



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **(Hot Temps Keep Firefighters Busy as Multiple Fires Break Out)**

TVF&R crews were busy last evening responding to fires prompted by hot temperatures. Incidents included:

- **Field fire** at 15755 SW Beef Bend Road in unincorporated Washington County (4:20 pm). Firefighters arrived to find a several acre field fire that had burned through a portion of vinyl fence separating two parcels of land, and threatening a large storage barn with two boats. Because the area had no hydrants, crews immediately called for water tenders to supply hose lines for fire attack, and began using their onboard water supply to protect the structure from the fast moving fire. Crews had the fire extinguished within 15 minutes. A fire investigator determined that the fire was the result of a burn pile that was left unattended when the resident went inside his home to escape the heat. TVF&R reminds individuals that there is currently a burn ban in place throughout its service area, and open burning is prohibited. Damage included \$4,000 to the vinyl fence.
- **Overheated electrical systems due to prolonged use of air conditioners** caused fires at 7712 SW Greenwood in Tigard (6:21 pm), and 11570 SW Center Street #182 in Beaverton at 12:36 am. Damage estimates were \$7,500 and \$20,000 respectively.
- **A small brush fire started by a worker using a cutting torch** near the Old Jenkins Mill site at 14724 NW Cornelius Pass Road (7:42 pm). Damage was estimated at \$500.

TVF&R urges individuals to use caution during this period of extreme temperatures. With no overnight cooling, fires tend to occur more often and spread more quickly due to everything being superheated. To ensure an even quicker response to fires, TVF&R has suspended all non-emergency out-of-station activities until 9 pm, and brush rigs will respond in tandem with all primary engine companies on all incidents. Firefighters will also be limiting outside physical training activities and staying hydrated due to the health hazard to firefighters who must 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. 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.

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