

Press Release

April 28, 2010

Contact: Fire Marshal Mike Baledge @ 788-3147

The Hailey Fire Department responded to a report of a fire on the roof of a building located behind Blaine Manor, at 04:42 on Tuesday April 27th. The building involved was a temporary “Double Wide” modular building that is located on the edge of the Nelson Ball field complex and the rodeo grounds area. The building was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

On arrival, the fire department observed flames shooting out the north side of the roof to a height of approximately 20 feet, and fire involvement of approximately 50% of the building. The open floor plan of the structure and the lightweight construction of these modular buildings allowed for a very quick knock down of the active fire and the fire was declared under control only 12 minutes after our arrival. Fire crews remained on scene for several more hours while extinguishing the remaining smoldering areas of the building.

While the Blaine Manor Extended Care Facility was located as close as thirty feet from the building on fire, the down valley winds kept the fire a safe distance away from the nursing care facility, and no evacuation or relocation of the residents was necessary. The damage to the structure was severe and will most likely be considered a total loss with an estimated value of approximately \$50,000.

The Fire department responded with one engine and two command vehicles within 6 minutes, and two additional engines shortly thereafter, with a total of 14 Hailey firefighters responding.

A “fire cause” investigation was conducted by Hailey Fire Chief Mike Chapman, Fire Marshal Mike Baledge and Wood River Fire Chief Bart Lassman. Due to numerous inconsistencies found during the investigation concerning fire spread and possible ignition sources, the fire cause has been classified as “suspicious in origin”. While this classification is not declaring that the fire cause was arson, it does acknowledge that it may have been intentionally started. The Fire investigation will remain open for an undetermined amount of time while additional leads and information are pursued. The Hailey Fire Department is requesting that anyone who may have any information that may pertain to this incident please contact either the Hailey Fire (788-3147), or Police (788-3531) during normal business hours.