

Improvised explosive device closes Redmond-area roads

by Cheryl McDermott

An IED (improvised explosive device) with a "substantial" amount of gunpowder and a low-tech burning fuse system found in a Redmond-area intersection Monday night prompted roads to be closed for about three hours while a bomb squad was called upon to make the area safe, officials reported.

According to a news release prepared by Deschutes County Sheriff's Sgt. Vance Lawrence, deputies and Redmond Police officers were called to the intersection of Helmholtz and Obsidian in Redmond about 9:15 p.m. Monday.

The IED was located , and as a precautionary measure Helmholtz was closed from Highway 126 to Wickiup, and Obsidian was closed from 35th Street to west of Helmholtz for about three hours. "No homes were evacuated," Lawrence said.

The Oregon State Police Bomb Disposal Unit responded and "rendered the explosive device safe," the sergeant said. It was not disclosed if the IED was detonated or removed from the area.

The case remains under investigation.

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