



News Release

Date: January 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Release: Immediately
Contact: Public Information Officer, 503-259-1111

Fire Investigators Determine Cause of Beaverton High School Fire

Following a fire that damaged several classrooms at Beaverton High School, fire investigators have concluded that the fire was caused by the failure of a small refrigerator that was located inside the adjoining classrooms. The fire is classified as accidental.

A damage estimate is not currently available. Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Fire Marshall Steve Forster shared "We are sad to see such an important community institution impacted by the devastating nature of fire. I am proud of the quick and thorough work of our firefighters, investigators and appreciate the cooperation we have received from the Beaverton School District."

The Beaverton School District will be communicating with students, parents and staff when classes will resume. "We are grateful for the rapid response from TVF&R and the many messages of support and offers of help," said Anne Erwin, Principal, Beaverton High School. "Now the work begins to repair and clean the spaces that were damaged, and to support those who lost classrooms, property, and memories. In the coming days and weeks, we will call on the strength of our community for support. Together we will move through this challenge."

Please go to [BHS Fire Information webpage](#) for updates.

Images on pages below released on social media and Flash News.

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Original Release – January 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Shortly before 10:00a.m. this morning, the fire alarm at Beaverton High School began sounding and a coach conducting basketball practice noticed smoke in the hallways. The coach evacuated his players and called 911.

Firefighters from Station 67 arrived within three minutes of being dispatched and followed the smoke to find several adjoining classrooms that had pressurized black smoke pushing through the openings of the door. The incident was then raised to a second alarm to bring additional resources.

Firefighters made entry into the adjoining classrooms and found high heat and black smoke down to their knees. Firefighters worked to extinguish the fire, while another crew ventilated the room from above. While these teams of firefighters suppressed the fire, other crews searched the building and found no other occupants. Crews also searched the attic to see if the fire extended, due to the quick response and efficient fire suppression efforts the fire did not move into the attic space.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Fire investigators will conduct witness interviews, examine burn patterns and collect any material evidence to determine where and how the fire started.

Beaverton School District representatives were onscene and are coordinating with fire officials and fire investigators.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was also assisted by Hillsboro Fire & Rescue, Metro West and Beaverton Police Department.

Images on pages below released on social media and Flash News.

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