



Dryer may be the cause of fire

No one injured in ethanol plant explosion, fire

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

No one was injured after an explosion Monday afternoon in the dryer building area of the Green Plains ethanol plant in Fergus Falls.

The initial report was for a fire, and the explosion happened after fire crews arrived on the scene, according to Fergus Falls Fire Chief Mark Hovland.

"We're very fortunate that we were not inside the building at the time," Hovland said.

The original call came in at 4:20 p.m. at the ethanol plant, located at 24096 170th Avenue on the west side of Fergus Falls. Anthony Hicks, general manager for Green Plains, had just left when it happened, he said, and then he came right back.

"We went into emergency shut down," Hicks said. "Nobody was in that particular section of the plant."

Only the minimal number of employees, seven, were in the plant at the time, according to Hicks. The peak operating hours of the plant are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hicks didn't know the extent of the damage Monday evening, except to say that there was "significant damage in the dryer building."

Along with Fergus Falls, three other area fire departments and a total of 52 firefighters responded. The Fergus Falls Police Department, Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office, Ringdahl Ambulance and Minnesota State Patrol also responded to the scene.

Fergus Falls had at least one fire crew on scene throughout the night, making sure there were no hot spots.

Law enforcement shut down County Road 116 as crews were on the scene. Tankers made their way in and out of the plant area to bring more water to the



Heather Rule/Daily Journal

Crews spray water on the fire-damaged area of the dryer building Monday at the Green Plains ethanol plant in Fergus Falls. A total of 52 firefighters responded to the scene. Above: Smoke pours out of the dryer building Monday at the Green Plains ethanol plant in Fergus Falls. No one was injured in the explosion.



Heather Rule/Daily Journal

Fergus Falls Fire Chief Mark Hovland talks to the media Monday evening regarding the fire and explosion in the dryer building of the Green Plains ethanol plant in Fergus Falls.

scene. They will need to investigate to determine the cause of the fire, Hovland said.

"It's too early to tell," Hovland said. "Right now, we don't know." The Fergus Falls plant, which

opened in 2008, is one of two that Omaha-based plants Green Plains has in Minnesota.

29-year-old charged with prostitution

By Heather Rule
Daily Journal

A man who allegedly solicited the prostitution of himself and a woman was charged in Otter Tail County District Court.

Kevan Lurue Jackson, 29, of Minneapolis, was charged Feb. 18 with felony solicitation, inducement and promotion of prostitution; and first-degree sex trafficking.

According to the criminal complaint, special agents conducted a controlled buy of marijuana with a man Nov. 4. The man was allegedly riding in a vehicle with Jackson and a woman. Later that month, the agents learned that the man involved in the controlled buy was headed to North Dakota to pick up marijuana and then go to Jackson's residence in the 400 block of East St. Charles Avenue

COURTS

in Fergus Falls, the report says.

The agents executed a search warrant of the residence Nov. 20 reportedly and found 18.5 grams of marijuana, a glass smoking pipe with residue, a digital scale with marijuana residue and two cell phones.

Cell phone information revealed 2,210 pages of text messages, phone call logs and emails sent to and from Jackson between Sept. 17 and Nov. 17, the report says. Specifically, numerous text messages involved Jackson allegedly soliciting prostitution of himself and a woman. Numerous messages allegedly involved Jackson suggesting that sexual acts could occur at his residence, adding that kids would be present but likely sleeping. Information

about costs and the location of Jackson's residence were reportedly included in the messages.

Jackson failed to appear at a court hearing Monday and a warrant was issued.

He's also charged with misdemeanor patron; prostitute; housing individual engaged in prostitution, and petty misdemeanor drugs-possession/sale of small amount of marijuana and petty misdemeanor drugs-possession of drug paraphernalia.

Another sentenced in deer shooting case

The third of four men charged in Otter Tail County District Court after the group allegedly

used a spotlight to shoot at deer from a vehicle in November was sentenced Monday.

Cory Lee Uselman, 19, of Browerville, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 365 days in jail, with 355 days to be stayed for two years, for gross misdemeanor hunting-using artificial lights to spot, locate or take wild animals.

In exchange for the plea, additional misdemeanor counts of hunting-discharge of a firearm or bow-public highway; fleeing a peace officer by a means other than a motor vehicle; hunting-illegal transport a firearm in a motor vehicle-unloaded, uncased in prohibited area were dismissed.

Also charged in the case are Carl Scott Moench, 29, of Browerville, Brandon Leigh Biksen, 18, of Sebeka and Trevor Jon Krinkie, 21, of Browerville. Biksen and Krinkie were also sen-

tenced to jail time. Moench's next court appearance is scheduled for April 14.

According to the criminal complaint, a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources officer responded to a report of possible trespassing or shots fired from the road Nov. 16.

At about 11:50 p.m., the officer saw the suspect vehicle headed westbound on County Rd. 70 going slower than normal, then continued westbound on 500th Street in Paddock Township, the report says.

As the officer followed the vehicle without his lights on, he reportedly saw a spotlight shine from the driver's side of the vehicle and could also see deer.

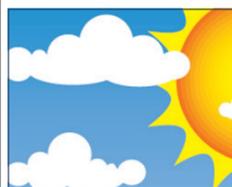
As the suspect vehicle stopped and started, the officer heard mul-

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MAILING LABEL

TOMORROW:



HIGH: 27 LOW: 22

SUNRISE TOMORROW: 7:43 a.m.
SUNSET TOMORROW: 7:26 p.m.

YESTERDAY:

HIGH: 46 LOW: 30
PRECIPITATION: .0

OBITUARIES

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- Gladys Fick 95, Underwood
- Robert Hocking, 61, Parkers Prairie
- Rose Martin, 85, Battle Lake
- Verna Nelson, 81, Fergus Falls



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