



NEWS RELEASE

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Release: Immediately
Contact: Storm Smith, PIO, 503-681-6273, 503-615-6666 PIO pager



(Good Neighbors Rescue Hillsboro Couple from House Fire)

Two alert neighbors quickly called in a Hillsboro house fire Sunday afternoon then alerted the elderly occupants, one of whom is confined to a wheelchair, and helped pull them to safety. The one-alarm fire was reported to 9-1-1 dispatchers at 1:39 pm by a neighbor across the street. When the first arriving engine company from Hillsboro Fire and Rescue's Brookwood Station #2 arrived, firefighters found fire and heavy smoke pouring from the roof area of the one-story, wood-frame home. They mounted a quick attack on what appeared to be an attic fire and brought the flames under control in about five minutes. Damage to the home was confined to the hallway bathroom and to the attic. No damage estimate is available yet.

Fire investigators say a faulty bathroom exhaust fan is the most likely cause of the blaze. Because the fire and the majority of smoke were both moving up from the ceiling fan, the Campbells were unaware of the blaze occurring in their attic. They credited 41-year old Eric Ungar and 38-year old Steve Sprecker with pulling the couple to safety. Off-duty Hillsboro Fire Chaplain Steve Brodehl was passing by and also assisted in the couple's quick evacuation. Neither of the occupants, 81-year old Glenn Campbell and his 73-year old wife, Maria, was injured. The Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross is assisting the family with temporary housing assistance.

If you or a family member have special needs, such as limited mobility, or a loss of sight or hearing, ensure your fire escape plans include how to quickly evacuate your residence should a fire occur. For more fire and life safety information, visit: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire or call 503-681-6166.

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Photo Caption: SE 35th Residential Fire 1367.jpg

Hillsboro Firefighters remove cellulose insulation to ensure there were no remaining embers in an attic fire on SE 35th Avenue Sunday. Investigators point to a faulty ceiling fan as the most likely cause of the blaze.