



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: June 24, 2008  
Release Date: Immediately  
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### **(Fire Damages a Beaverton Home/Destroys Auto)**

A one-alarm fire heavily damaged a south Beaverton home and destroyed a late model SUV Sunday evening, June 22nd. The fire was reported to the Washington County 9-1-1 Dispatch Center at 6:06 pm. Firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue responded to 8425 SW Connemara Place and arrived at 6:10 pm. The first arriving engine company from TVF&R's Brockman Road Fire Station 66 found heavy fire coming from the garage door with flames extending through the roof of the garage while thick black smoke poured from the eaves of the home. Firefighters heard several explosions coming from the garage area that were later attributed to a car's gas tank or tires exploding in the flames. Shrapnel from the explosions landed on the sidewalk near the street. Engine 66's firefighters began a quick attack on the flames as other engine and truck companies arrived to begin a coordinated attack. A total of 35 firefighters, both career and volunteer, were involved in this incident.

There was no initial confirmation that the homeowners or occupants had evacuated, so firefighters began searching the house. A thorough search confirmed that it was clear of all occupants. Firefighters brought the flames under control in about 15 minutes and began salvaging and protecting the homeowners' undamaged property.

One of the homeowners, 68-year old Jane DeGreef, was at home at the time. She later told investigators she was inside the residence when she began smelling smoke. She went outside to look around and discovered the fire had already heavily damaged the wooden garage door. She remained outside as she called 9-1-1 and was uninjured. DeGreef's husband was not at home at the time.

The fire caused heavy fire damage to the garage and weakened the roof structure above it. The Incident Commander called in TVF&R's Technical Rescue Team to construct shoring that would allow investigators safe access to the likely area of the fire's origin. Other damage to the home included fire damage to the family room and extensive smoke damage throughout the building. Investigators place the damage estimate at \$125,000, which includes the loss of a 2002 Mazda SUV parked in the garage. Cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue reminds all citizens that fire can race through your home in seconds. Working smoke alarms and a well-practiced escape plan are your best insurance for safely escaping a house fire. When building a new home, consider adding residential sprinklers to create the safest place possible for your family. For more fire and life safety information, visit [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com).