

Property owner's grass fire escapes, burns ¼ acre

by Cheryl McDermott

A property owner burning dead grass on his land without first ensuring proper clearance lost control of the blaze which spread into wildland vegetation and burned about ¼ acre of brush and Juniper before firefighters arrived, officials reported.

Bend firefighters were called to 65335 73rd Avenue in the Whispering Pines Subdivision shortly after 11 a.m., May 30, to find that Brian Turner's fire was out of control and had spread from a large residential lot with numerous homes in the surrounding area, Battalion Chief Bob Madden said.

The fire was confined to the original property, and Turner was issued a notice of violation for failure to follow open burning guidelines.

The incident prompted a warning and a reminder from the Battalion Chief. "Use extreme caution with all burning materials and follow all applicable rules on open burning," he said, adding that open burning will close for the season at dusk on Thursday, May 31. "Fuel conditions are drier than normal due to the warm and dry spring weather."

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