



NEWS RELEASE

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UNATTENDED COOKING CAUSED TUALATIN FIRE

TVF&R fire investigators believe a pan of bacon left cooking on a stove caused a devastating mobile home fire Monday morning. After thoroughly interviewing residents of the home and combing through the debris, investigators determined that the fire began on the stove and quickly spread throughout the home. The single wide mobile home is a total loss.

"The fire started after one of the residents left the house for a period of time while bacon was cooking on the stove," says TVF&R Public Affairs Officer Brian Barker, "when she returned the kitchen was ablaze."

The home did not have working smoke detectors or residential fire sprinklers.

"Two occupants of the home were forced to escape through a bedroom window because the smoke alarms weren't working and didn't warn them about the fire in the kitchen," Barker says, "if this had happened at a different time of the day, the results could have been much more tragic. Our hearts go out to the family who lived in this home because they lost everything."

A neighbor called 911 at 8:07 a.m. reporting a fire in the mobile home in the Willow Glenn Mobile Park at 9700 Tualatin Road in Tualatin. Firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue's Station 34 arrived minutes later to find heavy smoke and flames coming from the single wide mobile home. Firefighters noted that both the home and surrounding property was filled with a large amount of items that made entering the burning home extremely dangerous.

After being notified by an occupant that everyone had safely gotten out of the home, firefighters worked to keep the fire from spreading to surrounding structures. Firefighters were able to successfully keep the flames from extending to surrounding outbuildings and mobile homes. Unfortunately, the mobile home was destroyed. The occupants do not have insurance.

Cooking fires are one of the most common causes of fires in TVF&R's service area. To reduce your risk of a cooking fire:

- Never leave food unattended on the stovetop - turn off burners or set a timer if you leave the room for any reason.
- Heat cooking oil slowly and never leave it unattended. Turn down the heat if it begins to smoke.
- Keep combustibles away from the stovetop and keep your cooking area clean.

If you experience a stovetop fire and the fire is large or appears to be growing, do not attempt to extinguish it. Quickly leave your home and call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or neighbor's house. However, if the fire is still in the pan or oven and has not spread to nearby counters or cabinets, you may be able to extinguish it yourself through one of the following methods.

To Extinguish a Pan or Oven Fire:

- Put a Lid on It. The easiest way to extinguish a small pan fire is with a pan lid. Turn off the burner and from the side carefully slide a pan lid over the pan. The lid will "smother" the fire, while turning off the burner removes the heat. Do not move the pan until the fire is completely extinguished and the pan is cool. If you do not have a pan lid, you may also use a baking sheet or pizza pan.
- Baking Soda. If the fire is still contained in the pan, you may use baking soda. Sprinkle a generous amount in the palm of your hand and "toss" upon the fire. If the fire is not extinguished after several attempts, use a fire extinguisher or leave your home and call 9-1-1.
- Use a Fire Extinguisher. Use a fire extinguisher only if the fire is small and has not spread outside the pan. The discharge of a portable fire extinguisher only lasts between 8 and 10 seconds.
- Shut the door on oven or microwave fires and turn off the heat.

