



1400 West Eighth Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058
541-296-9445 Fax: 541-296-8656

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 5-16-2024

Subject: Structure Fire, 814 W 18th, on 5-16-2024

At 08:09 AM on Thursday morning, Mid- Columbia Fire and Rescue was dispatched to Structure Fire at 814 West 18th Street in The Dalles. While crews were responding, a thick dark column of smoke was immediately visible as reported by responding crews. The initial engine company received the dispatch and arrived on scene in 3 minutes and 25 seconds. Large explosions were reported at the initial stages of the fire and law enforcement acted quickly to evacuate nearby structures.

Upon arrival, the Engine Officer reported a fully involved structure and received reports of a potential victim. Crews immediately engaged but large explosions, reports of potential ammunition storage hazard, and the fully involved structure caused crews to focus suppression efforts from a defensive position and to protect the exposed homes and property in the area. One fire victim was found deceased at the scene, whose name is not being released at this time.

An investigation was jointly conducted by Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue, The Dalles City Police, Oregon State Fire Marshal, and the Oregon State Police. The cause of the fire was determined to be the use of a heat lamp in the basement sleeping area of the structure.

An adjacent home had also caught fire, but crews were able to keep the damage to the neighboring home limited and habitable.

The response included 37 firefighters from our region:

MCFR- Engines 22, 21/ Truck 21/ Fire Medics 21, 22/ (Wildland Crew 24) Chiefs 21, 23, 24, 25

Dallesport- Engine 635

Dufur- Engine 32

Mosier- Engine 12

Wy'East- Engine 67

ODF- Engine 9451

The Dalles City Police

Wasco County Sheriff

Wasco County Emergency Management

The home has been turned back over to the homeowner and crews are no longer on scene.

-End of Release-