



NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 10, 2009 @ 5a.m.
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(Overnight Fire Significantly Damages West Hills Home)

Just before 2a.m. this morning, firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue responded to several reports of flames through the roof of a home near SW 83rd Avenue and SW Leahy Road. Since none of the callers were residents of the home, the address was not immediately clear.

First-arriving firefighters were met with significant fire volume breaching the roof of the home located at 925 SW 83rd Avenue in Portland. They assumed a combative command and evaluated the home and adjacent structures to assess any exposures. Minutes later, additional fire crews arrived and began to perform a search of the home to determine if anyone was inside. They also started to pull ceiling and fight the fire. Two searches of the home's first floor and daylight basement concluded that no one was in the home. Neighbors had expressed concerns that the elder woman who owns the home might be inside. It was later learned that the woman no longer resides in the home and her son is the current resident, though he was not at home when the fire broke out.

Firefighters worked for thirty minutes to get an upper-hand on the stubborn fire which burned intensely through the entire attic space and extended through portions of the home's walls.

Firefighters remain on scene at this hour dousing hot spots and salvaging the home's contents. A fire investigator is also at the home processing physical evidence and gathering details from eyewitness accounts to try and determine what caused the fire. The entire roof burned off the home and the first floor was significantly damaged. It's not clear whether the home will be considered a total loss.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BATALLION CHIEF JEFF COOPER





Fire Investigator Greg Weisgerber processes the scene.