



PRESS RELEASE

Case #14-231571

Five People Displaced Due to Arson

On Saturday December 27, 2014, a Cornelius woman started a fire in the duplex unit she shared with two other people. An additional three people lived in the adjoining unit. The duplex is a total loss, all the residents are displaced and she has been arrested for Arson.

Saturday evening at 6:03 p.m., Washington County Sheriff's Deputies, who serve the City of Cornelius, responded to 416 S. 8th Avenue to assist the fire department with traffic control for a house on fire. Upon arrival, deputies assisted people out of the duplex units, which was soon fully engulfed in flames. Once the fire was extinguished, deputies learned that there were five people home at the time and one had walked away shortly before they arrived. Deputies worked to locate the missing resident and were eventually able to make contact with 20-year-old Caitlyn McCarthy. She was unharmed and interviewed by deputies.



Fire investigators responded and combed the debris for the source of the fire. On Sunday morning, with information provided by the fire investigator and an additional interview with Ms. McCarthy, she was arrested for setting the fire which destroyed the duplex.

Ms. McCarthy has been arrested for Arson I and lodged in the Washington County Jail.