

At 11:53 am on 12/27/2020, Bend Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a structure fire in the area of Rimrock Drive and Vista Bonita Drive, in the Tumalo area south of Tumalo Road and west of Highway 97. While enroute, a large column of black smoke was visible from Highway 97 and additional resources were added. Upon arrival, several outbuildings and a manufactured home were heavily involved in fire at 64850 Rimrock Drive. Mutual aid water tenders were requested from both Alfalfa and Cloverdale Fire Districts, and the fire was knocked down with some difficulty due to a large amount of combustible material on the property and the presence of energized overhead power lines. Suppression efforts continued once Central Electric Cooperative was able to cut power to the overhead lines.

The 1968 manufactured home was a total loss, as were several outbuildings. A fifth wheel trailer, a parked vehicle, and three other outbuildings nearby were saved with minimal damage. Damage is estimated at \$100,000 for structures, and \$50,000 for contents. The occupants are being assisted by the Red Cross.

Upon investigation, it was found that the occupants had a recreational fire burning in a metal fire pit behind the residence. The lid was not in use, and the pit was located within just a few feet of a hot tub and other combustible materials. The occupants had left the property for approximately 20 minutes, and when they returned, they found a fire engulfing the adjacent outbuilding and spreading rapidly.

Bend Fire & Rescue would like to remind the community that anything that produces heat needs space around it. A warming fire in a manufactured fire appliance requires at least 10 feet of clearance to anything that can burn. In addition, most jurisdictions have burning regulations that define what can be burned, when burning is allowed, and what clearances are required. Residents within Bend and Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District #2 can find a copy of the burning regulations here: <https://www.bendoregon.gov/government/departments/fire-rescue/fire-and-life-safetyinformation/burning-regulations-and-permits>



