

Victim of manufactured home fire IDâ€™d

by Cheryl McDermott

Deputies have released the name of the victim whose body was discovered in a double-wide manufactured home that burned last Wednesday afternoon in the Deschutes River Woods subdivision in Bend. He has been identified as Lee Anthony Cornelius, born in 1951.

Deputies had earlier identified the victim, but had withheld his name pending attempts to notify family members. According to Sgt. Kevin Dizney with the Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s Office, they now believe the victim did not have any family in the area and any efforts to contact family members have been unsuccessful.

Cornelius died of smoke-inhalation in the fire which investigators said was caused by improper disposal of cigarettes.

Bend Fire personnel and Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s deputies rushed to 19436 Baker Road about 4 p.m. January 17 in response to several 9-1-1 calls reporting a structure fire at that location. Flames were visible inside the single-story manufactured home, and â€œa large amountâ€• of smoke was pouring out when fire personnel entered the home to extinguish the blaze, said Lt. Utter.

Once the fire was out, a search of the residence was conducted and the victimâ€™s body was discovered.

Deputy Fire Marshal Susie Lovisco estimated \$20,000 in damage to the double-wide, and \$5,000 to its contents. She reported the Bend Fire Department dispatched three fire engines, one water-tender, a rescue truck, command vehicle, and an ambulance to the scene.

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