



NEWS RELEASE

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

Far West Fibers Fire

6/6/11 (UPDATE:) TVF&R investigators have determined that this fire was accidental in nature. Because of the fire's low intensity and the building's concrete and steel construction, damage to the facility was limited primarily to smoke build-up. An estimate of financial damages is pending review by the building's insurance provider. The investigation found that three sprinkler heads had activated and limited the fire's spread until fire fighters were able to locate and extinguish the blaze.

(6/5/11) At 10:20 a.m., fire fighters from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) were called to a fire at Far West Fibers, a commercial recycling facility located at 10690 SW Denny Road. First arriving units reported smoke coming from roof vents along the entire length of the 35,000 square foot facility. Inside was a pile of waste paper 12-15' tall and weighing approximately 110 tons. The building's sprinkler system had activated and was limiting the spread of the fire, but action by fire fighters was required to extinguish the blaze.

The initial challenge was locating the blaze within the mountain of waste paper. Using thermal imaging technology, which identifies heat sources, firefighters located the area where the fire was active. Working from opposite sides of the building, fire attack teams took turns racking through and saturating the enormous pile.

Clearing smoke from the building was another challenge. A team was placed on the roof and two large holes were cut to vent the smoke and improve visibility for fire fighters inside.

Given the size of the building, Command called for a second alarm to get more personnel on scene. Responders included crews from Portland Fire Bureau. The fire was extinguished in approximately 60 minutes. There were no injuries.

The initial on-air description of the fire was provided by a Beaverton police officer. "Beaverton Police and TVF&R have had a great informal cross-training program for several years, and today's 'size-up' by their officer gave all of our incoming crews an initial assessment of the fire, as well as the location of a hydrant. That's great teamwork," said TVF&R Planning Chief Walt Peck.