



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: July 2, 2007

Release: Immediately

Contact: Karen Eubanks, Public Information Officer, 503-441-9324 (pager)

### **(Weather Conditions Prompt Staffing Changes and Health Advisory)**

Fires tend to occur more often and spread more rapidly on days with hot temperatures, low humidity, and high winds. To ensure an even quicker response to fires today, TVF&R will suspend afternoon training and community events, and firefighters will be staffing 4-wheel drive wildfire units on all incidents.

Hot temperatures can also pose a health hazard to firefighters who wear heavy, fire-resistant, protective clothing and equipment weighing in excess of 50 lbs. when battling a structure fire. This, combined with interior fire temperatures averaging near 1,000 degrees, can result in firefighters becoming dehydrated more quickly. Lack of hydration is the primary cause of heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke, a potentially life-threatening illness. During this time, additional alarms may be activated on a structure fire in an effort to provide firefighters with a break to re-hydrate and cool down.

TVF&R advises the public to quickly call 9-1-1 if they see smoke or fire, and use extreme caution with fire materials during this time, including:

#### **Fireworks**

- Purchase and use only legal fireworks on a paved surface, away from buildings and vegetation.
- Have a hose nearby in case of emergency and place "spent" fireworks in a bucket of water.

#### **Smoking Materials**

Discard of cigarettes in a metal container or ashtray, not the roadway!

#### **Barbecue Safety**

Wait 2-3 days before discarding barbecue briquettes or place them in a metal can, away from combustibles.

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