant; Apartment #5 which sustained water damage included two adults.

A fire investigator has determined that the fire was likely the result of a ventilation fan malfunction. With the extent of charred material, it is believed that it fire may have smoldered for some time before generating enough smoke to be noticed. Damage is estimated at \$10,000. The occupants in Apartment #7 had renter’s insurance.

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