



An early Sunday morning fire destroys the former Thunderbird Columbia River Hotel on Hayden Island. The hotel had been vacant since 2005.

# Fire Destroys Thunderbird Hotel

Federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Tuesday began looking into an early Sunday morning fire that destroyed the former Thunderbird Columbia River Hotel on Hayden Island.

Fire department officials said the ATF was called in because of the extent of the fire. They said it could take days or weeks to determine what caused the inferno.

The fire destroyed six buildings on the multi-acre property, causing \$5 million in damages, according to Portland Fire and

Rescue. It was the biggest fire in Portland since 2002, when flames scorched the bluff next to the University of Portland.

The hotel parcel is situated on the west side of I-5 at the Inter-

state Bridge. The property has been vacant since 2005, and the company that owns the hotel owes Multnomah County more than \$1 million in back property taxes.

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