



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **(Discarded Cigarette Caused Sunday's Injury Fire in Hillsboro)**

Hillsboro Fire Department investigators say that an improperly discarded cigarette caused Sunday (10/4) night's residential fire that sent one woman to the hospital with minor injuries. The blaze was reported at 10:47 pm. When Hillsboro firefighters arrived at 3959 NE Brogden Street, they found three members of the family outside and one woman inside refusing to leave the residence. Firefighters had to assist her from the home to a waiting Metro West Ambulance. She was taken to a local hospital for treatment. Firefighters returned to the home and extinguished a relatively small, smoky fire in one corner of the home's rear bedroom. There was some fire damage and considerable heat and smoke damage to the bedroom and its contents. Damage estimate is \$6500.

Fire Investigator Charles Marble said that the adult female occupant was smoking while changing clothes and inadvertently dropped a lit cigarette into a partially-filled laundry basket. Investigator Marble reached the conclusion on the case after examining evidence found at the scene, interviewing the occupants of the home and ruling out other potential causes.

The young male occupants found outside told investigators they discovered the fire when the adult female occupant alerted them. One of the young men said he fought the fire with a garden hose and called 9-1-1.

Hillsboro Fire and Rescue joins the U. S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association in recommending the following safety tips for persons who must smoke:

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Whenever you smoke, use deep, wide, sturdy ashtrays. Ashtrays should be set on something sturdy and hard to ignite, like an end table.
- Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are out. Dowsing in water or sand is the best way to do that.
- Check under furniture cushions and in other places people smoke for cigarette butts that may have fallen out of sight.
- Smoking should not be allowed in a home where oxygen is used.
- To prevent a deadly cigarette fire, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine or other drugs.
- If you smoke, choose fire-safer cigarettes. They are less likely to cause fires.

Hillsboro Fire and Rescue also reminds citizens to always have working smoke alarms on every level of their home and a written fire escape plan. It is best to practice that plan at least twice a year—more often with small children. The plan should include two ways out of every room, a meeting place outside in front of the home, and instructions for calling 9-1-1 immediately after exiting the home. 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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