



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Brian Barker, Public Information Officer, 503-441-9324 (pager)

Candle Caused Fatal Fire at Assisted Living Center

After hours of meticulous investigation at the Park Place Assisted Living Center in Tigard, a Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue investigator has determined that yesterday's fatal fire was caused by a candle.

The investigator spent most of yesterday processing the scene and interviewing witnesses. He learned that a candle was last seen lit in the room of origin several hours before the fire was reported. The fire began in the area of a chair where it is likely that the 60 year old woman was sleeping.

TVF&R would like to remind the public that any candle is a fire hazard and should be treated with extreme caution. "Never go to sleep with a lit candle and never leave a lit candle unattended," says TVF&R Communications Officer Brian Barker.

According to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, in the five-year period from 2004 through 2008, there were 584 candle-related fires in Oregon resulting in 14 civilian deaths, 71 civilian injuries, 22 firefighter injuries and estimated property losses of nearly \$16 million.

TVF&R suggests these safety tips for using candles.

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from combustibles such as clothing, curtains, decorations, holiday trees, or paper.
- Use candle holders that won't tip over easily, can catch dripping wax, and are made of materials that won't burn.