



NEWS RELEASE

Date: July 24, 2008
Release Date: Immediately
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(Two Alarm Fire Displaces 13 people from Beaverton Four-Plex)

At 1:15 pm today, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a reported four-plex fire at 13360 SW 17th Street in Beaverton. Two of the first units to respond were Engine and Truck 67 from 13810 SW Farmington Road who, as they were leaving their station a mile away, could already see a large column of heavy black smoke and had reports of an elderly handicapped woman still inside an apartment. The crews arrived within four minutes to find a wall of fire on the backside of the two-story four-plex and fire showing from the eaves and roof of the building.

Concerned about tenants inside, crews quickly searched the units to confirm that everyone was out and began an aggressive interior fire attack. Faced with extinguishing the significantly involved four-plex and protecting two adjacent four-plex buildings, a second alarm was called at 1:23 pm, bringing over 40 firefighters to the scene. Approximately 16 minutes into the incident, crews were ordered out of the burning building when a portion of the roof collapsed. Crews continued to battle the fire from the exterior.

Access to the burning attic and roofline of the building was hampered by two garage buildings located in front of the four-plex, requiring crews to utilize two ladder trucks with 100 foot high aerial master streams. While the fire was extinguished in about 40 minutes, crews continued to battle hot spots throughout the evening. The department plans to stage a crew of volunteer firefighters at the scene throughout the night for fire watch.

The building is believed to be a complete loss. Thirteen tenants were displaced by the fire; none of which are believed to have renters insurance. They are being assisted by the American Red Cross. There is no loss estimate at this hour and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue extends its appreciation to the Beaverton Police Department who was instrumental in assisting with evacuating tenants before fire crews arrived and traffic control for fire apparatus.

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