

Thieves break into fire station, steal life-saving equipment

March 6, 2020



Sometime overnight, thieves broke into the Bertsch Fire Station, located at 175 Humboldt Road, in Crescent City. The break in occurred sometime between 4 p.m. March 5 and 10:30 a.m. March 6 when the break in was discovered by firefighters.

The station is owned by the Crescent Fire Protection District and responded out of by Crescent City Fire & Rescue, the volunteer fire department serving the greater Crescent City area. A window was broken out of a large roll up door where entry was made into the front of the building.

Vital lifesaving equipment was taken from a fire engine and from a rescue squad vehicle at the station. The items taken included:

Two blue, medical aid bags, that included a small green oxygen bottle and regulator, masks and cannulas, blood pressure cuff and stethoscope and miscellaneous bandaging supplies and airway supplies.

Two trauma bags containing bandaging supplies, cervical spine collars, trauma shears and other medical supplies.

One Zoll AED Plus Automatic External Defibrillator unit, green in color in a black case, with the number "5114" on the unit itself.

Two Orange Streamlight Litebox large rechargeable flashlights.

One tool bag with miscellaneous hand tools, wrenches and screwdrivers.

Two gas cans with fuel.

The equipment is used by the fire department to respond to fire and medical emergencies and to protect our community members and visitors, often in their most dire times.

"The value to replace the stolen items is approximately \$7,500," said Chief Bill Gillespie. "This severely impacts a small volunteer fire department."

Crescent Fire Protection District and Crescent City Fire & Rescue are working with the Del Norte County Sheriff Department on the case. If you have information about the theft or the equipment, please call the Del Norte County Sheriff Department at (707) 464-4191 or Crescent City Fire & Rescue at (707) 464-2421.