



NEWS RELEASE

Date: July 28, 2009
Release: Immediately
Contact: Cassandra Ulven, 503-441-9324 (pager)

(Overnight Electrical Problem Displaces Beaverton Family)

Just after midnight, firefighters responded to reports of a smell of smoke in a residence in the 11000 block of SW Center Street in Beaverton at the Lynmarie Apartments. When firefighters arrived, occupants were safely evacuated.

Firefighters went to work to try and discover the source of the smoke. They removed portions of the building's roof cap, as well as part of the apartment's ceiling. Though there was never any actively burning fire, there was evidence of burned trusses in the attic space above the living room (see picture below). The apartment was equipped with working smoke alarms, but they did not activate since the smoldering trusses were above the detectors.

A fire investigator from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue examined the evidence and determined that an overheated electrical branch circuit from prolonged air conditioner use ignited electrical and thermal insulation. The problem caused an estimated \$20,000 worth of damage to the apartment and the family's belongings.

Fortunately none of the occupants, including three children, were injured. They were unable to return to the apartment, however, so the American Red Cross responded to assist them with housing and other needs.

Though the fire occurred in the late hours after the sun was down, firefighters still had to contend with hot temperatures and stagnant air while wearing heavy turnouts. Approximately 16 firefighters responded.



###