

Arson suspected in second fire at SE Bend home

by Cheryl McDermott

For the second time in nine days, a home at 651 SE Reed Market Road in Bend has apparently been targeted by arson, officials reported.

Fire investigators were called to the vacant home owned by James Pasmore immediately following an alarm at 2:51 a.m. Monday April 2, Fire Inspector Dan Derlacki wrote in a news release issued by the Bend Fire Department.

“This fire is being treated as suspicious in nature,” he said, adding that the Bend Police Department will take over the investigation.

When fire crews arrived, the single-story home was fully involved in fire, but quickly knocked down by firefighters, Derlacki said.

In the first fire on March 25, the same home suffered extensive damage when efforts to douse the flames were hindered by downed power lines that were live and arcing, the inspector said. Investigators said the first fire was also “human-caused”.

Between the two fires, the home and contents are a total loss, the inspector said.

This incident marks the fourth fire in the Bend area within the past ten days that have been referred to police for investigation due to classification as "human-caused" and suspicious.

In addition to the two fires at 651 SE Reed Market Road, on Monday, March 26, a brush fire in a vacant lot near 62425 Eagle Road in northeast Bend consumed a 15-foot juniper tree, moving along the ground to nearby brush and trees before it was extinguished.

Three days later, a vacant home at 2875 NE Sedalia Loop suffered \$4,000 in damage to the structure and \$1,000 damage to contents when a fire was found in the kitchen area on March 29.

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