State of Idaho DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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Arson suspected as new fires emerge in Boundary County

BOISE, ID – On Monday, July 27th firefighters were called to multiple fires along Highway 95 in Boundary County—fires are suspected to be linked to roadside fires in Athol last week.

Investigators from the Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office and Idaho Department of Lands suspect arson is involved in new roadside fires that emerged in Boundary County on Monday, July 27th around 3:50 PM along Highway 95 between mile posts 497 and 499.

The fires in Boundary County are in addition to the roadside fires last week outside of Athol. The Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office and the Idaho Department of Lands have been investigating a series of fires which occurred last Thursday, July 23rd between 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM along Highway 95, south of Athol between mile posts 444 and 449.

"These fires are more than a coincidence in my opinion," said Idaho State Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl. "Our primary focus is to stop these fires from getting out of control—there's no telling what the impact could be from such damage. We continue to ask the public to contact us with any information that will help solve the origin of these fires."

The Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office and the Idaho Department of Lands asks anyone who has any information relating to these fires, such as having witnessed a vehicle parked alongside the highway during the morning of the fires or any tips they can provide, to contact the <u>Idaho Arson Hotline at 1-(877)-75-ARSON (27766</u>). Callers can choose to remain anonymous.

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 serve and protect Idahoans by equitably, effectively and efficiently administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire

Code. For more information, please visit us at <u>doi.idaho.gov</u> or email us at <u>consumeraffiars@doi.idaho.gov</u>.