

Redmond driver sparks fire in DUII, hit and run

by Cheryl McDermott

A 53-year old Redmond woman was cited for hit-and-run plus drunk and reckless driving after she allegedly hit another vehicle and drove off with a flat tire that cast off sparks which eventually started a fire that fully engulfed her pickup and spread to nearby brush and trees, police reported.

On Saturday, September 15, about 2:30 p.m., law enforcement personnel from Redmond Police, Oregon State Police (OSP), and the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a care fire at milepost three on Highway 126, Redmond Police Captain Brian McNaughton said.

While on their way to the scene, officers received updated information that a red pickup was involved in a hit-and-run at the intersection of Highway 126E and Northeast 9th Street in Redmond.

Officers found the suspect pickup fully engulfed in flames near milepost three, McNaughton wrote in a news release. The fire had spread to nearby brush and trees, he added.

Bystanders had pulled the driver, 53-year old Deborah Phillips, from the truck prior to the officers' arrival. She refused treatment by medics.

An investigation culminated in the arrest of Phillips, who was cited and released to a friend. She is charged with reckless driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, and failure to perform the duties of a driver involved in an accident, McNaughton said.

The investigation determined that Phillips was southbound on Northeast 9th Street when she struck a vehicle driven by Jack Dewing, 70, of Crooked River Ranch. Dewing was apparently not injured in the crash and also refused medical treatment.

Highway 126 was closed while Redmond Fire and U.S. Forest Service personnel extinguished the fire, the captain reported.

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