



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Walter Peck, TVF&R PIO, 503-441-9324 (pager)

Woman killed in Summerfield Fire

Teri Smits heard the fire before she smelled or saw it. When she looked out the window of her mother's Summerfield duplex, flames and smoke were pouring from the neighbor's unit. It was 3 AM, Sunday morning.

Smits' call to 9-1-1 brought firefighters from King City, Tigard and Tualatin. Lt. Gary Burton and his crew from Station 35 were the first to arrive. "We saw the glow of the flames and smoke from a distance," he said.

Once on scene (15225 SW 94th, Tigard), Burton's first priorities were to control the fire and initiate a search of the dwelling. The fire fight was complicated by arcing electrical lines, but with help from additional crews the blaze was controlled in seven minutes. During this time, another crew entered the home and searched through the smoke for possible victims. They found a 69 year-old female on the floor and rushed her from the home. Paramedics quickly determined that she was deceased.

An aggressive response from firefighters and fire walls between the attached units limited the fire primarily to the unit of origin. There were no other injuries.

Investigators are reviewing information collected at the scene. Damage to the home and contents is estimated at \$105,000.

TVF&R reminds the public about the critical importance of maintaining working smoke alarms. Information about how to purchase, install, and periodically inspect smoke alarms for your home can be found at: <http://www.tvfr.com/safetytips/fire/alarms/home.aspx>