



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Release: Immediately  
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### **(Dryer Fire Forces Children to Flee)**

A fire in a clothes dryer forced four children out of their Hillsboro home today and heavily damaged the structure. Firefighters from Hillsboro Fire and Rescue responded at 11:10 am to a report of a residential fire at 1617 NE Barberry Drive. When firefighters from the Parkwood Fire Station arrived, they found heavy smoke coming from the eaves of the one-story ranch style home. As firefighters began attacking the flames, fire vented through the roof. Firefighters rapidly attacked the flames and conducted a complete search of the home to ensure all occupants and pets were out. The fire crews brought the fire under control in about 20 minutes.

The four children, ranging in age from three to 15, escaped safely. They told investigators their mother had turned on the dryer, located in a converted garage, and then left for work. The home's smoke alarms alerted the children to the fire. The eldest child ushered the other three outside and then called her grandmother. She advised the teen to call 9-1-1. Firefighters rescued two ferrets. However, one pet bird was found dead. The family of five children and two adults will be temporarily residing with relatives.

Fire investigators say the fire started in the dryer and moved up into the attic through an access door. Damage to the home was extensive and may exceed \$100,000 for the structure and \$25,000 to the contents. They credit working smoke alarms with the safe evacuation of the children.

Hillsboro Fire and Rescue reminds you to create and practice a fire escape plan with your entire family. Remind children to evacuate first and then call 9-1-1 immediately if a fire is discovered. Ensure your home has working smoke alarms outside all sleeping areas and on each level of the house. For maximum protection, install smoke alarms in each bedroom. For more fire and life safety information, visit: [www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire](http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire) or call 503-681-6166.

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