



NEWS RELEASE

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

APARTMENT FIRE SERVES AS A REMINDER ABOUT DANGERS OF HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT

When firefighters arrived, they found many residents of the 254-unit complex had already safely evacuated due to the quick actions of a tenant who had activated an alarm pull station. While taking out his trash, a resident heard the faint but shrill sound of a smoke alarm near his apartment. He traced the sound to an apartment where he could see smoke and a red glow. He immediately called 9-1-1 and started knocking on doors.

"Because of the quick activation of 9-1-1 by an alert tenant, and aggressive intervention by firefighters, this fire did not spread to other units in the complex and property damage was limited", stated Cassandra Ulven. "This is exactly how the alarm system is designed to work." The fire was extinguished within 15 minutes of the call to 9-1-1 and damage was limited to the room where the fire started. (Damages are estimated to be about \$7500.) The complex does not have a fire sprinkler system.

A fire investigator confirmed that blankets and bedding had been placed too close to a baseboard heater. The tenant was not at home when the fire started and there were no injuries as a result of the fire.

Fortunately the managers of the Hunt Club complex require residents to have renters insurance, so the tenant's loss and relocation will be covered. Property managers from the Hunt Club have participated in Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Landlord Training Program which educates property owners about ways to mitigate and reduce the severity of fires on their property. Identifying access issues, building deficiencies and unsafe tenant behavior can mean the difference between life and death when fire breaks out.

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