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(SD)-Saturday Fire Extensively Damages Pine Ridge Trading Post

By: John Axtell Posted at: 12/03/2018 05:32 PM

Photo courtesy KSFY.com

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) - A fire Saturday burned about half of the historic Pine Ridge Trading Post in Pine Ridge. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Built in 1942 and currently owned by Bat and Patty Pourier's Pine Ridge Oil Company, the trading post sells everything from gasoline to jewelry and souvenirs. It's the only business in Pine Ridge that sells Red Diesel fuel to the area's farmer and ranchers.

The Pouriers owned Big Bat's in Pine Ridge when it was destroyed by a 1999 fire. Patty Pourier told KOTA that it's very stressful to go through a fire of any type and hard for their employees to be out of work right before Christmas

The trading post employs about 10 people and Pourier says they have insurance that should cover the wages of those workers in the meantime...adding that every business is important on the Pine Ridge Reservation.