

Redmond heroine saves elderly man from fiery DUII crash before explosion

by Cheryl McDermott

A 51-year old Redmond woman who witnessed a crash roused the allegedly drunk, elderly driver and escorted him from his burning vehicle just before it exploded Sunday evening, police reported.

Wendy Peterson likely saved the life of 72-year old Robert Sykes from Crooked River Ranch after he lost control of his car and crashed into the south shoulder of NW Pershall Way in the 4400 block about 6:20 p.m., December 23.

Peterson awakened Sykes and helped him exit the burning vehicle, Redmond Police Officer Aaron Wells said. "Shortly thereafter," he said, "two oxygen tanks inside the vehicle exploded."

No injuries were reported, but Sykes was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants (alcohol), Wells said.