

Burglary prior to fatal fire leads to charges

(KMZA)--Two men have been charged in the burglary of a Vermillion home, two days before it burned down in a fatal fire.

Jefferson Goad, of Waverly, and Jeremy Penix II, of Centralia have been charged in Marshall County District Court with aggravated burglary, theft and criminal use of a financial card. The charges were filed February 6.

The burglary allegedly occurred January 22.

Marshall County Attorney Meghan Vorecek told MSC News that no charges have been filed yet in the fatal fire, which remains under investigation.

83-year-old Donald McLaughlin was found dead in his home following an explosion and fire on January 24.

An autopsy was performed and an investigation into the fire and McLaughlin's death was launched.

The Marshall County Sheriff's Department requested the assistance of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation on February 7 when circumstances surrounding McLaughlin's death appeared suspicious.

Also helping investigate the fire is the State Fire Marshal's Office.