



NEWS RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Sheriff-Coroner

5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
(831) 454-7611 FAX: (831) 454-7608

Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Bear Fire Arrest Made

DATE / TIME: 10/16/17 at 10:30 PM **CASE #:** 17-08971

LOCATION: In the Area of 475 Dianas Way, Boulder Creek

TYPE OF CRIME:	451(a) PC	Arson Causing Great Bodily Injury	Felony
	451(b) PC	Arson of an Inhabited Structure	Felony
	451(c) PC	Arson of a structure or Forest Land	Felony

Enhancements for each 451 PC charge;
3 Counts 451.1(a)(2) PC for Great Bodily to Firefighting Personnel
451.1(a)(3) PC – Great Bodily Injury to Multiple People
451.1(a)(4) PC – Causing Multiple Structures to Burn

SUSPECT ARRESTED:
Marlon Coy, 54 years old, Boulder Creek Resident



On Monday, October 16th at about 10:30 pm, Dispatch received a 911 call regarding a fire in the area of 475 Dianas Way in Boulder Creek. Deputies responded along with Cal Fire to evacuate those in danger and began fighting the fire. During this time, Deputies received information that Marlon Coy was seen with several other men in the area at the time of the fire. He was quickly determined to be a person of interest.

On Tuesday, October 17th, an evacuated resident who lived on Hidden Springs Ln. reported that their home had been burglarized. The residents returned briefly during the

fire and reported that someone entered their home and stole various jewelry and a bicycle. During this time, Detectives received information that Coy was in Live Oak and had a warrant for his arrest, unrelated to the fire investigation. Detectives arrested Coy who was found wearing cycling clothing, riding a bicycle and in possession of various jewelry.

Detectives quickly determined that the property Coy was in possession of, was taken from the home on Hidden Springs Ln. Coy was arrested for burglary, and burglary of a home within a disaster evacuation area. Detectives interviewed Coy before he was booked into the Santa Cruz Main Jail. During the interview Coy denied causing the fire.

During the next several days, Detectives received information regarding the other men who were with Coy at the time of the fire. All but one of these people have been interviewed. These men provided detailed statements which implicated Marlon Coy as the person responsible for starting the fire in the area of 475 Diane's Way.

The fire is believed to have been set by Coy in response to a dispute with another person who had a connection with the property. Julia Cabibi, whose home was destroyed by the Bear fire, was found to have a dating relationship with Coy. Detectives have determined that Cabibi is not a suspect in this investigation and Detectives are seeking to speak with her.

The Bear Fire, which was fully contained Wednesday, October 26th, burned nearly 331 acres, causing 13 firefighters to be injured, 1 firefighter remains hospitalized, the destruction of 2 homes, 4 outbuildings, 5 RV's, and 17 vehicles. The Bear Fire drew over 1000 fire fighters. Seventy-two Sheriff's Office personnel were also involved, totaling over 1000 hours at a cost to the Sheriff's Office of over \$85,000.

Marlon Coy was charged with multiple counts of Arson on the morning of Friday, October 27th. His bail is set at \$800,000.

Authored by: Sergeant Chris Clark/10-27-17

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