

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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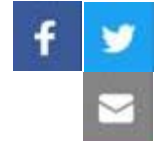
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Idaho Department of Insurance News Release

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Sonbyrd fire determined accidental

BOISE ID – Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office investigators have determined that the cause of a fire that destroyed a building at Sonbyrd Industries in Emmett was accidental. The fire occurred in the late morning hours on Monday, July 17.

Firefighters from the Gem County Fire District #1 along with many other mutual aid departments responded. Two employees were seriously injured as a result of the fire and were taken to a burn unit in Salt Lake City while firefighters focused their efforts on extinguishing the fire.

"This fire was caused by a series of events," said Idaho State Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl. "Our hearts go out to the injured workers, and we wish them a speedy recovery."

A close examination of the evidence revealed that a saw blade from a machine became dislodged from its spindle. The resulting sparks and shards of hot metal entered the dust collection system, igniting sawdust in the collection containers. Employees noticed the smoke and opened the container, causing a small dust explosion that injured the workers. The resulting fire completely destroyed the building.

This fire has been determined to be an accident caused by a mechanical malfunction.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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