

Police to investigate two Bend fires

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Two fires in two days "human caused", suspicious

Two recent "human-caused" fires in the Bend area have been turned over to police for investigation. The first fire caused over \$100,000 damage Sunday to an unoccupied rental home undergoing renovation in southeast Bend, and on Monday afternoon a brush fire was set in a vacant lot, fire officials reported.

Firefighters were called to property owned by James Pasmore at 651 SE Reed Market Road shortly after 9 p.m. on Sunday, Fire Inspector Dan Derlacki said. They found flames and smoke visible from the unoccupied rental home. Efforts to douse the flames were hindered by downed power lines, which were live and arcing, the inspector said. The building and contents, valued at \$100,000 and \$1,000 respectively, were a total loss.

On Monday, a resident of a nearby subdivision called in an alarm for the second fire at 5:26 p.m., Fire Inspector Larry Medina reported in a news release issued by the Bend Fire Department. Firefighters responded to the brush fire in a vacant lot near 62425 Eagle Road in northeast Bend, off Neff Road. Fire crews arrived to find "considerable" flame consuming a 15-foot juniper tree, moving along the ground to nearby brush and trees. The fire was quickly extinguished, Medina said, eliminating any threat to nearby homes or residents.

"The fire was human caused," the fire inspector said. Both cases have been turned over to the Bend Police Department for further investigation.

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