

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: February 2, 2016

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UPDATE Juvenile Arrested for Arson

On 2/1/16, Fire Investigators and Sheriff Deputies arrested a 17 year old male from Hesperia for arson to a structure and possession of stolen property. The juvenile was booked into the High Desert Juvenile Detention Center in Apple Valley.

Witnesses saw the juvenile leaving the area of yesterday's fire and immediately called law enforcement. A traffic stop was conducted on Village Drive in Victorville and the juvenile was taken into custody and subsequently charged with arson.

The Los Angeles City Fire Department assisted fire investigators utilizing their accelerant detection K-9 dog "Blue". These K-9 dogs are extremely instrumental in sniffing out ignitable liquids.

On 1/18 and 1/21 (https://t.co/XHwGnRN5G0), firefighters responded to two separate abandoned structure fires located at Southern California Logistics Airport (former GAFB). Both of these fires are suspicious and remain under investigation. It is unknown at this time if the juvenile had any involvement with these fires. Anyone with information is asked to contact Fire Investigator Tim Tate at 909-356-3805 or We-Tip at 800-47-ARSON (800-472-7766).

Please contact SBCoFire for more information on the arson charge.

For further information on the arrest, please contact the Victorville Police Department.

February 1, 2016

2-Alarm Blaze Consumes Two Buildings at Decommissioned Air Force Base

Date/Time: Monday, February 1, 2016, 10:26 a.m. **Location:** Nevada Ave./George Blvd., Victorville

Just before 10:30 this morning, San Bernardino County Fire responded to a report of a structure fire in the area of Nevada Road and George Road on the former George Air Force Base. Multiple reports began coming into the 911 center, and smoke was visible from miles away.

The first units on scene were County Fire resources from the Southern California Logistics Airport crash rescue station. They reported multiple abandoned multi-residential structures on separate blocks well involved with fire. High winds in the area were pushing fire through the buildings and threatening a rapid expansion of the blaze. A second alarm was dispatched and doubled the resources assigned to the incident.

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County Fire initiated a defensive attack due to the percentage of the buildings' fire involvement. This technique successfully confined the burn to the properties of origin and maintained the highest degree of firefighter safety.

Sixty-one firefighters and three chief officers were ultimately assigned to the incident including one aircraft rescue engine, six fire engines, one truck company, one brush patrol, and three water tenders brought in to supplement the vast quantity of water necessary to combat the fire. Two hand crews from County Fire's Camp 6 were assigned to assist in overhaul operations. Apple Valley Fire Protection District provided one engine company under a mutual aid agreement.

There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Office of the Fire Marshal and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb detail.

County Fire reminds the public the importance of, "If you see something, say something." Please report any suspicious activity immediately by notifying authorities.

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