



NEWS RELEASE

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(Overloaded Extension Cord Causes Early Morning Hillsboro Fire)

Hillsboro Fire investigators say an overloaded extension cord was the cause of an early morning one-alarm fire at a northeast Hillsboro home. Investigators say the light duty extension cord was being used to power a travel trailer parked in the driveway. When firefighters from Hillsboro Fire & Rescue's Parkwood Fire Station arrived at 6:25 am, they found fire coming from the garage door with smoke showing at the eaves of the front of the home at 1594 NE Sunrise Lane. They quickly knocked down the flames, confining fire damage to the garage and light smoke damage to the remainder of the one-story house.

54-year old Patty Haynes told firefighters she awoke shortly after six am Thursday and smelled smoke. She got up to investigate and found her lights did not work. She tried several and, in the process, heard crackling noises coming from the garage. She attempted to call 9-1-1 and found her phone was dead. Haynes and her 63-year old husband, Bill, escaped unharmed. Their son and his fiancé were asleep in the travel trailer and were also unharmed. They told investigators they had recently installed a new portable space heater in the trailer. Investigators say the electrical load placed on the lightweight extension cord by the heater caused the extension cord to overheat and ignite combustibles in the garage where the cord was plugged into a receptacle. Damage total may reach \$15-thousand.

Hillsboro Fire & Rescue reminds you to ensure that the rating of an extension cord is matched to its use and the anticipated load. Travel trailers should be connected to shore power with a heavy duty cord designed for such use. Portable space heaters should always be plugged directly into a wall outlet. For more fire and life safety information, visit: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire or call 503-681-6166.

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Photo Caption: CMarble Investigates 11202008.jpg

Hillsboro Fire Investigator Charlie Marble examines evidence in the area of origin of an early morning fire on Sunrise Lane in Hillsboro.