



## **NEWS RELEASE—Photos Attached**

Date: May 17, 2009  
Release Date: Immediately  
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### **(Single-Alarm Fire at PGE Substation Results in Power Outages and Traffic Congestion)**

At 2:44 p.m. this afternoon, firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue responded to reports of explosions and a transformer fire at the PGE substation located in the 14000 block of SW Scholls Ferry Road in Beaverton adjacent the Murrayhill Powerline Park and Murrayhill Marketplace.

The first priority for firefighters and law enforcement officers (including Beaverton Police, Tigard Police and Washington County Sherriff's Office), was to establish a safe zone around the transformer. The nearby park and shopping center were evacuated to ensure that people were a safe distance from the fire as well as any power lines.

It is estimated that between 1500-5000 gallons of mineral oil, which is used as a cooling agent in transformers, burned during the fire. For nearly two hours, dark black smoke could be seen for miles. The initial fire burned a portable transformer that was in place while a permanent unit was being maintained. Due to concerns about the transformer being energized, firefighters let the transformer and nearby equipment continue to burn.

Power outages occurred in Beaverton and Tigard as a result of the fire and traffic remained congested for two hours. No one was injured as a result of the fire, but considerable damage was done to the substation.

PGE is investigation the cause of the fire.

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