



NEWS RELEASE                      CONTACT: BRUCE MONTGOMERY  
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RELEASE IMMEDIATELY          PHONE: 503-681-6178

(Smoke Alarm Alerts Family to Early Morning Apartment Fire)

Early Monday morning a resident at 2323 NW 188<sup>th</sup> Avenue was awakened by the sound of her smoke alarm. After waking her 12 year old daughter who was sleeping in the other room, the resident unsuccessfully tried to extinguish the fire with water then called 9-1-1. An upstairs neighbor also attempted to extinguish the fire using a dry chemical fire extinguisher but he too was unable to fully extinguish the fire.

The alarm was reported and firefighters dispatched at 12:21 am. Responding engines from Hillsboro Fire and Rescue and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue arrived to find the residents evacuated and the fire confined to the apartment in which it started. Fire crews quickly extinguished the blaze and fire damage was confined to the room of origin with smoke damage to the entire apartment. No one was injured or displaced as a result of the fire. The cause of the fire was determined to be a school backpack that was placed in contact with a baseboard heater set for high heat.

Martin Stapleton, fire investigator with Hillsboro Fire and Rescue, said that a working smoke alarm kept this fire from being a two person fatality.

Hillsboro Fire and Rescue reminds all residents to ensure their smoke alarms are working by testing them at least once a month. Additionally, keep all combustibles a minimum of twelve inches from baseboard heaters and three feet from portable heaters. 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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