

Escaped agricultural fire burns 2.5 acres in SE Bend

by Cheryl McDermott

An agricultural fire that escaped into a neighboring property burned two and one-half acres and a utility pole in southeast Bend this afternoon, officials reported.

Bend Fire crews were dispatched to a reported brush fire at 22324 McArdle Road just before 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Fire Inspector Cindy Kettering said.

Upon arrival, firefighters found an escaped agricultural burn moving north onto a neighboring property, burning brush in fields adjacent to a residence and setting afire a Central Electric Company utility pole.

Ten firefighters and a water tender were able to keep the blaze from damaging any nearby structures, and contained the fire to about 2.5 acres, said Kettering. There were no injuries reported.

The out-of-control blaze prompted Kettering to remind the community that taking simple precautions when burning can prevent escaped fires. She offered the following safety tips:

- Create a fire break by clearing a 10 foot perimeter outside the fire.
- Have adequate fire suppression equipment, such as a hose and shovel, next to the fire at all times.
- A responsible person must be at the fire at all times. Never leave a fire unattended.
- Obtain a copy of the outdoor burning regulations for your area.
- Call the burning information number for your area before you burn. For the Bend area, the number is 322-6335.

â€œIn addition,â€• Kettering said, â€œplease remember that burning is still prohibited within the city limits of Bend.â€•

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