

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Shasta-Trinity Unit

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Release Date:
December 17, 2013



CAL FIRE Arrests Clover Fire Arson Suspect

Redding - CAL FIRE law enforcement officers arrested Zane Wallace Peterson, 29, of Happy Valley this morning without incident, on suspicion of intentionally setting numerous fires throughout Shasta County including the September 9th, 2013 Clover Fire. Peterson was booked into the Shasta County Jail on the following felony charges:

- *Arson of a Structure or Vegetation* (Penal Code 451(c)) 140 Counts
- *Arson that causes great bodily injury* (Penal Code 451(a)) 1 Count
- *Arson to Occupied Structures* (Penal Code 451(b)) 60 Counts.
- *Arson with Aggravating Factors* (Penal Code 451.1(a)(4)) 2 Counts
- *Arson using Incendiary Device* (Penal Code 453) 5 Counts

The Clover Fire was reported on September 9, 2013 at 12:32 pm in the community of Igo, 10 miles southwest of Redding. The fire burned 8,073 acres and threatened over 500 residences during its course. It took seven days to contain the fire with 60 occupied residences and 130 additional structures destroyed by the fire. Tragically there was one civilian fatality. Over 1500 firefighters from across the state responded at the height of the incident. The cost to contain and control the Clover Fire is over \$7.3 million.

“Arson is a serious crime that threatens the public, our communities and the environment,” said Region Chief Doug Wenham, CAL FIRE Northern Region. “This is a significant arson arrest for CAL FIRE, Shasta County, and the residents who endured the Clover Fire and suffered losses. The tragic loss of life and so many homes at the hands of an intentional fire is a heinous act.”

The investigation and arrest was aided by the Shasta County District Attorney’s Office and the Shasta County Sheriff’s Department.

“I’m proud of our fire investigators and their arrest of this arson suspect”, said Chief Mike Hebrard, CAL FIRE Unit Chief and Shasta County Fire Warden. “A lot of time and energy has been invested into this investigation and we look forward to continuing to work with the District Attorney’s Office on this ongoing criminal case.”

As part of CAL FIRE’s fire prevention efforts, investigators work diligently to investigate the origin and cause of all types of fires. When a fire cause is determined to be intentionally set, CAL FIRE is committed to holding those responsible who willfully and maliciously threaten the safety of the public.

The Shasta County District Attorney’s Office will be handling any additional information on this ongoing criminal matter. Senior Deputy District Attorney Ben Hanna will be the contact at (530) 245- 6300.

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