



NEWS RELEASE

Date: July 23, 2009 at 3:40pm
Release: Immediately
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(Two Dogs Perish and Four People Displaced Due to a Beaverton House Fire)

Just before noon today, firefighters were dispatched to reports of thick, black smoke and the sound of crackling power lines behind the Barnes Elementary School in Beaverton. First-responding firefighters located the source of the smoke as a home engulfed in flames in the 1900 block of Briggs Court.

Fortunately none of the four occupants were inside the home at the time of the fire. Sadly firefighters were unable to rescue the two dogs trapped inside due to the intensity of the flames, the home's sagging roof and a downed power line.

Firefighters maintained a defensive fire attack and extinguished the fire within thirty minutes. Approximately 25 firefighters responded to the scene. After the fire was knocked down, incident commander Chief Norvin Collins elected to keep crews on scene as a precaution due to outside temperatures. "Firefighting is already very taxing, but hot weather increases the possibility of firefighter fatigue and injuries," states Chief Collins.

Nearby structures were not affected, and there were no injuries to residents or firefighters as a result of the fire. The homeowners are being assisted by the American Red Cross and a fire district chaplain since the home and nearly all its contents were destroyed.

It's unclear what caused the fire and investigators remain on scene at this hour, processing evidence and conducting witness interviews. Damage estimates are not available at this time.

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