



Arson Arrest

The City of Lafayette Police Department is providing information about an incident that recently occurred within the city. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform residents about the incident and to obtain additional information to aid the police department in our investigation.

DR # 16-12673

On Friday, 9/9/16 at 1:25 p.m., Sheriff's Dispatch was advised by Contra Costa Fire that they had dispatched fire units to the area of South Lucielle for the report of the smell of smoke. LPD Units were also dispatched to that area to check for the presence of a fire. Sheriff's Dispatch then began receiving calls from neighbors indicating that a home on Betty Lane was on fire.

When LPD Units arrived on scene, they found a home in the 3300 Block of Betty Lane completely engulfed in flame. Multiple Fire Units from Contra Costa County Fire (CONFIRE) and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) worked to control the blaze and ensure that any residents of the home had been evacuated. The fire was contained to the one property and did not spread to other nearby homes.

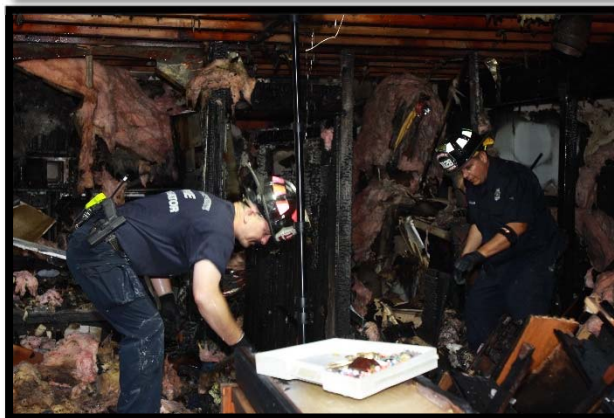
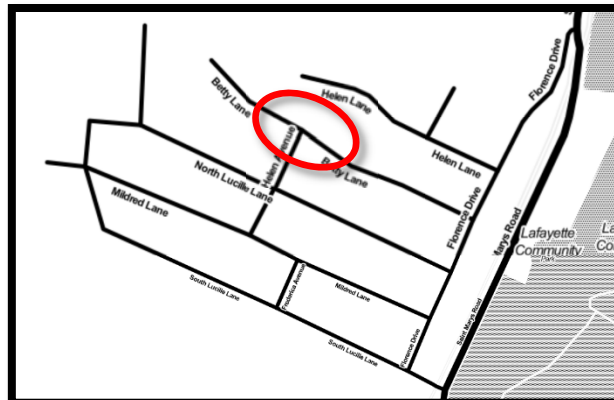
Several of the occupants of the home were treated for injuries by CONFIRE at the scene. One elderly resident of the home was taken to a local hospital for precautionary medical treatment. Two dogs were inside of the home at the time of the fire, one has still not been located and is believed to have perished in the fire. A NIXLE Alert about this incident was transmitted to subscribers.

Information was developed at the scene indicating the fire may have been set intentionally by one of the residents of the home. Working together, LPD and CONFIRE Arson Investigators began to interview the residents of the home to determine what had happened prior to the fire erupting within the home.

Investigators learned that prior to the fire, two of the occupants of the home had been involved in an argument. During that argument, one of the parties had locked themselves into a bedroom on the lower floor of the home. The second party of the argument attempted to break through the door and wall of the room, but was unsuccessful in doing so. Frustrated, the second party splashed a flammable substance on the door and wall of the lower floor bedroom. The second party (suspect) then lit the substance on fire, igniting the door and wall, which quickly spread to the remainder of the home.

CONFIRE Arson Investigators and LPD CSI personnel, searched the interior of the structure, locating evidence substantiating that a combustible material had been used to start the fire near the bedroom.

Based upon the investigation by LPD and CONFIRE Arson Investigators, the suspect was arrested for a variety of charges including Arson and Attempted Murder. The home was boarded up by CONFIRE contractors after it was inspected by County Building Officials. The home was red-tagged and determined to be unsafe for occupancy. The suspect was later booked into the Martinez Detention Facility (MDF).



CONFIRE Arson Investigators search for evidence in the crime scene.

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Representatives of CONFIRE contacted the Red Cross to provide emergency assistance to those that were displaced because of the fire. Representatives of the Red Cross provided emergency shelter and food/clothing vouchers to those who needed them.

Investigation. This investigation showed the value of a good working relationship between the police and fire departments within our community. The investigators each took pieces of the investigation and worked them all together to create a clear picture of what led to the fire - and what the purpose of the fire really was. A complex investigation was completed in a relatively short time by the investigatory team. Investigators were also able to collect a variety of evidentiary items from the scene, which will now be forwarded to the crime lab for analysis. LPD and CONFIRE Investigators will present the case to the District Attorney's Office for charging this week. At this point, the suspect remains in jail.

Investigators are seeking any information from residents or others regarding this incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact LPD Investigations at (925) 283-3680.



Neighbors are asked to aid the police department in keeping people out of the dangerous area created by this incident. The damaged home has been posted for trespassing and determined to be uninhabitable by County Building Officials. Residents who see individuals on the property are asked to contact our dispatch center at (925) 284-5010.

E-Mail Alerts. If you are a resident of the City of Lafayette and are not currently receiving our email alerts, please contact Chief Christensen at echri@so.cccounty.us. Provide your name, street address and an email address. We want to make sure that all of our residents are aware of significant incidents and crime trends within our community.

Nixle Alerts. Residents who have not yet subscribed are urged to subscribe to our alerting system that we perform through the Nixle Alerting System. For significant incidents and disasters within the community, this is the primary system that will be used to provide our residents with information about incidents such as this one. You can subscribe to Nixle Alerts by visiting the Nixle Website (www.nixle.com) - a free service for our residents.


Emergency	911
Dispatch (Non-Emergency)	(925) 284-5010
Police Department Office	(925) 283-3680
Tip Line	94549Tip@gmail.com
Email	
SGT Shiells (Investigations)	HShie@so.cccounty.us
Det Dennison (Investigations)	JDenn@so.cccounty.us
Det Ones (Investigations)	VOnes@so.cccounty.us



PLEASE call us if you see suspicious individuals or vehicles in your business or neighborhood.


Good Neighbor Program

We have expanded our Vacation Home Check Program. If you tell us when you are going to be gone from your home, we will do our best to have a member of our team check your home every day and send you a text or an e-mail to let you know we were there and that everything looks fine. We still want you to have that other good neighbor check on your house as well, but having an officer check your home is a good idea. If you are leaving for a trip, please just give us a call at the office to let us know when you are going to be gone and who will be watching the house while you are away. Even if you are already on vacation and forgot to call before you left, we'd love to check on the house to make sure everything is in order. It's a free service we provide to our residents. **Contact the office at (925) 283-3680.**



Last Call for the Citizen's Police Academy!

The next iteration of the Crime Prevention Commissions Citizen's Police Academy begins Wednesday September 21st at 7 p.m. Over the six weeks of the class a couple dozen of our residents will get the experience of life on the beat in Lafayette. The course includes tours of the jail, the dispatch center, the coroner's office and a trip to our firing range. It's well worth the effort and open to those between 18 and 95. If you have not yet submitted an application, there is still time. Contact Crime Prevention Commissioner **Denise Brown** (cpddenise@gmail.com) for an application and more information. Applications that describe the program are available on the police department's website.



" A Community Partnership "