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****Press Release****

MAY 13, 2024

Contact: Chris Grant, Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District Fire Chief,
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tragic Fire Incident Adjacent to Umatilla Police Department

Umatilla, Oregon – MAY 13, 2024 - On the evening of May 10th, 2024, at approximately 8:22 PM, a fire was reported at 401 6th Street, next to the Umatilla Police Department. Emergency services were dispatched to respond to the fire. Responders encountered a rapidly escalating fire situation, with the structure heavily engulfed in flames.

Despite the coordinated efforts of the Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District and Umatilla Police Department, supported by neighboring departments including Boardman Fire Rescue District, Echo Fire Department, Irrigon Fire Department, and Umatilla County Fire District #1, attempts to rescue an individual trapped within the building was impeded by the fire's intensity. Regrettably, the fire resulted in the loss of life. The identity of the deceased is currently being withheld.

Firefighting personnel remained on the scene overnight, working until 10:30 AM on May 11th to contain the blaze and ensure the safety of the surrounding area.

Chris Grant, Umatilla RFPD Fire Chief, stated, "I greatly appreciate our police and fire responders who came together during this difficult time to serve and protect our community."

The Oregon State Fire Marshal has taken over the scene and initiated an investigation into the fire's origin and cause. Given the fatality associated with the event, the Umatilla Police Department has also commenced an investigation.

The American Red Cross is assisting those displaced by the fire, offering support and resources to affected individuals and families.

Our condolences go out to the family and loved ones affected by this loss. We recognize the gravity of this situation and extend our support during this challenging time.

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