



CROOK COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Est. 1884

July 7, 2026

Status Report

To Steve Forrester, and City Council

Crook County Fire & Rescue was dispatched for a fire alarm at 1948 N Main Street, Building M, on June 19th, at approximately 1822 hours. Responding crews were updated while in route, that there was a confirmed fire and employees were unable to contain the blaze.

Upon arrival, crews were directed to Building M by onsite personnel. Building M is an approximately 3,000 square foot, metal sided building, with an additional 2,000 square foot overhang on the north side. The building contains hemp processing equipment, and is part of the isolation step in the process, which refines the hemp oil into a final product. This process utilizes the chemical Heptane as the primary solvent, and has a storage capacity of 5,000 gallons.

Crews staged their apparatus on the southeast corner of the building, and made entry through a man door to the processing area. Crews could see what appeared to be a fire in an open 55-gallon drum in the northeast corner of the large room. Crews entered the building and were able to extinguish the fire with their attack line.

While fire crews were engaged in suppressing the fire, additional fire personnel investigated the functionality of the onsite fire suppression system. During this process, it was determined the suppression system was not functioning. The fire pump was inspected and was determined to not be functioning as well.

It was later determined that a valve had been shut off in the underground fire lines, that had effectively turned off the entire Prineville Campus, except for one zone in the larger building complex. The fire pump was also inoperable, due to a failed pressure switch.

Due to the inoperability of the fire suppression system, Crook County Fire & Rescue ordered the immediate closure of the entire facility at approximately 2000 hours on Jun 19th, until a third party, licensed fire sprinkler contractor could assess the system and remedy any issues.

The cause of the fire was investigated by our local Deputy State Fire Marshal. At the conclusion of the investigation, it was determined the fire was caused when employees were emptying product, that still contained heptane, into an open 55-gallon drum inside the isolation room. The heptane gas leaked out of the barrel and found a nearby ignition source, igniting the barrel and nearby pressure vessels.

On Thursday, June 25th, Crook County Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal inspected the suppression system with help from the Crook County Building Department and technicians from American Sprinkler. All fire risers

in the system were tested, as well as the fire pump. All systems passed and were deemed operational at that time.

With the suppression system tested and functional again, Crook County Fire & Rescue allowed the reopening of the facility and its buildings, except for Building M. Building M was ordered to remain closed due to the fire damage, until repairs and appropriate inspections could be completed.

Crook County Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal continues to work with the Crook County Building Department and the business owner to fix all detection systems, piping, and electrical components that were or may have been compromised due to the fire, before the building will reopen for operations.

Additional agencies have been contacted due to the hazardous nature of the manufacturing process, the inoperability of the fire and life safety systems, and the threat to employees at the site, emergency response personnel and the public. These include Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Department of Agriculture who are working through their separate protocols and procedures.

Sincerely,



Russell Deboodt
Division Chief – Fire Marshal
Crook County Fire & Rescue