

Teen's fireworks spark Ochoco Viewpoint fire

by Cheryl McDermott

A fire that investigators believe began when a 16-year-old Prineville juvenile was lighting fireworks from atop the Ochoco Viewpoint west of Prineville on Saturday spread to one-acre before it was contained.

Emergency personnel from Crook County Fire and Rescue and the sheriff's office could see the fire from as far away as Prineville when they responded to the area off Highway 126 about 9:40 p.m., June 30, Sgt. Russ Wright reported.

Apparently the teen was lighting fireworks at the top of the viewpoint when some went over the bluff and caught the hillside on fire.

"The case has been referred to the Crook County District Attorney's Office for review," Wright said.

According to the Oregon State Fire Marshall, there were 283 reported fireworks-related fires resulting in over a \$1-million loss in 2006, a 46 percent increase from 2005. Children 17 and under were responsible for 33 percent of the 283 fires.

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