



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Release: Immediately  
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### **( Burn Pile Explosion Injures One )**

One person was hospitalized today from injuries suffered when an explosion occurred in the backyard burn pile the person was attending. Hillsboro Firefighters were dispatched to the incident in the 3500 block of NW 313<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 1:21 pm Saturday. When they arrived, an adult male was departing to transport an adult female patient by private automobile to the hospital. Firefighter/medics examined the patient briefly and convinced the driver to allow transfer of the patient to a Metro West Ambulance, which had arrived behind the engine company. The ambulance crew transported the patient to Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Federal privacy laws protect the patient's identity and extent of injuries.

Firefighters investigated further and found a five-foot by five-foot burn pile behind the residence. They extinguished the fire.

A Hillsboro Fire Department investigator responded to the scene and determined the backyard burn pile contained several items of common household garbage, along with remnants of at least one aerosol can.

"It is most likely that an aerosol can burst from the heat of the fire causing a sudden flare-up of the fire," Investigator Roger Fast said. "Backyard burning rules allow only the burning of yard debris, tree limbs, grass clippings and leaves." He added that burning household garbage is not allowed in the City of Hillsboro.

If you plan on burning yard debris in your backyard, please follow these tips:

- **Call the Burn Line, 503-681-6204, before you burn. Don't risk a fine!** Open burning violations can result in penalties of up to \$10,000 per day.
- Before you burn, **create a "firebreak"** around the burn pile. A firebreak is a cleared space of 10' around the perimeter of the burn area that contains no combustible materials.
- **Keep burn piles small and controllable.** Big fires start small!
- **Do not burn within 50'** of any structures and/or other combustibles.
- **Never leave an open burn unattended.** Always stay by the burn area with a charged hose and a shovel or rake.
- **Always have an accessible water source--**a connected and charged water hose--at the burn area.

- **Never use an accelerant** on a fire (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.)
- **Keep children away from the burn area.**

For information on backyard burning call the backyard burn line at 503-681-6204 or you can visit [www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire](http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire).