



## News Release

Date: May 23, 2013  
Release: Immediate  
Contact: Public Information Officer, 503-441-9324 (pager)

### **TVF&R Firefighters Responding to Incidents Caused by Mass Power Surge**

At 12:22 pm, TVF&R received a report of an electrical meter blown off a house at 17826 S.W. Cereghino Lane in Sherwood. As firefighters were responding to the home, calls began pouring into the 9-1-1 center reporting similar instances of blown meters, smell of smoke in homes, non-working traffic signals, and power outages intersections stretching from King City to Sherwood.

According to PGE, a tree limb apparently fell in the area of S.W. Pacific Highway and Cipole Road in Sherwood, causing a power surge. The power surge has caused nearly 15,000 customers to be without electricity in Washington County. While there have been no fires or injuries resulting from the power surge, the situation is taxing TVF&R resources, as firefighters, fire investigators, and other staff are responding to check the safety of homes, schools, and senior centers who have reported possible problems. Over the past hour there have been dozens of calls to 9-1-1. TVF&R has a battalion chief at the Washington County 9-1-1 Center helping triage the calls, while maintaining service levels throughout the district. TVF&R has also activated its Fire Operations Center in Tigard, whereby incident management team staff are directing fire department operations and working closely with other local governments and service providers.

Until such time that power is restored, TVF&R advises the following:

- Treat intersections without a working traffic signal as a four-way stop.
- Don't touch exposed electrical meters or wiring. Call 9-1-1.
- Individuals should check on their senior neighbors until power is restored.
- Candles are a fire hazard. Use flashlights and light sticks to light your home.
- Follow the situation via local news media or PGE's Twitter at @PortlandGeneral

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