



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: June 27, 2008  
Release Date: Immediately  
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### **Firefighters Battle Beaverton Four-Plex Fire**

At 6:40 pm this evening, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was called to a fire in a four-plex at 17220 SW Merlo Road in Beaverton. When crews from Station 61 and Station 67 arrived, they found heavy fire on the back side of the building and heavy smoke puffing from the eaves and vents of the building's roof. Concerned about individuals still inside, they quickly searched the units - finding no occupants - and began an aggressive interior fire attack. Crews opened up ceilings in the two units in an effort to access the attic and extinguish the fire, while secondary crews accessed the roof to cut holes and ventilate the attic. At approximately 15 minutes into the incident, crews were ordered off the roof due to concern about weakening structural members. Firefighters had the fire extinguished in approximately 20 minutes. A total of 40 firefighters responded to the incident.

There were nine tenants residing in the four-plex - none of which were home at the time of the fire. The two middle units (#17224 and #17222) sustained heavy fire and smoke damage to their second story rooms, while the two single-story units on the end (#17226 and #17220) were not damaged in the fire but are uninhabitable due to electrical service being disconnected. The Red Cross is assisting the displaced tenants.

Although the cause of the fire remains under investigation, the fire is believed to have likely started on the backside of the building near a back patio.

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