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Jack Edward Young receives 50 month prison sentence
for starting at least 13 fires in downtown Portland

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 43-year-old Jack Edward Young received a 50 month prison sentence for starting at least 13 fires over a two day period in March of 2019 in downtown Portland.

Upon changing his plea, the court convicted Young of two counts of arson in the first degree and two counts of reckless burning.

As part of his sentence, the court placed Young on five years of formal probation. This will ensure he receives intensive treatment and services upon his release from prison.

“The Portland Fire Bureau and Portland Police Bureau dedicated tremendous efforts and resources responding to and investigating these fires,” said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Ashly Crockett, who prosecuted this case. “We are fortunate that the response to these fires, especially the ones so close in time proximity, did not strain the resources of our community’s public safety agencies.”

- On March 9, 2019, at approximately 12:55 a.m., the Portland Fire Bureau responded to the 1800 block of Southwest 10th Avenue after receiving information about a dumpster fire.
- On March 10, 2019, at approximately 5:31 p.m., the Portland Fire Bureau responded to the 1700 block of Southwest Broadway after receiving information about a paper box being set on fire.
- On March 10, 2019, at approximately 5:39 p.m., the Portland Fire Bureau responded to the intersection of Southwest 5th Avenue and Southwest Montgomery Street after receiving information about a trash can being set on fire.
- On March 10, 2019, at approximately 6:33 p.m., the Portland Fire Bureau responded to the 600 block of Southwest Jackson Street after receiving information about a mattress being set on fire outside a building.
- On March 10, 2019, at approximately 9:52 p.m., the Portland Fire Bureau received information about a fire that occurred at a food cart near the intersection of Southwest 9th and Southwest Alder. The fire was set earlier in the day and extinguished by the time it was reported.

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- On March 10, 2019, at approximately 10:26 p.m., the Portland Fire Bureau responded to an apartment complex in the 1000 block of Southwest Broadway after receiving information about a fire being set inside an elevator.
- On March 11, 2019, at approximately 1:16 a.m., the Portland Fire Bureau responded to the 1800 block of West Burnside Street after receiving information about a garbage can being set on fire.

The Portland Fire Arson Investigation Unit later determined Young set fire to a trash can in the area of Southwest 9th Avenue and Southwest Alder Street; a dumpster at Southwest 10th Avenue and Southwest Oak Street; a trash can at Southwest 10th Avenue and Southwest Alder Street; a trash can at Southwest 10th Avenue and Southwest Washington Street; and a trash can at Southwest 9th Avenue and Southwest Washington Street. All of these fires occurred on or about March 10, 2019 in the City of Portland.

Under Oregon law, a person commits the crime of arson in the first degree if they start a fire and intentionally damage protected property.

Under Oregon law, a person commits the crime of reckless burning if they recklessly damage someone else's property by fire or explosion.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office recognizes the Portland Fire Bureau, its Arson Investigation Unit, and the Portland Police Bureau for their dedicated efforts responding to and investigating these fires.

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