

Debris pile re-ignites, burns two acres in north Bend

by Cheryl McDermott

Bend firefighters determined that an old debris pile - inactive for four weeks - rekindled, spread to neighboring property, and burned two acres in north Bend off Highway 97 on Friday.

Over a dozen fire and rescue personnel responded to the alarm to property owned by Robert Fair at 65301 N. Highway 97 shortly after 11 a.m. May 11, Deputy Fire Marshal T.J. Johannsen reported.

The brush fire, consuming trees and brush adjacent to structures, moved south onto nearby property and burned approximately two acres before firefighters were able to contain the blaze, Johannsen said. No structures were involved, and no injuries were reported.

According to the fire marshal, taking simple precautions when burning debris can prevent escaped fires.

- Create a fire break by clearing a ten-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.

- Make sure your debris fire is completely out before leaving it 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.

As a reminder, burning is currently prohibited within the city limits.

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