



NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 6, 2009
Release Date: Immediately
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(Arson Suspected in Beaverton Warehouse Fire)

Arson is suspected in a series of small fires found and extinguished in a Beaverton warehouse this evening.

Shortly before 8 pm, a property manager for the warehouse complex, located at 5150 Western Avenue, discovered water and smoke coming from the rear portion of the large, subdivided, concrete building. His 7:49 pm call to Washington County 9-1-1 brought units from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue to the scene. On arrival, firefighters observed smoke coming from the rear of the building and, given the structure's size, called a precautionary second alarm, bringing additional TVF&R and Portland Fire units to the scene.

Firefighters entered the involved portion of the concrete building, estimated as approximately 75,600 square feet in size, and found it filled with smoke. A search of the involved section found it mostly empty, but with a quantity of used furniture stored inside, later determined to have been removed from the former Greenwood Inn motel.

Firefighters located a number of small fires in the stored furnishings and quickly extinguished those, as other firefighters removed skylights to clear smoke from the building. In addition, evidence was found that the building had been broken into.

Beaverton Police responded to the scene to assist with traffic control and aid in the investigation. BPD officers found a male juvenile across the street from the fire; at this hour he is being questioned by police.

Investigators from BPD and TVF&R remain on the scene tonight, searching the warehouse for evidence. At this time, there has been no official damage estimate made, although the fires were primarily confined to items of furniture inside the concrete warehouse.

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