



Ernest W. Bills

Portland Fire and Rescue

Date of Death: June 3, 1940

Firefighter Bills died at the age of 40 in a kiln shed fire when his smoke mask failed. The \$20,000 fire at the Portland Manufacturing Company at 5331 SW Macadam also took the life of Captain Carl Markstrom who tried to drag Bills out of the smoke filled building but was overcome by smoke. The blaze is believed to have started in overheated steam pipes which ignited alder lumber being cured for furniture manufacturing.

