



NEWS RELEASE

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Release: Immediately
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(Aquarium Equipment Fire Damages Oil Company HQ)

A small fire in some aquarium equipment caused about \$70-thousand in damage to a foyer area outside the Hillsboro office of the President of Bretthauer Oil Company Sunday morning. Hillsboro Firefighters were dispatched to an alarm at the company at 11:16 am. The building was closed and locked when they arrived. Firefighters viewed smoke through the windows of the office building, which is connected to a warehouse storing oils, solvents and other petroleum products. The incident commander requested a full first-alarm assignment of equipment which brought four engine companies and one truck company, including an engine from Cornelius Fire Department. Firefighters entered the building and found fire rolling up the wall and across the ceiling of a 20-foot by 20-foot interior foyer leading to the executive offices of the oil firm. They quickly doused the flames and contained the fire to that one room.

Investigators examined the scene and were able to view the company's security system which had a camera pointed directly at the aquarium. The video showed smoke rising from the support equipment for the 300-gallon salt water aquarium. The aquarium contained numerous tropical fish. Fire damage to the aquarium is estimated at \$30,000 with fire and smoke damage to the building and contents at another \$40,000. Company president Andy Bretthauer indicated the firm will be open for business on Monday (7/6/09). 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:

Hillsboro Fire Investigator Doug Nolan photographs evidence while firefighters clean up fire debris following an aquarium equipment fire that caused about \$70,000 in damage to the offices of Bretthauer Oil Company on Sunday morning.