



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Brian Barker, Public Information Officer, 503-441-9324 (pager)

Tigard Fire Cause

A TVF&R fire investigator has determined that last night's three alarm fire at 11048 SW Greenburg Road in Tigard was caused by an improperly disposed of cigarette butt. A team of investigators interviewed more than a dozen people and meticulously picked through the charred area of origin to determine the cause.



The fire caused \$500,000 in damage to the 12 unit, \$1.2 million dollar condominium building. All of the units in the affected building suffered some type of damage, from light smoke damage to heavy fire and water damage.

The building is not equipped with a sprinkler system and the fire investigator was unable to locate a smoke detector in the unit where the fire started.

Residents called 9-1-1 at 7:11 p.m. Tuesday reporting heavy black smoke coming from the second floor back deck of

a condo unit. Firefighters from TVF&R's Progress Station 53 could see a column of smoke soon after rolling out of their station. Arriving fire crews encountered a large multiple family condominium complex with dozens of residents evacuating as heavy smoke poured from the building's second and third floor. Firefighters from Engine 53 performed a quick attack in an attempt to knock down the flames as other arriving fire companies set to work establishing a water supply and advancing on the fire.

Firefighters had to lay more than 1,000 feet of hose from the nearest fire hydrant to the fire engine in front of the burning building. As firefighters worked to search the involved condos for residents and extinguish the fire, it became apparent that the flames had burned into the building's attic. At that point the incident commander made the decision to pull firefighters out of the affected units and attack the fire from above with the elevated master streams from Truck 51 and Truck 67. The large aerial ladders are able to pump several hundred gallons per minute and were an effective tool in stopping the fire.

Three residents were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, two of whom were transported to area hospitals.

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