



NEWS RELEASE

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Quick Actions by 13 Year-Old Saves Couple from Fire

Last night at 10:27 pm, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a reported house fire at 19260 SW Johnson Street in Aloha. Engine 62 from the Aloha Fire Station was first on scene and could see flames through the front window. They forced entry through the front door and extinguished a small fire in the living room of the one-story home. Although the fire was small in size, it had generated a significant level of smoke throughout the home and activated a smoke alarm. In spite of the alarm sounding, firefighters found two older adults still sleeping in a bedroom. They were awakened, brought outside and treated by firefighters for minor smoke inhalation. They did not require transport to a hospital.

A TVF&R investigator confirmed that the fire originated from a small religious shrine in the living room of the home. The couple had gone to bed, unknowingly leaving a candle burning as part of the shrine. This, in turn, resulted in ignition of other items of the shrine.

TVF&R officials credit the quick actions of a 13-year old boy who – while taking out the garbage - heard a smoke alarm going off and saw flames in his neighbor’s home. He alerted an adult relative who called 9-1-1. TVF&R Fire Investigator John Wolff states, “This incident had the potential for great tragedy. This couple was sound sleep when firefighters arrived and unaware that deadly smoke was filling their home.” The fire is estimated to have caused only \$200 damage to the structure. The Fire District plans to recognize the 13 year-old for this actions later this month.

TVF&R reminds the public to keep candles away from combustibles and extinguish them before going to bed. Individuals should also test their smoke alarm on a regular basis so all family members are accustomed to the sound and know what to do when it goes off. Individuals who do not have a working smoke alarm are encouraged to call their local fire department. Individuals in TVF&R’s service area that cannot afford to purchase a smoke alarm, can call 503-649-8577 for a free smoke alarm.

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