

NEWS

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County offers \$100,000 reward for Esperanza arsonist

On behalf of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, Board Chairman Bill Postmus today offered a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the arsonist who ignited the Esperanza Fire in Riverside County.

The fire has taken the lives of four firefighters, one of whom was a resident of the community of Phelan in San Bernardino County. Another firefighter remains in critical condition at the Inland Counties Regional Burn Center at San Bernardino County's Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton.

"Getting the arsonist off the street and behind bars is the Inland Empire's highest priority," Chairman Postmus said. "I am committing every resource available here in San Bernardino County to assist Riverside County in its investigation to track down the murderer who started this fire and to hold them accountable to the full extent of the law."

San Bernardino County's reward offer is in addition to the \$100,000 being offered by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

"Someone knows who set this fire. Someone knows who killed these firefighters. My hope is that \$200,000 is enough to get them to come forward," Chairman Postmus said.

Anyone with information on the arsonist is urged to contact the Riverside County Sheriff's Department at (951) 922-7116.