



NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 13, 2009

Release: Immediately

Contact: Bruce Montgomery, PIO, 503-681-6178, 503-615-6666 pager

(Fire Damages SE Hillsboro Home)

A fire on a deck of a southeast Hillsboro home caused extensive damage early Tuesday morning. The blaze was reported to Washington County 9-1-1 dispatchers at 4:29 am. When Hillsboro firefighters from the Brookwood Station #2 arrived, they found heavy fire coming from the rear of a one story home located at 6448 SE Drake Street. Not seeing anyone outside, the crew entered the residence to search for occupants and found the home filled with heavy smoke. Fortunately, they found no one inside. As the crew fought the fire from the inside, the crew from next arriving engine attacked the fire from the rear of the house. Their combined efforts extinguished the fire within eight minutes.

The homeowner, his wife and daughter were later found safely outside having evacuated the home when they were awakened by the sound of breaking glass caused by the flames. The fire started outside the home and the smoke alarms inside had not yet sounded. The family will be staying with relatives living in Hillsboro.

After interviewing the homeowner and processing the scene for evidence Hillsboro Fire Investigator Joe Ligatich determined the cause for the fire to be a recreational fire pit located on the deck of the home. The damage estimate is \$200,000 to the structure and contents.

A total of 29 firefighters from Hillsboro Fire and Rescue and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue fought the blaze. No one was injured.

Hillsboro Fire and Rescue reminds all residents to ensure their smoke alarms are working by testing them once each month and create and practice a fire escape plan for your whole family. Additionally, manufactured freestanding fire pits must be located a minimum of ten (10) feet away from any structures or combustibles, such as houses, garages, sheds, wood piles and wooden fences. Never place a portable fire pit on a combustible surface or structure (i.e. wooden decks). For more fire and life safety information, visit: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire or call 503-681-6166 or call 503-681-6166.

-30-

Photo caption: Photo 1 - Damage to rear deck. Photo 2 – Firefighter David Sellers extinguishes hot spots.