

Bend Man Cited for Reckless Burning, Saw Ignites Blaze

by Cheryl McDermott

A Bend man operating a masonry saw to cut a concrete slab ignited a rapidly spreading brush fire which grew to nearly seven acres Friday.

Fire crews from the Cloverdale Fire Department, Oregon Department of Forest, and the US Forest Service responded to 66965 Gist Road just before 3 p.m. to find the fire had already spread to neighboring property and was only 65 yards from a home. They were able to extinguish the fire before any structures were damaged, and there were no reported injuries.

According to Lt. Shane Nelson with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Kevin Miller, 37, was cutting a concrete slab when the blade hit rebar, causing sparks to ignite nearby grass. Miller was cited for reckless burning, said the lieutenant.

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