



NEWS RELEASE

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Careless Smoker Causes Fire at Historic Store

An improperly disposed cigarette caused an early morning fire at the well-known Wanker's Country Store, 19995 Stafford Rd.

A store employee was preparing to open for the day when she smelled smoke just prior to 7 A.M. Her 9-1-1 call prompted a single-alarm response by TVF&R and Lake Oswego firefighters because the store is located in an area without fire hydrants.

Personnel on the first arriving engine (Station 57/Mountain Road) reported light smoke and quickly determined that the fire had worked its way inside the first floor wall and had spread to the second story. Crews isolated the location, opened up the exterior siding, and quickly controlled the small fire.

After ensuring that the fire was fully extinguished, firefighters helped get the store operational. It reopened for business by 11 A.M.

A TVF&R Fire Investigator determined that a cigarette caused bark dust, which was in contact with the side of the building, to ignite. Damage was estimated at \$4,500.

According to Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office statistics, during 2005-2009 there were almost 6,400 cigarette fires in the state. These fires were responsible for 34 deaths, 133 injuries, and an estimated \$20 million in property loss.

TVF&R reminds you of the following tips regarding smoking:

- Use caution when smoking and discarding cigarettes. A cigarette is in essence an open flame.
- Extinguish and discard of your cigarettes in an ashtray or appropriate metal container with a lid.
- Do not use plant containers as an ashtray. Potting soil contains organic material and has the potential to ignite.
- Consider soaking cigarettes in water before discarding.
- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy.
- Keep bark dust and other organic materials away from the exterior of your home.