



NEWS RELEASE

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



(Pizza Diners Have to Eat and Run When Fire Breaks Out)

Patrons of the Tanasbourne Old Chicago Pizza restaurant had to literally eat and run when fire broke out in a utility closet Wednesday during the busy lunch rush. Firefighters from Hillsboro Fire and Rescue and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R) responded to the fire at 17960 NW Evergreen Parkway. TVF&R Engine 64, located nearby, was first to arrive and the firefighters reported finding considerable smoke coming from the rear of the restaurant. They entered and found materials near a gas-fired water heater still burning and quickly extinguished the flames. Hillsboro Fire & Rescue's Truck 3 provided ventilation to remove the smoke from the building and other Hillsboro Firefighters helped remove water left by the automatic commercial fire sprinkler system in both the restaurant and adjacent businesses.

"Two heads on the sprinkler system activated from the heat of this fire and kept the flames contained," said Hillsboro Fire Inspector Lisa Humphreys. "That provided patrons time to safely evacuate and kept the fire from spreading until firefighters arrived." Staff notified the estimated 60 patrons of the fire, called 9-1-1 and all escaped in an orderly manner along with the 12 staff members. The restaurant manager said that a restaurant employee used a fire extinguisher in an attempt to extinguish the flames but was unsuccessful. There were no injuries.

Upon investigation, Inspector Humphreys found that a carton of fluorescent light tubes had been recently placed next to the gas-fired water heater and the box had ignited from the adjacent heat source. Damage estimate is about \$9,000 in property damage, lost lunch revenues and food losses.

Hillsboro Fire and Rescue reminds all citizens and business owners to keep combustibles at least three feet from all heat producing devices. This includes hot water heaters, space heaters, stoves, fireplaces and furnaces. For more fire and life safety information, visit: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire or call 503-681-6166.

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