



NEWS RELEASE

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Heat Lamp in Cat House Causes Fire at Aloha Home

A heat lamp placed in a make-shift structure built for a pet cat caused a fire that destroyed much of a home in Aloha Thursday morning.

The resident of the home awoke to a bang and rushed out of her bedroom to see the flames behind her home. She ran outside and called 911.

Firefighters from TVF&R's Station 61 arrived at 5378 SW 187th Avenue in Aloha 3 minutes after being dispatched at 8:13 a.m. and found smoke and flames coming from behind the one story home. Firefighters pulled a hose-line and quickly gained access to the back yard where they found that much of the rear of the house was engulfed in flames. Within minutes, firefighters were able to knock down the flames on the exterior of the home while additional firefighters used a ladder to access the roof and cut vent holes which allowed extreme heat inside the home to escape. Firefighters advanced into the home and attacked the flames that had spread to the home's interior and attic.

Fire, heat and smoke damaged much of the home's living room. No-one was injured during the fire.

"Heat lamps generate enough heat to cause combustibles to ignite," says TVF&R Public Information Officer Brian Barker, "if you're going to use one of these devices, it is absolutely imperative that you do not leave it unattended and keep it away from anything that can burn, including wood and bedding. In this case, the heat lamp had been left on for a period of weeks. We're glad no-one was hurt."

Damage is estimated at \$130,000.