

CRIME STOPPERS of Southern Oregon



July 25, 2018

CENTRAL POINT, Ore. – Jackson County Sheriff’s Office detectives are working with Fire District 3 investigators to determine the cause of the Peninger Fire. Detectives would like to talk to anyone who may have information that will assist in the investigation.

The fire was first reported on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at 4:01 p.m. Witnesses described a column of smoke originating from the area of the Bear Creek Greenway, behind the Jackson County Expo and the Family Fun Center. The fire quickly spread to the east, damaging outbuildings and homes.

On Thursday, July 19, a body was found in the burned area just east of Bear Creek. The victim was identified as Robert Lee Walker, 60, a homeless person living along the Bear Creek Greenway, several hundred feet from the fire’s origin. Detectives believe Walker was unable to escape the fast-moving flames. The deputy medical examiner concluded that Walker died as a result of thermal injuries sustained during the fire.

Detectives would like to talk to anyone who was on or near the Bear Creek Greenway between the Expo and Pine Street during the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Of particular interest are photos or videos of the Expo and Greenway area during that time frame. Detectives say some people may not realize they have information that could help in the investigation.

If you have any information regarding this fire, please call or text Crime Stoppers of Southern Oregon at 1-800-850-0580 and refer to case number KMED 07-25-18.

Depending on the case and information given, Rogue Credit Union will pay up to \$1,000 in reward money for information leading to an arrest and filing of charges.