



Klamath County Fire District No. 1

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Jim Kenworthy, Fire Marshal

541-885-2056

South Spring Street Fire Update

Klamath County Fire District No. 1 has concluded the investigation of the South Spring Street fire. The investigation may be re-opened anytime additional information becomes available. The Oregon State Police Arson Unit will keep the investigation open in case additional information becomes available in the future. Anyone with information about the fire that has not already come forward is encouraged to contact Fire District No. 1 or the Oregon State Police.

The exact cause and origin of the fire could not be determined in spite of many hours of diligent effort and with assistance from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Oregon State Police Arson Unit and the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The fire may have been caused by a faulty electrical system but investigators were not able to absolutely confirm this.

During the fire, temperatures were high enough to melt various metals and glass indicating that temperatures exceeded 1800 degrees and may have been as high as 2000 degrees. Most of the evidence that would normally be available to investigators after a fire was simply consumed by the fire.

The final damage estimate for the fire, buildings and contents, exceeds \$1,000,000. It is most likely that the damage from the fire would have been much less devastating if the fire sprinkler system had not been shut off.

Building owners are reminded that automatic fire sprinkler systems are required to be maintained in good working condition at all times. Further, a qualified professional contractor must inspect the system annually and service the system at least every five years.

If you have questions or desire an interview, please contact Fire Marshal Jim Kenworthy at 541-885-2056.