

PRESS RELEASE

JOHN MCMAHON, SHERIFF-CORONER

DATE/TIME: January 15, 2018

INCIDENT: PC 451.5(a) Aggravated Arson

LOCATION: Glen Helen Regional Park, Devore

SUSPECT(S): Ricky Russel Whipple, 29 years old, resident of Fontana

SUMMARY:

On January 15, 2018, at approximately 7:44 am, deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Central Station responded to a fire call at Glen Helen Regional Park. While in route to the call, deputies learned that additional fires were being reported near the regional park at the Interstate 15/215 junction. In total, eleven fires were started by Whipple.

After each fire was started, Whipple ran through a series of storm drain tunnels underneath the freeways to elude capture from the deputies. With the assistance of Sheriff's aviation, Whipple was located as he walked through the dense brush near Cajon Blvd and Kenwood Ave in close proximity of the last fire.

Deputies contacted Whipple, who was detained at the scene without incident. Several items of evidence were located which connected Whipple to the crime of arson. The areas Whipple set on fire burned dry vegetation and caused a multi-jurisdictional response from fire crews with the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Cal Fire, and the United States Forest Service. All the fires were contained and extinguished. However, fire crews spent several hours cooling down hot spots to prevent additional fire damage.

Whipple was booked into the Central Detention Center for aggravated arson and is being held on \$250,000.00 bail. Whipple is scheduled for court on January 17th.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact Central Station at (909)387-3545. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME(27463), or you may leave information on the website at www.wetip.com

Refer: Deputy Joshua Gile
Deputy Renee Olivares
Deputy Danielle Bracamontes.

Station: Central Patrol

Case #: 011800144

Phone No. (909) 387-3545

JOHN MCMAHON, Sheriff-Coroner
San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department