

Indictment: Kickapoo Fire Chief Intentionally Set Fires

**(KAIR)--The former chief of the Kickapoo Tribal Volunteer Fire Department has been indicted on federal charges for intentionally setting fires for financial reasons.**

**According to a news release from Acting U.S. Attorney Tom Beall, 26-year-old Stephen Ramirez is charged with four counts of wire fraud.**

**34-year-old former volunteer firefighter Arlene Negonsott was also indicted Wednesday on the same federal charges.**

**According to the indictment, Ramirez recruited Negonsott to set fires on the Kickapoo Reservation, in order to collect funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, contracted to pay the tribe \$600 for each fire fought.**

**It's alleged that six fires were set intentionally, with the crimes occurring from July to November 2015.**

**If convicted, both Ramirez and Negonsott face up to 20-years in federal prison, and a fine up to \$250,000 on each count.**

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