



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daniel R. Munsey
Fire Chief / Fire Warden



DATE: October 1, 2020
CONTACT: Mike McClintock, Battalion Chief / Public Information Officer
(909)677 – 7412, MMcClintock@sbcfire.org

One Arrested for San Bernardino House Fire

Date/Time: September 23, 2020, 10:20 a.m.
Location: 800 Block of South Valley View Lane, San Bernardino
Incident: Structure Fire with Arrest

Summary: On September 23, San Bernardino County Fire crews were dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 800 block of South Valley View Lane in San Bernardino. ME222 arrived within 7 minutes to find smoke and fire from the rear of a home.

Fire attack crews found a well involved house with multiple exposures. The fire was knocked in approximately 20 minutes, limiting damage to just one home. Fire investigators were requested to determine cause and origin of the fire.

San Bernardino County Fire Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) investigators found the fire's origin to be in the living room near a couch. Through investigation, they found fire had intentionally been set to the couch. Working in conjunction with San Bernardino Police, Luis Cerda was arrested and booked into the West Valley Detention Center for PC 451(b); arson to inhabited structure.

San Bernardino County Fire Investigators work hand in hand with first arriving crews and local law enforcement to investigate nearly 600 fires and 1000 other requests a year. The mission of the Fire Investigation Unit is to investigate all types of fires to determine the cause and origin as well as to identify and apprehend those persons responsible for the commission of arson and/or crimes related to arson. The Fire Investigation Unit consists of a fire investigation supervisor and 5 investigators.

All investigators are peace officers per California Penal Code Section 830.37(a), carry weapons and regularly receive law enforcement, firearms, use of force, and legal training through contract with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. All investigative personnel are under the direct command of the Fire Marshal.

###