

---

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CONTACT:** Incident Information Line:  
(530) 842-2266

**RELEASE DATE:** July 12, 2018  
2:00 p.m.

## **Sheriff's Office Identifies Decedent Lost during Klamathon Fire**

**July 11, 2018**

On July 6, 2018 at about 5:30 a.m., a Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) deputy recovered the body of a male adult that was found near a heavily fire-damaged residence located in Hornbrook, CA. The decedent has been positively identified as Mr. John Karl Bermel, 72, of Hornbrook, California. An autopsy was conducted and the injuries sustained by Mr. Bermel were consistent with a fire-related death; however, the cause and manner of death will not be determined until toxicology tests return from the lab.

According to Sheriff Jon Lopey, "On behalf of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our condolences, thoughts, and prayers to the victim, his family, and friends in the aftermath of his death. This case is still under investigation and anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact the SCSO's 24-hour Dispatch Center at (530) 841-2900."

###