



NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 24, 2009
Release Date: Immediately
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Dog's "Chew Toy" Prompts Hazardous Materials Team Response

Today at 8:47 am, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Hazardous Materials Team was called to 8720 SW Yakima Court in Tualatin following a 9-1-1 call reporting a family experiencing burning eyes and scratchy throats, and their basement filled with a haze. They were advised to evacuate their home.

Engine/HazMat 34 from the Tualatin station arrived to find a mother, son, and grandmother outside the home. They were assessed by firefighters but did not require medical treatment or transport due to their symptoms diminishing upon exiting the home. The crew donned breathing apparatus and turnouts and entered the home to ascertain the source of the problem. While searching the home for chemical products and other possible sources, they found a can of mace lying on the floor that had been punctured. The family told firefighters that one of their four dogs had been acting strange just prior to their symptoms occurring.

The active ingredient in mace—or pepper spray—is oleoresin capsicum. When sprayed it irritates the eyes, skin and lungs, and makes breathing difficult. Mace canisters come in a variety of sizes and are often used for self-defense purposes. The canister involved in this incident was small – about the size of a dog bone.

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