



NEWS RELEASE

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(TVF&R Firefighters Battle House Fire That Threatened Second Home)

Just before 6:30 pm this evening, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighters were called to a reported house fire at 19280 SW 56th Place in Tualatin. As Engine 34 was leaving its downtown Tualatin station, the crew could see a black column of smoke and called for additional units, upgrading the task force to a full box alarm. First-arriving crews found a two-story home with a heavily involved roof and fire spreading to the wood shake roof of the home next door. Crews laddered the roof and waged an interior fire attack until concerns about a possible roof collapse forced the incident commander to direct crews to evacuate the home and battle the fire from the exterior. Minutes later neighbors told firefighters that there might be an elderly man still inside the home. A crew was sent back inside and successfully searched the first floor of the home before being ordered to evacuate when portions of the roof began to collapse. A truck company with an overhead master stream was utilized to extinguish the remaining fire. Firefighters had the fire under control within 30 minutes and continued to douse hot spots for another 30 minutes. It was later confirmed that there was no one inside the home at the time of the fire. The owners, who were at church when the fire broke out, were called and rushed home to find their home destroyed.

The fire remains under investigation at this hour and there is no damage estimate.

Almost every home in the affected cul-de-sac had a wood shingle roof. Concerned about flying embers, firefighters protected adjacent homes and several neighbors used a garden hose to wet down their roof as a precaution.

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